Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into E-PET-078-25 and PET-041-26: Make career guidance a right for every ACT Year 7–10 public school student

Submission number: 015.1

Submitter: Livia Tigwell

Date authorised for publication: 13 October 2026

From: [redacted]
Date: Standing Committee on Social Policy: Need for more professionally qualified careers practitioners
Attachments: Monday, 5 October 2026 6:42:03 PM
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image002.png

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OFFICIAL

Dear Standing Committee Members,

The submission below arrived to me yesterday, unfortunately too late to include in my submission.

This viewpoint of a parent of a high school aged person with a disability who has been assisted by the careers service I provide may be of interest to the Committee.

Kindest regards and massive appreciation,
Livia

Livia Tigwell
CICA Registered
Professional Career
Development
Practitioner
[redacted]
Working with you to support [redacted]

ACTCA
ACT Careers Association
Professional Member
2026 Career Practitioner

I stand with fellow Australian Education Union ACT members taking collective action for quality public education and sustainable schools. Chronic under-resourcing, inadequate workforce planning, and outdated class sizes are placing unsustainable pressure on schools, students, and staff. We are campaigning for the staffing, resources, and support every school needs to deliver safe, high-quality education for every student. Find out more at www.aeuact.org.au

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[redacted]

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Hi, Ms Tigwell.
I hope this is what you wanted.
[redacted]

[redacted]

To: A.C.T. Legislative Assembly.

I am writing this as a parent to three children who have gone through and are currently going through the A.C.T. public school system. Ms Tigwell, who is my children's school careers adviser at [redacted] School, has been a wealth of knowledge with my children during the time they needed to think about what kind of work and further education they needed/wanted to pursue in the future.
I was told that only six high schools have careers advisers of the 26 High schools in the A.C.T. This seems ridiculous. I don't know what I would have done without Ms Tigwell's help, advice, and organising work experience opportunities for my [redacted]
Two of my children have ADHD and other learning difficulties, which means just walking into a store and getting work experience at K-Mart or McDonald's is not so easy. I feel this position in the school is particularly important for children like my children.

Unfortunately, I thought it problematic that a lot of the advice for job placement for children was to ask family and friends for work in their businesses. Not everyone knows people who can help their kids get a job. For example, my husband is a computer electronics engineer; he works with very complicated things, and my children couldn't just go and work with him. I stopped working when I had my children, so I can't help. Even if I were still working, it wouldn't have helped, as I had a retail sales job, which might have been ok for my youngest child, but I know that my other two children could not deal with a face-to-face sales job, due to becoming overwhelmed in those kinds of situations. Ms Tigwell was the one who came up with the idea for my child to do work experience at a florist and a sewing/craft supplies business. It included some customer service, but not enough to be overwhelming, and gave [redacted] work experience without it being a bad experience.
Students who have issues like my children, Students who are from migrant families who don't have contacts and know people in Canberra, Students who need a job because they don't want to go to college all need the help of someone like Ms Tigwell at High School.
I guess that I watch too much American television; I thought that my kids would have a person to go to all the time, who gave the children a list of jobs which would be good for them, or helped them get information on the career they wanted to do, as well as having set weeks put aside, when they had no other classwork to complete, they just do work experience during that week. But that doesn't happen in the Australian school system. I was shocked that my children (especially my first child, who is 20 now and no longer at school) did not receive more career advice. I assumed at the time it was due to COVID, as [redacted] last years at High school were mostly remote learning. My youngest two children have received more help, but I find it unfortunate that a lot of it is to go onto the MyJob website and work it out by yourself. If anything, I think that more should be done to help children and their families understand what careers and workplaces might work well for their children, advice from real teachers who know and work with these children and know their strengths, likes, and personalities.
Having someone at the school who has connections with local businesses is such a good help and a wonderful way to connect the school to the area.
The workforce is changing so much these days; jobs will be made obsolete and new jobs will be created. Children and families need more help than ever before.
All High schools need to have a full-time career development practitioner, someone to speak with students and their families, and also someone (a real person - not AI) to be able to ring and get FREE advice and help.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this issue.
[redacted]