

Submission to Inquiry into Long Term Strategies to Address the Aging of the
Australian Population Over the Next 40 Years
Aged Care, Housing and Health needs of
People with severe Intellectual Disability.

Dear Mr Cunningham,

We have a son with severe intellectual disability, challenging behaviour and complex medical and nutritional needs residing at the accommodation and support facility Stockton Centre near Newcastle NSW.

The Centre is managed under NSW Department of Ageing and Disability through Hunter Residences.

There are 641 people residing there between the ages of 40 and 85. Most of these residents have lived most part of their lives there and most parents, Foster Grandparents and the voluntary Welfare Association are fearful of these people being placed out into the community at this stage of their lives and especially as many have no parents and those who have, have significantly aged parents.

It is feared relocation from staff and familiar surroundings could result in an increase in confusion and agitation needing increased management.

We believe the level and open 83 hectare Stockton site would lend itself to a purpose built Aged Care Village to cater for these people.

Some upgrading of old wards has already been done in transitional planning, leading to much better quality of life for the residents.

As there has been no intake of people for about the last twelve years (except for a small number of crisis cases for respite - which has become permanent) there must be, in the community, a building up of numbers needing extra support of specialised aged care.

Good statistics should be made of these needs.

Stockton used to be an acclaimed training centre for specialised staff to support these people and the Centre needs to be retained and built up again to provide assessment and support needs, particularly for ageing clients.

We would hope the needs of all ageing people with disabilities and their special requirements will be given due consideration during this inquiry.

Yours faithfully,

Ken and Jeanette Clifton
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