

Submission
No 100

**INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION TO
STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR SPECIAL NEEDS**

Name: Ms Kate Richardson

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I have 2 children with Special Needs. My step daughter has Pervasive Development Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (POD-NOS) and Attention Deficient Disorder (ADD) and My son has Aspergers and Generalised Anxiety Disorder.

Both children have not been able to access extra assistance within their respective schools.

Both children are very well behaved in school and are not a management problem, therefore I feel the schools dismiss their individual problems and focuses the limited resources on children that are disruptive and causing others concern.

My children require assistance to follow the directions of the teacher. They really require additional support to ensure they understand what they are required to do and to follow through with the task. They also require assistance with socialisation skills.

No amount of push and enquiries on our behalf has helped. We do not want to be seen as the problem parents with the problem children, so we have not made too many waves.

My step daughter is 12 and in Year 5. This is an obvious sign that something is not right, as she still has difficulty understanding what she is supposed to do and the teacher does not have the time to spend with her.

Each year we front the schools and each year nothing has happened.

I feel the system is robbing these children, of reaching their full potential. These kids need every bit of assistance to learn to do every day skills which people take for granted. To have them behave and fit into society is a major task which we struggle with everyday. Without the extra support at school, I feel we are not helping them gain the adequate skills they require to survive in the real world.

The assistance is required while they are young and developing. This assistance may mean the difference between them being gainfully employed in their future or being welfare recipients. The Government should wake up and realise that these kids need help now!!!

Kind Regards

Kate Richardson