

Submission
No 116

INQUIRY INTO CHILD PROTECTION

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

INQUIRY

I did not know that at my life would be put on hold.

I lost my husband from Cancer in May after caring for him for 20 months, then in October my intellectually challenged daughter gave birth to my Grandson.

I needed to help her and her husband care for my grandson

He had behaviour and developmental delay, I needed to take him and his mother to many Doctors and specialist appointments.

In my daughter's marriage fell apart owing to her husband's drinking and abuse.

A greater load was put on me in having to help her, she soon realised she could not take care of her son on her own, and FACS was involved.

Then in June she had a mental breakdown.

I stepped in as I could not visualise my little Grandson going to strangers.

Then the strain of going to the Children's Court.

I had him on and off since birth, officially since he was 4+ years old.

He has ODD, ADHD, Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, was diagnosed with PDD by a Psychologist who later referred him to a Psychiatrist who diagnosed him with Autism.

I took him to Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy on alternate Wednesdays, and many Doctor and Specialist appointments, Swimming Lessons and the Gym.

He ceased swimming and the Gym and was doing Indoor Soccer, Special Olympics Basketball and Drama as well as Speech.

I was getting an hour's help morning and afternoon – to and from school.

Behaviour is a big issue

In I needed a Hip Replacement, it was put on hold for over 3 months as I did not have anyone to care for him for 6 weeks as I do not have any family here in

Eventually 2 sisters-in-law from the shared the care of my Grandson and then me.

The greatest need for Grandparents is **HELP - FINANCIALLY and RESPITE.**

When you get on in years one tires more easily.

We have raised our own children when we were younger and our bodies are not prepared for getting up in the night and running to appointments etc. and behaviour issues.

Grandparents need lots of help and consideration by those in Government positions not just

“Another Grandparent who did not bring up their son/daughter the right way”. This was said to one Grandmother who was attending a course.

I did not receive any training at all on what you should or should not do from FACS while caring for a child with Special Needs

I did not have a Case Worker when I went to complain about my Grandson's father allowing his 4 year old son (on a visit) to stand in the rain for about 20 minutes until I arrived.

The following fortnight a similar thing they had been standing on my front verandah in the rain from about 12 noon until 4.30 when my sister in law arrived to look after my Grandson until I got home. His father had been told there would be no one home until 4.30.

The following day I went to FACS after a long wait eventually saw a lady. I did not get her name. She started by asking me my name, my Grandson's name and DOB and why I had him. I said you have all this on the computer. She replied well I don't have it. After telling her some of what had happened she said can we bring this to a conclusion. I said I hadn't told her everything. When we got out of the office she said it is a bit of a worry your Grandson being in the rain with winter coming on. She said she would be in touch.

Did not hear a thing from FACS, I eventually went in again a couple of months later.

When I did get a Case Worker it did not matter what I was telling them there was and is still no answers they just change the subject.

I made a mistake in chastising my Grandson and was put into FACS and had him taken from me.

They phoned me and said he was going into Respite for the weekend, in fact he was taken from me and placed in Foster Care.

The Foster Carers have put a wedge between my Grandson, his mother and me.

Very rarely do FACS reply to phone calls or E-mails.