



IAN HOWES

16-7-04

DEAR COMMITTEE,

I AM WRITING TO YOU WITH REFERENCE TO THE SENATE INQUIRY INTO AGED CARE WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO SECTION (C) OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE INQUIRY BEING "THE APPROPRIATENESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BEING ACCOMODATED IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITIES"

I HAVE VISITING A YOUNG PERSON WHO HAS M.S. FOR OVER TEN YEARS. OVER THAT PERIOD THEIR CONDITION HAS DETERIORATED TO THE POINT WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM THEIR OWN HOME TO NOW LIVING IN AN AGED CARE FACILITY.

THIS YOUNG PERSON IS THE ONLY YOUNG PERSON IN THIS FACILITY.

WHILST THE ACCOMODATION FACILITY AND CARE IS VERY GOOD, I FIND THAT IT IS QUITE UNACCEPTABLE. TO PLACE A YOUNG PERSON IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT CONTAINS ELDERLY RESIDENTS AND NO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE.

LIVING IN A REGIONAL CITY WITH NUMEROUS RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES, IT SEEMS THAT IT IS THE STANDARD PRACTICE NOT TO PUT YOUNG PEOPLE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE BUT INSTEAD TO SPREAD THEM RIGHT ACROSS THIS CITY.

THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ALREADY HAVE BEEN DISTANCED FROM THE COMMUNITY AND MOST LIKELY THEIR MOBILITY IS ALSO RESTRICTED WHICH LEADS TO

LITTLE OR NO CONTACT WITH OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE.
WE SHOULD NOT, AS A COMMUNITY, REMOVE THEIR
CONTACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE OF THEIR OWN AGE.

IT IS MORE APPROPRIATE AND PROPER TO
PLACE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE IN ONE FACILITY THAT
CATERS JUST FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. PROGRAMS AND
ACTIVITIES ALSO SHOULD CATER FOR THESE YOUNGER
PEOPLE.

BY PLACING AN INDIVIDUAL YOUNG PERSON IN AN
AGED CARE FACILITY ALSO SENDS THE WRONG MESSAGE
TO THESE YOUNG PEOPLE. IT IS HARD ENOUGH FOR A
YOUNG PERSON IN THE PRIME OF THEIR LIFE TO FIND
THEMSELVES IN A RESIDENTIAL CARE UNIT WITHOUT
HAVING TO READJUST TO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
CULTURE. THAT BEING THAT OF THOSE THAT ARE AT
THE END OF THEIR LIFE.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME IN THIS MATTER
AND TRUST THAT SUITABLE REFORMS OF THE SYSTEM
WILL TAKE PLACE.

YOURS SINCERELY
JAD HOWES.