

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7QRVSE

Name: Marie McLean

Submission Text:

I am a teacher and have been so for many years. For the majority of my career I have taught in Sydney's Western Suburbs.

The longer I stay in teaching the more I realise that students of Sydney's west do not have access to same educational opportunities as students from other areas. I could talk about many areas where I believe this happens but I will focus on one; access to a school councillor.

School councillors are allocated on number of students not demand. I was at a school of approximately 400 students. The students had access to a councillor for 2.5 days a week. Most of the councillor's time was taken up by dealing with suspended students as per department policy. Leaving no time for other students, these students then unable to find an appropriate way of dealing with their issues would then act out which in turn leads to even more suspensions and the vicious cycle continues.

I am aware of larger schools in other suburbs of Sydney where they have up to 5 councillors full time that are mostly unused by the student population.

Access to education and is one of the most basic of human rights and by denying students access to a councillor they are being denied this basic human right.