

Submission
No 70

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

My name is .

I am in year 11. I am a school refuser. This is end of week 7 and I have attended just 5-6 days all year.

I have a disability - Dyspraxia. The Department records me as having two disabilities.

I do my work online. I know I miss lots of practical things. ██████ High School is very good. The teachers are all enthusiastic, know their stuff and are interesting. The Deputy Principal is extremely supportive. I am in a pretty large group of friends too but most days I do not want to go and often this is because I also have Anxiety and related Gastro Reflux.

I started at ██████ High School but I had to leave at end of year 8 - although my last day was in Term 2.

I was well behaved. I did all my work but a Deputy Principal did not like my family and never ever spoke to me. I was told how s/he made fun of my brother's Aspergers. S/he seemed to not have much tolerance for anybody with a disability or help any students who got bullied.

The Principal rang up my father to ask him what his issues were? He told them lots of things. One was about a staff member who boasted about taking Dog tablets (a steroid drug with regenerative qualities). S/he told students that they took it to help arthritis even though it was not prescribed for human use, as "it did not matter, it makes me feel good *all over*."

Their partner worked for a Stock Exchange company they named and "practically had a cure for Cancer" and even provided "insider trading" tips.

I was intimidated and stalked at various times after this. The worst was an afternoon on bus lines on the same day and time a man rang from the Department and threatened my father.

About two months after he reported the "doggy tablets" - four of the five Principal/ Deputy Principals coincidentally chose to dress up as dogs - 101 Dalmatians for book week. They were posing as dogs and being sub-ordinate using dog collars and leads. I have a photo.

My father repeated the claims in a letter to the NSW Government on 7 December 2020 - and just eight days later a Head Teacher rang our home on behalf of the Principal and Deputy Principals and made threats to my father and me. It was like something out of Mafia movies.

I was then flattened at a year 7 camp held in early year 8 - not a question asked of anyone.

In the end I stopped going to school as my parents could not guarantee my safety as nothing happened following all the reporting. The Principal would not satisfy my parent's concerns.

My Mum wrote to the Minister and a Director wrote back on her behalf and made threats.

At the end of that next year, the "dog tablet" staff member was "demoted" - but they had only been filling in at a higher level. So the demotion only took them to their actual status as a teacher. Nothing happened to them.

I was forced to change schools, losing my routine; losing some good teachers whom I respected; a group of friends I was in and my parents had to buy a new school uniform.

Not long after I started at [REDACTED] High School another [REDACTED] High School staff member stalked and interacted with my Facebook. My parents screen shot and filmed it but nothing happened to them either - not even asked if they did it.

My parents have told me, even the worst cruelty dished out to you sometimes turns out okay; to stay positive and some things are meant to be.

I suppose I was lucky to get out. I remember the popcorn ceiling in Room 29 - which has Asbestos in it. Classes from previous lessons or days had left pens and compasses they managed to throw up and embed or perhaps stood on tables, jumped and stuck them in.

The new classes would take up the challenge if they had a Casual teacher or another teacher in next room supervising both, students would grab a pencil case, a text book or a dictionary and throw it up. The game was to take out the other object but I am sure some of the times it would also break off pieces that would trickle down through the air.

If you were in the wrong place at the wrong time across from a student you could cop it - or the sudden hurt of a heavy book on your head. Kids who knew of its possible danger would have to get up quick out of their seats and run to avoid it falling near them - but it was hard for me with a disability and mobility issue.

My father told me he would hear students from other rooms yell out "Asbestos Bomb! Look out!" and that Room 37 directly opposite had a "Do Not Enter" sign and sealed off for most of the year before with work being done on the ceiling.

My parents were told about a staff meeting ending in a near riot when two other separate Asbestos issues were raised and about 25 teachers left at end of year - many good ones.

I am also lucky I did not become a "Zombie Student". This term scared me when I first heard it - but there are examples of students who left [REDACTED] High School. These were students - most forced out, some with disabilities were all asked "Can we keep you on the books?". One student I know well appeared on a document recorded as being in Year 18 - six years after they left the school.

My father has a note pad which contains about 30 areas he observed huge wastage of public monies or worse. He claims even if not as many types happened and to the levels at all the public schools in NSW alone - then across the total Commonwealth and State budgets he could present figures to save many tens of billions of dollars every year or have those funds *actually* spent particularly on children with disability. Nobody has ever asked to see his list.

I have an Uncle who has heard it all. He says more money, less teachers, and worse results.

He jokes "It's the Best Education system that (taxpayer) money can cover up".