

Summary of Submission

Accommodation suitable for young people with brain injuries who have higher support needs than those provided in Aged Care Nursing Homes.

Main areas of interest

- Long term accommodation for acquired brain injured patients
- Accommodation suitable for younger people

Key issues of concern

- security of tenure
- accommodation closer to home
- accommodation suitable for younger people

Submission Detail

Basic requirements are:

- ❖ a secure, locked environment
- ❖ 10-30 bed facility ensuring socialization for my husband
- ❖ security of tenure, as moving is extremely distressing
- ❖ higher staff ratio than aged care
- ❖ psychiatric-trained nursing staff
- ❖ higher percentage of male staff
- ❖ single room accommodation as he becomes agitated with noise
- ❖ a stimulating activities program as boredom leads to more behavioural problems
- ❖ a lively, friendly atmosphere and room for family to visit
- ❖ accommodation closer to home for visits

My husband is living in Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Brain Injury Unit. He has been in care for 10 years and has been well enough to move on for the last couple of years, but apart from placing him in Aged Care there has been nowhere suitable to go. He wanders off so needs a locked environment. He can become agitated and aggressive with noise, so a single quiet room helps staff to manage him. To avoid noise he spends long hours alone in his room and has become socially isolated with lack of suitable activities and the other patients are not of similar ability. Although he is mobile and able to shower, dress and feed himself he is unable to do anything for himself without direction and reminders. To place him in an Aged Care facility would cover some of his requirements but not the majority. As he becomes aggressive and is still very strong he would be a danger to frail older people.

Yours sincerely,

Nell Stewart