

2/1/81

The Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs References Committee  
P.O.Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA 2600

Dear Sir/ Madam

I would like to bring to your notice the conspicuous lack of suitable accommodation for the intellectually disabled members of society in Queensland.

I live near Warwick, a city of 10,000 residents, with a rapidly increasing population, yet there is no desirable accommodation for our sons and daughters who are intellectually disabled. The Endeavour Foundation has an eleven bed residential which is always full and which is no longer considered a viable housing option. Also the Endeavour client needs a State Government disability package to assess this residential and as these packages are few and far between one's chances of receiving one is Buckley's!

As I am now close to 70 I would like to start making plans for the future needs of my 33 year old intellectually disabled son, who is in good health, and will no doubt outlive me. The ideal solution would be for purpose built accommodation for him and the many other similar residents in Warwick. I stress Warwick as this is where he has always lived and moving to a new locality would be too traumatic.

The desperate need for disability accommodation in Warwick was highlighted several years ago by a survey done by the University of Queensland under the auspices of the now defunct Warwick Welfare Co-ordinating Group of which I was a member. I believe another survey with similar results has since been conducted.

The aged sector of our population seems to be much better catered for than the disabled sector. Families with a disabled child usually have only one income during the parent's lifetime as one parent has the full time responsibility of caring for the child and thus has not had the opportunity of accumulating a nest egg for that child's needs when the parent is no longer here. Warwick certainly has far more government funded accommodation for the aged than that for the disabled.

I hope that the Senate inquiry will take note of this glaring lack in Warwick of what I consider is the basic right of every disabled person .

Yours faithfully

*Janet Davis*  
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