



ADDults with ADHD NSW Inc

Supporting Adults and Families with ADHD
Registered Charity

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NEWSLETTER

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NOTICE:
2009 AWARENESS AFTERNOONS: –
13th June, and 12th December 2009
- Sydney Inst. TAFE

CONFERENCE:
- ADHD WEEK
Prof Day: Fri 18th Sept.
- Macquarie University

Adult & Family Day:
Saturday 19th Sept.
- Sydney Inst. TAFE.

office hours:
10.30AM – 2.30PM
TUES, WED & THURS

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



A TOXIC DECISION

Premier Nathan Rees proposes to increase the age at which students can leave formal education from 15 years, to 17 years.

“From 2010 all students in NSW will complete Year 10 to ensure NSW students have a world-class education and improved opportunities to go to University or secure employment.”

This is admirable in theory, and no doubt will be popular with the voting public. However it is also essential that money be invested to develop educational and training programs that will address the needs of students with significant learning difficulties &/or ADHD, including those with co-morbid mental health issues. Another two years in the school system will be torture, particularly for those students who do not have sufficient literacy and numeracy skills to access the curriculum.

These students are leaving the school system early because their special learning needs have not been addressed earlier in their school lives. Yet our enquiries find that there is no provision for ‘additional’ funding for public schools or TAFE colleges to develop programs for this group of students. Without special programs, keeping them on for *another* two years will be pointless and no doubt unsuccessful. What then Mr. Rees?

A generation ago, many of these 15 year old students were proud apprentices. But with the incessant push towards academia, they have been well and truly left behind. Frustrated and disillusioned, they opt out, now finding themselves referred to as ‘early school leavers’ or ‘drop outs’.

And what short memories.... In only December last year, the Education Amendment Bill was passed in NSW Parliament. This important legislation was supposed to ensure the provision of “special or additional assistance” for government school students with “significant” learning difficulties. Where are the outcomes of that piece of legislation Mr. Rees?

We would therefore have to ask, is the Premier and his esteemed Minister for Education genuinely looking for education and employment outcomes for this group of students, or are they simply trying to hide the appalling unemployment figures in this state?

It's time these academically struggling students received *genuine* vocational assistance into the world of work – not *another* two years trapped in a system offering them little more than humiliation.

- Joy Toll OAM, Secretary/Editor