INQUIRY INTO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IN NEW SOUTH WALES EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Hi Team

Please find attached an audio note of my direct experience of an education setting for a child with a disability.

In short:

I have an Autistic Son who at 2 years of age had his education access gate keeped by a lone daycare service for throwing toys. Despite no prior warning and having an Inclusive Support person in place. We were requested he be picked up at 2:30pm with no compensation and no plan of how long this exclusion would last. For context he attended the centre just 2 days a week.

There needs to be a fundamental change in the early childhood sector. Majority of these long daycare services are a private sector. Children will start to show developmental delay and receive a diagnosis under the age of 5. We need to support the parents by educating these centres and their educators to become a more inclusive environment for children of all needs and be held accountable for any type of discrimination.

Community centred daycares are wonderful but with the year long waitlists for families, it's just not as attainable as it should be. Therefore we NEED to look at these private centres to ensure they are giving the right care to children and its parents.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our story.

Kind Regards