

Submission
No 45

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 28 February 2024

Partially
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

After previously submitting a letter to NSW education minister Prue Carr I didn't get a direct response, it was handed down to district office level who have been very unhelpful & not taking my matter seriously.

I would like to know why it's so hard to get an education for a child with a disability? My son is 15 years old & has barely been in school since the day he started. He has attended 4 different schools, had countless suspensions in a mainstream class, IO support class, autism class & currently attends a special needs school. He has a current diagnosis of level 2 autism, adhd, mild-moderate intellectual disability, anxiety disorder & PTSD. My son currently attends school only 4 hours a day, but is currently on his 5th suspension since term 4 2023. His current 10 day suspension was a long one so the school could amend the height of the fences so my son couldn't abscond, he has never left school grounds previously. Now I'm being informed that work on the fence hasn't even commenced & the suspension has been extended to possibly week 7! For a child that has severe anxiety & relies on routine you can imagine how confusing & upsetting this is for him, not to mention the impact it's having on the entire family. My daughter now suffers anxiety & depression as a result of him being home, my marriage is breaking down & financially we are barely paying the bills as I'm unable to seek employment due to my son not being in school full time.

Suspending a child with a disability teaches them nothing & for my son it only reinforces the behaviours so he can go home early which then leads to school refusal & it's very hard to come back from that.

It took my son an additional 15 months to leave the house after we came out of the 3 month Covid lockdown . He's so far behind academically & has very little social skills. He's finally at a school he loves & has friends for the first time in his life, so you can imagine how frustrating it is to have to tell him he isn't allowed to go to school & I don't know when he can go back! I have been fighting for so long to get him an education, it shouldn't be this hard & no child should ever be discriminated against for having a disability, but here we are, where to from here???