



The Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
CANBERRA 2600

Tuesday 21 August 2006.

RE: Senate Inquiry into the CSTDA

My name is Lynette Allen and my husband Ian and I are the parents of a 28 year old adult child with a moderate Intellectual disability, developmental delay, Epilepsy, Autistic behaviours as well as ongoing behaviour problems and issues. Life is very hard for all of us and we are offered no hope in the present situation, we are suffering from depression, devastation, abandonment, exhaustion and anxiety and do not know how much longer we can cope. We are both only able to work part time.

We no longer have the energy to care for our son at home. We need a supported accommodation placement for him. We are one of many, many families in this area alone who are very close to crisis point. Both state and commonwealth governments must take on this responsibility! We receive some respite, which helps, but respite has issues too, there simply is not enough! The beds are continually blocked and will continue to be so as more and more families go into crisis. This (respite) is where they put the children of those families. You must understand that by blocking the beds, families get less respite and consequently they too may go into crisis. Matters get worse, nothing is getting any better. I have heard through the grapevine that the 50 places that the state government has made available for supported accommodation now, will be going to assist disabled people who are in nursing homes and foster homes. Whilst this is great for them, it does not help the community who have nothing and can foresee nothing.

In the current situation:

We have no chance whatsoever of finding a supported accommodation placement as things stand
We will not have a placement for him before we die
He will lose his parents and his home and local environment all at once when we die

Our country has abandoned us. Australia is by no means a poor country.
We pay our taxes and our friends and neighbours pay theirs.
We all expect that some of this money will help disabled people within our country to live better lives. But this is not happening. A minuscule percentage of disabled people receive any assistance. Even those with 'highest priority' in 'severe crisis' may never receive supported accommodation or essential services!

Unfortunately, the way things are at present, the state Government cannot ever help us; we need the Commonwealth Government to help our family and others. We, our children and their families, deserve a better standard of life.

Commonwealth and State Governments cannot continue to blame each other for this crisis

IT IS TIME TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS AND WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. STOP BLAMING EACH OTHER FOR THE PROBLEM!

SOLVE THE HUGE CRISIS YOU HAVE BOTH CREATED ... PLEASE

Lynette and Ian Allen