

From: Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services POV eSubmission Form
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Sent: Wednesday, 24 February 2016 9:18 PM
To: FCDC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Services for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Services for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Mrs Carmel Murphy
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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To Whom it may concern.

I am a parent of a 12 & a half year old daughter with Down syndrome & Autism. Her name is Meg Murphy & we live in rural Victoria 360 Ks from Melbourne.

MEGS HEALTH:-

She was born with 3 holes in her heart & we traveled to Melbourne for 8 years, until the specialist gave us the all clear.

Up until 2 years ago we would travel to Heidelberg every six months to see an eye specialist. We now travel to Traralgon (1 1/2 hours) to see a visiting eye specialist.

We travel 1 hour to see a paediatrician, but he has since moved to Geelong, to work with families already taking part in the NDIS. I will now have to source a new paediatrician?

We have her teeth checked under a general anaesthetic at the Bairnsdale hospital once a year. A visiting anesthetist from Melbourne specializing in children with special needs helps the dentist with her procedure.

We are fortunate Megs health is good, due to lack of specialists in the area, would mean significant travel.

MEGS EDUCATION:-

Meg attends the local primary school, she has Level 5 funding, which covers her with a full time aid.

The school are wonderful & she enjoys a specialized program aimed at her level.

We have a speech Therapist who visits the school & works closely with Meg & her carers to ensure she is learning basic skills. We have a small amount of funding for a speech therapist.

I have applied for an increase to the Individual support package from the DHHS & we have been on the wait list for two years.

MEGS DISABILITY:-

Meg needs assistance with everything, she is not toilet trained, she can only eat soft food, she is on medication to help her focus & calm her. Meg is not aware of danger, she cannot walk long distance & we

have a special stroller. She scratches, pinches, bites, pulls hair & constantly throws anything in sight. She has trouble communicating & gets frustrated. You cannot take your attention away from her for any length of time. Whilst the medication is helping, this is not a long term solution.

MEG & HOUSING:-

Meg lives at home & we have in house respite for 3 hours a week, I apply for more respite in school holidays through Gippsland Lakes Community Health.

I have applied for additional respite in the ISP from the DHHS.

I dream of the day, my husband & I may get away for the weekend.

MEGS SPORT:-

Meg loves swimming, horse riding, yoga & sailing. All of these come at a cost, so she gets to do things when we can afford them.

Once again I have applied for more funding to support these activities. There is a lack of dance studios in the area & Meg is not able to play, netball, soccer, ride a bike etc.

MEGS EMPLOYMENT:-

I'd like to think, Meg will be able to work one day with some assistance & that there will be opportunities for this to happen.

I'd like to hear & witness mentoring programs being created in the work force in the Gippsland region.

MEG:-

We have a very complex girl, Meg does not fit into the Autism basket nor the Down Syndrome one, she is an individual person who we love & care for to the best of our ability.

I believe the Gippsland region is one of the last on the list to receive the NDIS (Jan 2019).

What a shame we could really do with the extra help NOW!

I'm happy to discuss anything further & in more detail.

Kind Regards,

Carmel Murphy.

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File1:

File2:

File3: