

**Submission by Di Shepherd (Parent of Paul Shepherd<sup>1</sup>) to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the Funding and Operation of the Commonwealth State / Territory Disability Agreement**

1. The only aspect of the CSTDA that I want preserved is its function in relation to ensuring that funds from the Commonwealth are quarantined for disability services.
2. Other than this aspect, the agreement offers no advantage to people with disabilities in Western Australia.
3. Life goes on for people like my son Paul, regardless, or in spite of the CSTDA.

4. The cost of having a CSTDA needs to be properly understood. There are legions of public servants engaging in endless bureaucratic activity, the results of which do not justify the cost involved.

5. The inflexibility associated with the division of responsibility between the States and the Commonwealth has not helped my son.
6. My son needs to receive support holistically. By dividing administrative responsibility for critical support areas between State and Commonwealth jurisdictions, the CSTDA does not assist in this goal.
7. The current bureaucratic split between State and Commonwealth allows for endless 'argy bargy' about who is accountable. The States say they are doing their bit, but the Commonwealth is falling short. The Commonwealth says just the opposite. Frankly, I don't care about playing the 'blame game', I just want the system to work. It can't work properly until there is a fixed point of accountability. In this context, the present arrangements don't deliver.

Di Shepherd

8 August 2006

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<sup>1</sup> Paul (14.9.73) has autism/intellectual disability, lives in a non government group home and has day activity (16 hours a week Alternatives to Employment program) provided by another non government organisation.