

A.O.C. 10/7/08

Frankston/Peninsula Carers' Inc.
Providing Co-located Housing and Support. (Inq into better support for carers)
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Submission No. 674

Committee Secretary
Inquiry into Better Support for Carers
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family,
Community, Housing and Youth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA. ACT. 2600.

1st July, 2008

Dear Secretary,

I write to you as Secretary of the above Association with regard to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth's Inquiry into Better Support for Carers.

There is a critical lack of suitable housing and support for people with an intellectual disability throughout the Frankston/Mornington Peninsula area. Those faced with this particular concern are people living with aged carers. Waiting lists for accommodation support in the area are at crisis level. It will be seen from the attached individual submissions lodged by members of our group that their prime requirement relates to this issue. The dread of not having an assurance of accommodation for their sons and daughters once they can no longer care for them is their utmost concern.

Frankston Peninsula Carers' Inc. is a dynamic group of parent/carers, business people and community activists who have come together to find solutions to this dilemma. An outcome of their work is a proposed innovative Housing Model, Co-located Housing and Support - a combination of individualised services, supported accommodation and community development.

The proposed housing model will include:

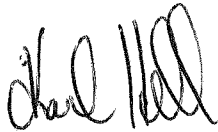
- an accommodation service that will support up to five individuals with moderate to high support needs
- transitional programs that will provide independent accommodation for six people with lower needs
- respite and outreach services that will support people with an intellectual disability and carers across the spectrum of lower and higher support needs.

In order to bring the foregoing project to fruition, it is proposed that a working partnership be established between both the Government and associated authorities in a cost sharing exercise for the benefit of all concerned. Whilst it is appreciated that the States and Territories are responsible for the provision of housing for people with an intellectual disability under the provisions of the CSTDA, it is strongly recommended that additional Commonwealth financial packages be made available for direct contribution to housing projects such as those envisaged by this group.

As an organisation dedicated to providing some housing relief to carers of intellectually disabled people, we can only reiterate the importance of the Federal Government leading by initiative and providing assistance through the injection of additional capital for projects such as that outlined above. Unless the matter is addressed as a matter of urgency, the situation will become insurmountable to the detriment of all involved.

On behalf of carers throughout this area, the State and Commonwealth, we beseech the Inquiry to strongly support our recommendation for the injection of much needed additional capital for the housing needs of parents who have provided a lifetime role of unpaid caring for their intellectually disabled sons and daughters.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl Hell', written in a cursive style.

Karl Hell
Secretary