

Dear Sir / Madam

We wish to offer the following as a submission to your Senate Committee. We are parent /carers, aged 68 & 71, of a son aged 29 who has an intellectual disability and lives at home with us. He attends an Endeavour day service 5 days per week

He requires constant supervision and support / assistance in such areas as , Communication , Transport , Health , Food preparation , Personal hygiene , Money management , the list goes on.

Our immediate concerns, as ageing carers,for our son are:

- (a) Lack of individual developmental training opportunities and or funding for same.
- (b) Very limited availability of, suitable good quality, respite and support services.
- (c) Most critical is the desperate shortage of, appropriate, good quality, supported, long term, accommodation for adults with an intellectual disability in the Toowoomba area. Without the availability of such accommodation we can not plan for our sons future for when we can no longer provide adequate care or for when we die.

Toowoomba Intellectual Disability Support Association (TIDSA) of which we are members , has recently received and distributed the research findings An Analysis of Accommodation Needs of Adults with an Intellectual Disability in Toowoomba and Surrounding Areas . TIDSA engaged The Centre for Rural and Remote Area Health to undertake this research project which was funded by Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

Please see attached a copy of the cover of this unique and relevant document and copies of a few of the parts of the Executive Summary which reflect our concerns and probably those of other ageing parent / carers across the much wider community.

People with an Intellectual Disability are the most vulnerable in our country and only a huge increase in joint Government funding can provide adequately for their needs.

We hope our submission will be relevant to your Committee