



Submission to Senate community Affairs References Committee

I am the mother of a woman with Down Syndrome, who also has mobility problems and Alzheimers Disease. Jill was our foster daughter from 8 months of age, until she became an adult in her own right. Unfortunately, her wonderful schooling and training in social skills did not fit her to be able to live independently. She remains with us, the only family she knows, but my husband and I both now have a myriad of health problems.

For Jill to have access to residential or supported accommodation, she would need a Lifestyle Package from Q'ld Disability Services, which seem as rare as hen's teeth.

We love Jill and want only the best for her, and both feel somewhat resentful that we have saved the State Government a lot of money by keeping Jill in our care. She needs a great deal of support these days, and we are finding it increasingly difficult to do even minor things like attending to her finger and toe nails. There are parts of her body that I feel are rarely soaped as I cannot reach her feet when I shower her, nor can she hold them up to me

.We are luckier than many parents, in that she has a Day Respite service to attend, but we'd dearly like to see her settled in her own supported home.

It seems to me that as a state ward until her 18th birthday, she should be of some priority in receiving some type of residential care. I understand that under the CTDSA the provision of accommodation is a State matter. I am currently on 2 committees who are looking into the accommodation issues in both Warwick and Toowoomba. I seem to have spent all Jill's adult life on committees to find first Respite, and now Accommodation in our area, for her and her peers

In our area, the Warwick Shire there are a large number of handicapped adults who need to be settled in their own homes. Killarney and Allora both have several families looking for an answer to the problem, and Warwick, itself has many.

Most of the parents I know are already ageing, most of us are over 65, but at a Disability Awareness week activity yesterday, I would say there were over 40 children from local schools with disabilities. I guess they will get funding when they leave school and be able to buy a service. It seems that Jill was born in the wrong era, before Packages, and after the large Institutions were broken up

I'm not sure how to put in a submission to a Senate Committee, but I do think that the lack of Accommodation for Handicapped people in our area needs to be addressed, and soon.

From Jennifer Park,