

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views.

I would like to speak mainly about the quality and regulation of preschools in relation to children and parents who have been unfairly discriminated against on the bases or disability.

The current preschool model fails to provide adequate support for parents of children with autism and for parents with autism themselves.

It is crucial for preschools to offer resources, guidance and understanding to parents as they play a vital role in their child's development and success in the educational environment. Collaboration between parents and educators is essential for creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment for children and parents with autism. The NQF is not being followed by preschools as the educators in the centre are too busy and don't have a clear understanding of the law. The regulation authority Qard is failing to provide quality. In my personal experience I lodged a privacy complaint with Qard I was ignored so I put in a Freedom of Information request with Acequa and the education department. Acequa provided a timely response however the Department of Education took about six months to deliver my request and it is now still under review. My FOI documents revealed that even though Qard had completely ignored my complaints they did seek advice from an outside agency in regards to the law and in this process revealed sensitive and private information about me and my son to a third party without my consent, clearly indicating that they themselves are struggling to understand the law. The minister himself acknowledged that in my case a law had been breached but still failed to provide an apology or any resolution.

In my personal experience mine and my sons disabilities were disclosed without our consent during his time at preschool I was bullied by two teachers who spread rumours throughout the community and without my permission sent people to my house to spy on me I have been complaining for over one year and no one is able to offer us an explanation nor an apology.

During my time at the preschool I suffered a medical episode during a parent teacher interview. I want to be clear I did express to the two teachers that I was having a seizure but instead of providing me with first aid they decided to interrogate me.

Following the episode I was bullied as they spread rumours not just through the preschool but to the primary school my son would be transitioning to and also to extended family members of mine who worked in the education department.

If I had another preschool age child under no circumstances would I be sending them to a preschool in Victoria.

There needs to be a university qualified regulator at each preschool and under no circumstances should volunteers be handling complaints against policies.

I am still traumatised by my experience with this preschool and it still effects my daily life as people I come across question me about the rumours.

Honestly what is going on out there is going to end up with a new redress scheme in future years.