

Submission
No 82

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 13 April 2024

Partially
Confidential

To whom it may concern.

I am writing in regards to the parliamentary enquiry that is going into special needs schools.

My son started kindy in 2020. The first and second years at school I didn't know what to expect because let's face it covid stuff everything up and everything was "new".

By 2022 my son was not thriving or enjoying being at school because I knew he didn't feel safe or secure or comfortable.

He often had his teacher or SLSO off sick or away and would then need to move into another class with different sensory settings, staff and students. He wouldn't eat. He wouldn't go toilet. He wouldn't drink water some days.

By the end of 2022 he settled in and had a great Xmas holiday break only to start year 3 in 2023 with a teacher that would neglect and possibly abuse him.

My son would come out unsettled, hungry, dirty and bruised. He lost a lot of weight in only a few short weeks as well. He would often have his lunchbox sent home still full.

I often heard similar complaints from other parents.

At this point I can not comment further as there is an open police investigation underway.

I believe that special schools are critically understaffed daily and not just occasionally understaffed.

I also believe that one size doesn't fit all when it comes to learning environments in special schools and we need to cater to all students especially those who are in wheelchairs or like to stand and not sit and have high sensory issues and even for those that have low sensory needs.

Emotional health is also important not just academic success.

Please staff our schools with extra staff!!