

**Submission
No 84**

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

Organisation: Allambi Care
Date Received: 22 April 2024

22nd April 2024

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for the invitation to contribute to the Inquiry around the experience of children and young people with a disability in the New South Wales Educational system.

Comparatively, children and young people in out-of-home care have a higher prevalence of disability than those not in out-of-home care. There is a strong correlation between children who experience trauma and have a disability as some disabilities are directly linked to early experiences of trauma or maltreatment, and children with a disability are at a higher risk of abuse when parents are not appropriately supported.

Allambi Care is a not-for-profit organisation that supports children and families in out-of-home care and people with a disability. Currently, there is a large proportion of Children and Young people whom Allambi Care supports who have experiences of both trauma and disability. Given there are challenges surrounding confidentiality and privacy for children in Home Care to participate in interviews, we believe it is important to capture the experience and voices of this cohort of young people in this inquiry.

In Allambi's experience, there is a lack of understanding universally of how trauma and disability can impact an individual. This is particularly evident in the educational setting. Trauma and disability co-occurring can significantly impact the way a child or young person presents, behaves, and responds. It is essential that schools have an understanding of this and have training around trauma-informed responses, *and* how to support children with disabilities adequately. It is not uncommon for the young people that we support to be excluded from school as a result of their escalating behaviours. Often, the escalations are a result of ineffective strategies being implemented to try and manage behaviours or concerns.

In Allambi's experience, we have had great success where external Behaviour Support Practitioners have been able to attend the school setting and work collaboratively to support both the young person and the school / teachers to understand the individual young person, their presentation, triggers, and the most appropriate ways to manage their behaviors, while also supporting their disability needs.

This collaborative approach allows for continuity amongst the different environments that a young person experiences and ensures that the response is tailored to meet both their trauma and disability needs.

Kind Regards,

Brett

Brett Smith

Executive Operations

Allambi Care