

To Roberta Bausch and The Disability Support Team

I am a Husband and Parent with two children that have disabilities. They are in mainstream Schools one in a Catholic Primary School and the other child is in Catholic High School. Our Son has a Speech and Learning Disability and our Daughter has an Intellectual Disability. Our Son receives good support from the school for his speech impairment but has trouble recognising and understanding other children's behaviour, he doesn't always show or display the right emotion when there is a need to. Our Daughter is Intellectually Impaired and has the same problem. She also has trouble understanding the modified curriculum at High School. She becomes frustrated and upset on a daily basis from children teasing her at school who have similar needs to that of her own. The high school has a lot of children with high needs, for example. There are over 200 children at her school 35% have disabilities, that is 70 children have diagnosed disabilities. At our son's Primary school there is about 400 school students, 10% of the children including our son and those who have behavioural problems have some form of disability. Building self-esteem and confidence is essential for personal development at any time, stage or transitions in people's lives. It is very difficult to get our children into sports, soccer, netball or football the only other avenue to pursue is Special Olympics which is for people who have severe disabilities. Our options are limited because of the lack of information to help find the appropriate support needed for our children to a better quality of life.

To help develop their own uniqueness, creativity personal development, students with special and diagnosed disabilities and those who struggle need access to professional and early childhood services in and out of the schools system. As it is hard for mainstream schools to meet all expectations of such students. This is because early childhood services know the intricacies of their individual and complex disabilities. If approved they would be working together with the schools and learning support teams in mainstream schools for the best outcome. We need NDIS to support mainstream schools from Prep- Primary-High School and transition to workforce. Politicians on all sides need to be reminded that 4 MILLION AUSTRALIANS have some type of disability, and they all have a duty of care to support all Australians for all of Australia.

These are the recommendations my Wife and I have suggested to both Principals of our children's schools. Both Principals agreed that they are good ideas and would be happy for a pilot program.

- * Disability information book - similar to a telephone book to assist, direct and support for parents, carers and schools.
- * Disability information pack - available on enrolment or at any other transitional stage during a student's schooling. example- coloured coded flow chart on what educational and health services are available to support parents, carers and schools. example:

0 - 5 years old - red
6 - 12 years old - yellow
13 - 15 years old - green
16 + transition to work force - purple

What are the obligations of NDIS and how would they support main stream Schools with children that have physical, intellectual, learning and other disabilities and those that have behaviour problems.

Will NDIS develop a clear policy that is easy for all Australians to read and understand and when will it be available.

I look forward to hearing a response from you.
Kind Regards