

Child Safety Commission of Inquiry



Juanita's story

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I worked for a company as an NDIS career and sometimes with child safety. During this time I witnessed restrictive practise and grooming behaviours from certain staff. Noone answered my calls, emails or listened to my concerns. I am now on leave, very distressed and unable to work.

I witnessed a staff member consistently and others on a bed with a 5 year old child. Often closing the door, which I opened. This child now will not go to sleep without the door being closed with a worker in the room. I changed processes during this time to ensure the 3 children had their autonomy and agency to dress and shower themselves and dry their own bodies. This staff member would sit beside the bathtub singing wash your d*** wash your b** for an extended period of time with no slip mats and using a lot of bubble bath soap. I would get bath mats and help the boys out of the bath into the shower so they could get the soap off and get away from her. She still works there.

I worked in a second house with 7 children. I witnessed staff closing doors and holding them closed while disabled boys tried to get out of the room. I changed processes to ensure that staff stopped doing this. I helped children learn how to use the toilet and wash their hands. I ensured the hygiene and safety of all children where at a high standard. A new staff member came and started yelling at me and other staff members were making comments. I felt bullied. But I kept working hard and ignoring what was going on. When I stopped working at the house, I went back, many walls were broken particularly in one room as though a child had been held I. There against his will. I worked with that boy and he was not violent to me. I witnessed the staff put the two oldest boys in a single bed to sleep both boys were highly autistic. I witnessed staff letting children play in a room with broken glass in a window. I witnessed a staff member scratch children with long nails. I no longer work there.

I worked in a house with 7 children. One of the workers who I had previous concerns about grooming had been put on active shift. Every night. I would leave at 11 pm. I did w sleepover shift and witnessed her hitting the girl in the head, holding her tight against her body to do her hair and a picture of the baby on her phone as a screensaver. I told a coworker who also had concerns and worked with her in another house after I left. She said the manager did not believe me. When I left and came back. The baby had bruises all over his leg and his leg had been reset in a cast. I witnessed a staff member grabbing the babies legs and the baby crying. I witnessed a staff member having 3 children in a bath with faeces in the bath and she did nothing when I pointed it out. The water was going on their mouth. I told

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her to drain the bathtub. She did. I witnessed nappy rashes and showed staff how to apply nappy rash cream and why to prevent further rash and encouraged staff to change nappies more.

