



Re: Inquiry into CSTDA

We are so convinced that the systems relating to the disabled and the unpaid family carers, are so flawed, that carers feel compelled to resist--- carers know we need to refute the system, but, we are not sure how or where to start--- we all know we had the rough end of the stick, and as we see it, now is the time to start doing something about it--- are we going to let govt's continue to act as they are (i.e.. CST DA saga) or are we going to make a concerted State and Aust. wide noise for them to listen to us and act.

We need to change the system in order to actually getting things done-- we need to make enough noise to shatter the complacency of politicians, towards the disabled and unpaid family carers--- it will take time, and be difficult, but unless we start now, we will be as we are now in another ?? years--- because of what we have observed, read, and listened to over the past 10 plus years, is truly a moral and ethical crisis.

2.7 million carers , plus the disabled and their friends= a very BIG noise.

The media have paid very little attention to family carers and the disabled,(with occasional exceptions)--- tv networks / radio /major newspapers, have completely ignored the most striking evidence of carers unmet needs--- could this mean that, media people think like politicians. (they travel, eat and drink with them)

It's a matter of 'pressure' --- cars-- weather-- blood-- water-- electricity --cappuccino all respond to some kind of pressure--- politicians also respond to pressure, (votes and public etc.) maybe the same pressure could help resolve the desperate needs of the disabled, and their unpaid family carers --- its a matter of what variety / types of pressure is required and how that pressure is applied, to help resolve the desperate needs of these people.

The 1990s, to us had a sort of excitement--there was we thought, some motivation in endeavoring to achieve, better life conditions for people with disabilities, and the unpaid family carers, caring for them.

Now 2005/6 -- the motivation and excitement and idealism, is no longer apparent--- the economic rationalists have shifted the positives vibes away from people, with disabilities and carers, to beaurocratic systems, which in reality is a dehumanisation of human services.

Increasingly, crucial decisions regarding policy and practice, are made by people whose empathy and knowledge of and relationship, with people with disabilities and their caring families, are tenuous at best.

Another impediment to the effective implementation of social policies, is the high level of discontinuities, of both personnel and policies , in many organisations--- DHS-- Community Services-- Health Services and general service --DHS tend to restructure, every 18 to 24 months-- we learned in our paid worklife, that we are inclined to confront any difficult or new situation, by reorganising, which in reality, is a great method for creating the illusion of progress , but, produces, confusion & inefficiency .

The critical shortage in disability support services, have been known since the ABS released it's survey of , disability, aging and carers in 1993.

the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, forum 7march 2002, held in Melbourne, indicated conclusively, that minimal improvement had occurred .

Dr Kemp, Fed. Govt minister for Education, Oct.2000 stated, " We will provide up to \$3571 per student per year to all private schools, because they save the economy up to \$2.2 billion per year" --- The AIHW stated that Carers save the economy \$32.2 billion per year-- " Mutual Obligation " ??? only goes the Govt. way.

We need as a matter of urgency, actions / legislation etc. the Government - CSTDA will take to deliver a fair & just life , for the elderly family carers .

Bill Donald. (aged 78-- caring for wife & 45 yr old daughter)
on behalf of many elderly carers.
