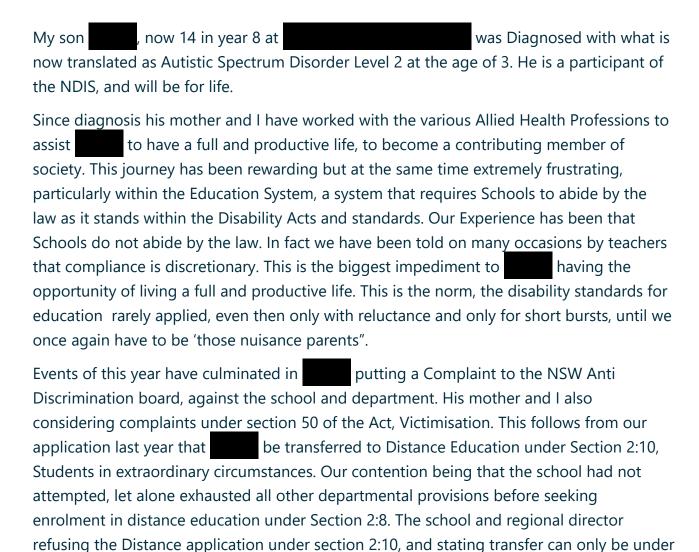


2020 Review - Disability Standards for Education 2005 Submission

This eleventh hour submission is supplementary to the questionnaire, and is a free flowing narrative for publication purposes.



2:8. We took the matter to the department who agreed with our contention, and instructed the School and region to enter into negotiations, recognising that as parents we were the

experts, to arrive at a means of enabling to remain at mainstream year 8. An Agreement was reached in March of this year, but the School has failed to abide with the agreement. The matters have now been accepted by the NSW Anti Discrimination Board for Investigation.

This has been a very difficult year for all of us. We lost our home in the Bushfires, moved into a new home on the weekend lock down due to COVID commenced. We had minimal furniture, Manchester, clothing any of the basics of life taken for granted in this country. We had to try and navigate without any assistance from the school home schooling without technology. In fact the school refused our requests for assistance in borrowing a laptop. We purchased an IPAD via the NDIS when stock became available, but again the school refused to acknowledge that the format in which work was being distributed was largely incomparable with an IPAD. Work that was sent in hard format from the school was next to useless, arriving at the end of the two week window rather than the beginning, and then lost by the school when returned.

As I stated detail is in the response I provided to the questionnaire. The Standards by themselves are adequate, but entirely useless when schools do not abide by them. The complaint process is too lengthy and complicated. The process of going to the Discrimination Board or AHRC too legalistic and costly, weighted in favour of the Department and schools who have the funds and resources that students and parents lack. This would be remedied by providing litigants with the same legal resources and funds that the schools have,. This would have the added advantage of placing the onus on schools to ensure that matters did not reach this level.

To quote Socrates; "There are no solutions, pursue them lovingly"

Sincerely

Greg Franklin