

Inquiry into Disability Care and Support
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

17th June 2010

My name is Brigitte Baird and I have a son with mild autism,
(Also Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, ADHD, Very high Anxiety,
Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Rhythmic Movement Sleep Disorder)

**I support a system that provides better life-long services
for people with autism.**

We use the following services:

- Respite > North West Disability Service Inc

Privately we see

- Occupational Therapist
- Paediatrician
- Aspect (Autism Association of NSW)
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist

We Desperately need more/better help with

- Respite > The service I'm using are unreliable, send workers who are too young/immature
- Behaviour management
- More support classes
 1. *We are currently on waiting list with DADHC for a better respite service.*
I'm told we can't access until someone leaves their current service. How is this going to happen? Someone won't suddenly not have a disability and not need the service.
 2. *We are currently on waiting list with DADHC. For behaviour management.*
We've been told the waiting list is over 4 months maybe as long as 6 months. I've had to leave my job as my son only goes to school for three hours as school can't handle him. In the last three weeks we've had, 5 broken windows, 4 holes in walls and doors, numerous glasses and objects broken (far too many to count) and daily we have to lock him in a safe room in our house so he doesn't hurt us, himself or break something. We have been to the emergency department by ambulance three times in the last 5 weeks when we can't handle him. Still we have to wait on the waiting list.

3. We are currently on waiting list with TABISS (Training & Behaviour Intervention Support Service: Hills Area NSW) for help Training for behaviour management (reasons above in no 2) we are told there are 15 people in front of us and can't tell how long wait will be.
4. We are currently on waiting list with Redbank House for help with Behaviour management, Respite and school. No answer on how long waiting list is and when.
5. We are currently on waiting list with Aspect Behaviour Intervention service for help with behaviour and school.
6. More Prescription drugs at a discount. My son is currently on a medication that cost me \$100 every 14 days we are now over \$600 (I can't work as I have to mind him)

My ideas about how we can make disability services better include:

- Services need MORE FUNDING: so that when services are need you can access them ASAP.
- Schools need MORE FUNDING: so that they can support students better, more supervision and assistance
- Education department need to open MORE SUPPORT CLASSES WITH HELP WITH BEHAVIOUR and not only take those with a low IQ. Children with a normal IQ fall through the cracks and desperately need help.
- Education Department needs to allow the parents to be present and have a say on where their child goes to school. Surely the parent knows them best and have a professional come also i.e.: Psychologist As parents you have no rights the placement panel decides if or where a support classes is for your child.
- Allowing all Australians with a disability the right to access all services they need immediately when they need it and for free. Just like you can visit at doctor under Medicare.

Yours sincerely,

Brigette Baird