



Incorporating COMMUNITIQUE

**DASSI** Enabling independence through personal support

13/07/2004

Vicky Smith

Mr Elton Humphrey  
Senate Community Affairs References  
Committee Secretary.

Dear Sir.

Please find enclosed a submission from Vicky Smith re **YOUNG PEOPLE IN NURSING HOMES** with some assistance from Angela Tucker Coordinator **DASSI** Ballarat.

**Disability Attendant Support Service Inc.**

ABN 45 132 475 737 AIRN A0008962J

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### GENERAL ISSUES.

The appropriateness of a young person living in an aged care facility is one that is more than unsuitable.

Young people have a different perspective on life and often find that they are judged and reprimanded by their older peers.

In a nursing home Behaviours can often escalate because of frustrations caused by staff not having time to listen to their needs

Younger people can often become impatient with elderly patients especially those with dementia.

Often there are rules about how long a person can stay out at night time having to be back at an early hour so that staff can assist them with their bed time arrangements.

It can become quite depressing for a young person to watch an elderly person withering away and eventually dying.

Often young people feel lonely having no one their own age to talk to.

### STAFF PERSPECTIVE.

Younger clients tend to demand more time with staff.

Staff are unable to give the time as they have a quota of work to meet.

Staff don't have the appropriate training in working with people with high support needs.

Often a young persons sexual needs tend to come across as a high priority and they expect staff to be able to help them deal with these.

It can be physically demanding on staff if the person is in a wheel chair and is unable to weight bare. There are often no lifting machines and the staff have to lift the person manually.

Staff are not trained in counselling clients and often worry when confronted with a younger client that is depressed and just looking for some one to listen to them.

13/07/2004

IN VICKYS OWN WORDS.

My name is Vicky Smith and I am really trying to get a youth disabled home for people with any disability.

I was 16 when I was in a car accident that left me with a traumatic brain injury and consequently I am confined to a motorized wheel chair.

I can not remember anything about the accident. THANK GOD!!

Even the mentally disabled need a home.

Why can't the disabled youth live together?

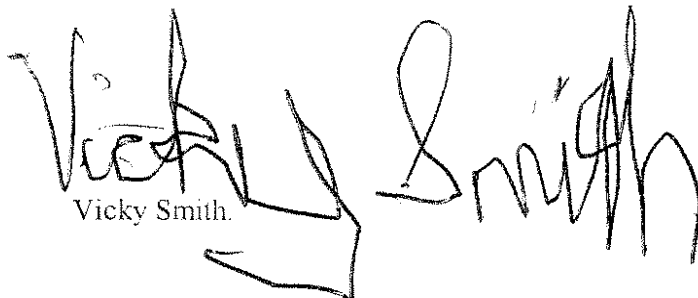
I might have brain damage but I will fight for what I believe in.

If I was as dumb as they all believe I am do you honestly think I would be fighting so hard for a home for the young with any disability?

I think that all people that are either mentally or physically handicapped should have their own special accommodation not put into old people's homes.

I think there should be a home built for the young disabled.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicky Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font. The word "Vicky" is on the left and "Smith" is on the right, connected by a thin line. Below the signature, the name "Vicky Smith." is printed in a simple, sans-serif font.

Vicky Smith.

13/07/2004

**SUMMARY.**

Vicky is a lovely and vibrant young woman who has been living in an aged care facility for 17 years.

All Vicky wants is to be able to live with people of her own age.

Ideally Vicky would like to have her own home but realizes this may not be possible due to her high support needs

Vicky tells me she often gets depressed with her living situation but vows to fight on not only for herself but for all the young people that are living in aged care facilities.

For your interest I have included some recent news paper clippings of Vicky that may explain more of her plight.

Yours Sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Tucker'.

Angela Tucker.