

Anthony J. Lanigan – Statement of Carer Experience

Aged 72, I have been a carer to my son Ian for 45 years. Ian suffered oxygen starvation at birth resulting in an irreparable intellectual disability. His last in-depth assessment, at age 25 years and conducted in the United States, resulted in a Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale score of 53 and a Bruininks' Scales of Independent Behaviour score of 8 years 3 months. A common complaint in such cases and personally the most embarrassing problem for Ian, was nightly bed wetting. After trying all known solutions, this ceased on 26 December 1989 – Ian was then 24 years of age. Ian accompanied my wife and I throughout my naval career spanning some 40 years.

Throughout our postings and travel within Australia and overseas, I have observed differing societal solutions to common problems and pressures affecting carers. ***The overriding concern of carers is not how to cope with day-to-day events but, rather, who will continue to care for loved ones when we decease.*** Years of caring tend to simply blend into one's way of life with a passive acceptance of individual family circumstances – geographic and often social isolation add to hidden stress.

It has been my experience that carers, when describing their life's experiences and dealings with a multitude of government departments, do so in a mostly subjective rather than objective way - understandably, emotion frequently overtakes practicality. ***Years of negative results and disappointments create a perception that nothing can or will change.*** Much patient, attentive listening and thoughtful advocacy is necessary to reverse such long held beliefs.

The long overdue Queensland Recognition of Carers charter provides an excellent platform from which government and carers, in partnership, can identify and quantify the most pressing problems facing carers today and into the future. It is accepted that no one solution fits all. Compound that with the requirement that effective solutions must be correctly prioritised and be financially sustainable, then the task of the Queensland Carer Advisory Council is formidable but by no means insurmountable.

Anthony J. Lanigan - Resume of Community Involvement.

Doubletrees Special School (Cornwall, UK) treasurer/fundraising co-ordinator.

Sunnyfield Association (Sydney, NSW) treasurer, Sunnyfield Special Scouts.

Fairfax County (Northern Virginia, USA) Supported Employment Services, fundraising committee member.

Domiciled in Puerta de Valle, Jalon (Southern Spain) networked with local church and supported employment agencies

2001 Returned to Australia (Toowoomba) member Endeavour Foundation and member Parents Support Group

Feb 2004 founded Toowoomba Intellectual Disability Support Association Inc. (progress papers attached)

Networked/face to face meetings with:

Federal and State Ministers with Family/Housing/Communities/Disability and Carer portfolios

Deputations at Toowoomba and Highfields Regional Cabinet meetings

Local State and Federal MPs

Disability Services Queensland (QC working party)

Carers Queensland

Centre for Remote and Rural Area Health, University of Southern Queensland (collaborative research paper)

Department of Education and Training (Cert IV in Disability)

Toowoomba City and 6 surrounding shire councils

(Toowoomba Regional Council post amalgamation)

Youngcare Brisbane

Queensland Housing

Barnabas Community, Brisbane

L'Arche, Brisbane

Salvation Army

Various local supported residential, business service and respite providers

Present to local chapters of Rotary, Lions

Anthony J. Lanigan – Curriculum Vitae

Educational and Career Qualifications

- Intermediate and Leaving Certificates (Ireland)
- General Certificate of Education (UK)
- Graduate of Royal Naval Officer School (UK) – 1968 Prix Academic
- Graduate of Royal Naval College Greenwich (UK)
- Graduate of Principal Warfare Officer course 1973 (UK)
- Graduate of Advanced Warfare Officer course 1978 (UK)

Official CV – Commander Anthony J. LANIGAN RAN (Ret'd.)

Commander LANIGAN was born and educated in Dublin, Eire and joined the Royal Navy as a Junior Signaller in September 1954. He served in a variety of ship types and shore billets including deployments to the Far East, Mediterranean, South Africa and West Indies stations. He was commissioned Sub Lieutenant (SDEX-C) (Special Duties Executive- Communications) in 1969 and promoted Lieutenant in 1972. Following completion of the Principle Warfare Course and an exchange posting with the RAN (1973-1975), Commander LANIGAN transferred to the RAN in 1976.

His RAN postings and promotions include:

HMAS Stuart (DE) - Gunnery Officer
Australian Joint Warfare Establishment – Instructor
Communications and Electronic Warfare (CEW)
Advanced Warfare Officers course – HMS Dryad
(UK)
HMAS Adelaide (FFG) – Principle Warfare Officer
(CEW)

Promoted Lieutenant Commander – June 1981
RAN Tactical School – Staff Officer CEW
Fleet Communications and EW Officer – Fleet HQ
Sydney
Naval Attache Washington – Staff Officer CEW,
Submarine Operations and Intelligence liaison
Promoted Commander – June 1990
Defence Intelligence Organisation Canberra –
Defence Attache Liaison Officer
Retired from RAN Active Service June 1993
Recalled to service 1994 – Naval Support Command
CEW Officer, NSC HQ Sydney
Project REVY co-ordinator, Sydney – Re-location of
NSC HQ from Sydney CBD to Pyrmont
Retired from Reserve service 1995

Australian Defence Force Awards

Commander LANIGAN has been awarded the Australian Long Service medal and the Australian Defence medal.

Summary

I have facilitated and presented to a number of national and international conferences over the years. Additionally, I have chaired a number of service and civilian committees; most notably that dealing with the REVY Project which involved representatives of 11 trade unions and a budget of \$138 million.

Based upon my experience as a carer and professional experience as presented, I believe that I can make a worthwhile contribution if appointed to the Queensland Carers Advisory Council.