



Our ref: OSMCR00333

Mr Elton Humphrey  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs References Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Humphrey

**SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE INQUIRY  
INTO THE FUNDING AND OPERATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH STATE  
TERRITORY DISABILITY AGREEMENT (CSTDA)**

The third CSTDA ends on 30 June 2007. Western Australia has been a partner in all three agreements, and during that time has demonstrated its substantial commitment to ensuring that people with a disability in Western Australia are provided with the opportunity to live a good life. This commitment has been demonstrated through the allocation of unprecedented levels of growth funding for disability services in this state over the past decade.

Western Australia has also been a pro-active partner in CSTDA negotiations and has helped to promote issues important to all jurisdictions throughout successive negotiations. This State has concerns about some aspects of the multilateral and bilateral agreements negotiated over the 14 year history of the CSTDA.

Of particular concern is the inequity in funding provided to this State. The Australian Government and the other States/Territories have acknowledged this inequity, but the funding shortfall issues have not been addressed over successive agreements, and people with a disability in this State have missed out on funding for much needed services.

A second issue of concern is the level of indexation applied to CSTDA funding by the Australian Government. Western Australia has made additional efforts to ensure adequate State indexation is available to community organisations that assist people with disabilities.

I would be pleased to provide additional evidence regarding these issues, and related areas of concern, at the committee's hearings into this matter and request the opportunity to appear personally to put Western Australia's point of view to the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tony McRae', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Hon Tony McRae MLA  
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES**

10 JUL 2006