

**INQUIRY INTO STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR  
SPECIAL NEEDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES SCHOOLS**

**Name:** Name suppressed (PC)

**Date received:** 2 June 2017

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Partially  
Confidential

I have been homeschooling since January 2016 my son and now this year I started my daughter

Unfortunately, I feel the public system is cracking with the pressure of special needs kids. If your child doesn't 'fit' in the support unit they struggle in mainstream if they have additional needs. Very few teachers are trained. I feel public schools try their best but it is very difficult when maybe half the class is struggling.

I obtained a report from Westmead Children's Hospital for my son. When I presented it at school, and highlighted my son needed 'Multilit', the teacher replied: 'Oh he won't get Multilit there are heaps worse than him!' This is a child with multiple additional needs! I do care others need help more but I also care that my son needs help.

I commenced homeschooling after it seemed my son had reached his breaking point of exhaustion. A doctor has told me he would have developed chronic fatigue if he had stayed at school most probably.

It is so sad and so difficult for so many children and parents.

I don't think it's all about funding or increasing the load on teachers. It is about training, narrowing the curriculum, concentrating on the basics and for the parents to be realistic in how much teachers can do for their child. It certainly is about compassion.

If there is any way I can assist the Commissioner I would be delighted to do so although I understand there are many parents with far more experience than me.

And by the way, my son can now read.