

Submission
No 48

**INQUIRY INTO BULLYING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE**

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 12/03/2009

Partially Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam

I am now "over it" but in the past 2 years I feel that I had exhausted all ways to help my daughter with the bullying at school. I approached the school many times and got no interest at all. I tried helping my daughter by giving her ideas to help with the threats but I feel that I made no difference at all.

My daughter should be doing year 11 now but I have to be grateful that she finished year 10. I have heard other parents talking about _____ and their children dropped out.

Maybe it is in other schools too, but I went for help with the head master and deputy head and got nowhere - treated like I was an imposition on their time.

To my knowledge my daughter has not been touched by the bullies but has seen bashing in school grounds in school time. Her friend had to take out a restraining order to stop herself from being attacked but after more threats had to change schools.

I sent a letter that I received no response to, that was sent to the school trying to get help, I had appointment with the head master, deputy head and nothing was done to help. Letter is pasted below.

I now have a daughter who stays home, does a safe course by correspondence and is too shy/scared to try for a job. What will happen next I don't know but this behaviour all started with the bullying she got at the _____ High School in _____

28 August, 2008

The Headmaster

High School

Dear Sir

Today I tried to talk for 5 minutes to the Deputy Headmistress. I understand that she is busy and after waiting for approximately one hour I had to go back to work. Seeing that I have to write this letter I am not only going to put into it my question to the Deputy Head but

also my other concerns about my daughter's education at your school.

First, the bullying. I reported this to the Deputy Headmistress when I had the opportunity to talk to her at the parent teacher interviews (which I found out about by accident). This bullying has scared my child that much she was fearful of going to school - I have a copy of the threatened assault which was posted on the internet. Fortunately does not go out with the boy, that this aboriginal girl had set her sights on, anymore. This bullying which was not dealt with by the school, caused many days off school.

has a problem with being able to catch the bus. This was also mentioned to the Deputy Headmistress or another teacher at this parent teacher interview. bus leaves the school at 3.27pm - this I have seen with my own eyes. When has a class out towards the back of the school property, she cannot make it in time to the bus and has anxiety problems with this. As we live 50 kilometers out of town this causes quite a problem. I have told her to go to the office if she misses the bus and (if I am not at work) get them to call me at home to come in to pick her up. If I have a vehicle at home and after the 50 klm journey, I would be that angry that everyone will make sure she gets out of class early enough to catch the bus or else the bus company will have to wait for all its passengers. We are rectifying this problem ourselves by looking for a house on acres to rent closer to town with hopefully a different bus company. has had many days off school this year as she is afraid of missing the bus and having to go to the office for help. Whenever I am not going to be in town for work and she has the last class out towards the back of the school, she doesn't go. I do not know until I get home from morning shift as to the fact she did not get to school. After working night and morning, there is no way I will be staying in town till school gets out.

Now for your parent teacher night. Perhaps most of your parents don't work or just work days, but I need more than a couple of days notice (which we got by letter for the last night) to be able to get a night rostered off to enable me to get to a parent teacher night. It is wonderful that all the teachers at this school is always available to talk to the parents (as stated in your letter about the parent teacher interviews) - just a problem with timing. Some of us just are not available when they are always available. Because of the distances and the large fuel bill we face every month, I am only in town when I work - when I have split shifts, school is on and the teachers are not available.

Now I come to the problem I wanted to talk to the Deputy Headmistress about today. It was my understanding that the English teacher was going to get in contact with me to tell me how the English department was going to assist my daughter to pass the School Certificate. This has not happened. I have not received a call from the teacher or Deputy Headmistress about this. After receiving your rude letter full of threats about my daughter not being able to pass the School Certificate I got in contact with the school and wanted to talk to you about this letter. The Deputy Headmistress got back to me and said she would find out what the letter was about. She got back to me and said that it was because she did not do her speech in front of the class. I explained that we had this problem last year and she did it in front of a few friends. She has anxiety attacks when she has to talk in front of others and after putting two and two together I realised why she was so sick - for the weeks that the speeches were being done. She was pale, shaky and nauseous around this time and we could not work out what was wrong. She had a large amount of time off school just because she was so scared of public speaking. This was explained to the Deputy Headmistress who said she will get the English teacher to ring me and talk about it . **IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TEACHERS SHOULD BE SUPPORTING AND TEACHING STUDENTS HOW TO OBTAIN THEIR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE not sending out threatening letters.**

I understand that you too are busy but THIS MATTER HAS TO BE DEALT WITH SOON AND NOT SHOVED ASSIDE AS IT HAS BEEN.

My daughter wanted to be a school teacher before coming to your school !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yours faithfully