

**Dear Sir/Madam. I am writing in relation to the Inquiry into Students with a Disability. While I am currently not a student, I have been through the education system with some difficulty. I am now 43 years old and I have what is called Neurofibromatosis, (NF1). This was never picked up in all the years at school from 1964-1972. I had trouble understanding things and also had Dyslexia. Most teachers saw it as a lazy student, and by doing so I was always in the lowest class at school.**

**In the earlier days myself and our family never knew too much about NF and therefore could not really work out what was wrong. I thought it just me and did not have any idea that it was related to NF.**

**With the NF came a lot of name calling, making fun, which also made it hard to study.**

**I did overcome this area, but it took many frustrating years, without any help from the educational system.**

**Many doctors do not understand NF and many are not willing to learn. Call it an unknown fear.**

**I hope with this letter in helping others not to go through their years as a student without some kind of help.**

**A person with NF is not dumb, but needs a little extra help to see them through. They need that extra encouragement to know they can do it.**

**I am free to speak more on this, you can contact me on 9476-5545 (Home) or 9805-0625 (Work)**

**I work as a Community Educator, Level 3, for the Spastic Centre of NSW. To find out more about N, go to [www.nf.org](http://www.nf.org)**

**Our association contact number in NSW is 9874-0844**

**Kind Regards**

**Bradley Dowling**