

Senator
Lyn Allison
and
Democrats



11/04/05

Dear members of senate select committee on
Mental Health, Dep of the Senate, Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600 Aust.

Hello. I write to you as the representative
of the Mental Health Support Group which
meets regularly in Ringwood East Victoria.

We ask for a voice in the funding of the
mental health section. Much of the money
goes to institutions available to few, and some
goes to ^(family) carers. The lucky few have carers.

The nature of the condition means that
people become alienated from families. Those who
have the bonus of a family are blessed with
lots of services. Those of equal or greater
need, without families, are denied the
standard mental health services. We ask
that the funding of services be realigned to
be provided for the consumers not for the
carers.

The massive funding to institutions does
not match services to clients. It seems that a
select few are very well cared for. Multitudes
are given no services at all. As the clients are
both of same needs, the inequality of care
is an issue of concern. We ask that all the
clients have equal access to services eg PACT, MTT
outpatients, inpatients, psych doctors.

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The type of handicaps experienced by clients of mental health mean that at times they need a person to speak for them or advocate their views. Some people have a worker from each of four services (four paid workers for one client). Many clients have no workers. The community workers (who have various titles) are not ^{distributed} distributed on a needs basis. We, the consumers of mental health, request that consumers be judged on a needs basis for distribution of workers. We ask that, & since there are insufficient to go around, that each consumer be limited to one only worker, so that more clients might have workers. At present the consumers with prominent families tend to be the ones with multiple ~~workers~~ workers and services. That is good for them, but not when the majority go without anything.

It is because this group of people, at least 10% of the community, are not equally treated by the government and society, that I write to you on behalf of this ^{smaller support} group. I choose to do voluntary work to help these folk where I can. It would be good if funding was available to community groups who are hands-on helping those in need. Please do this.

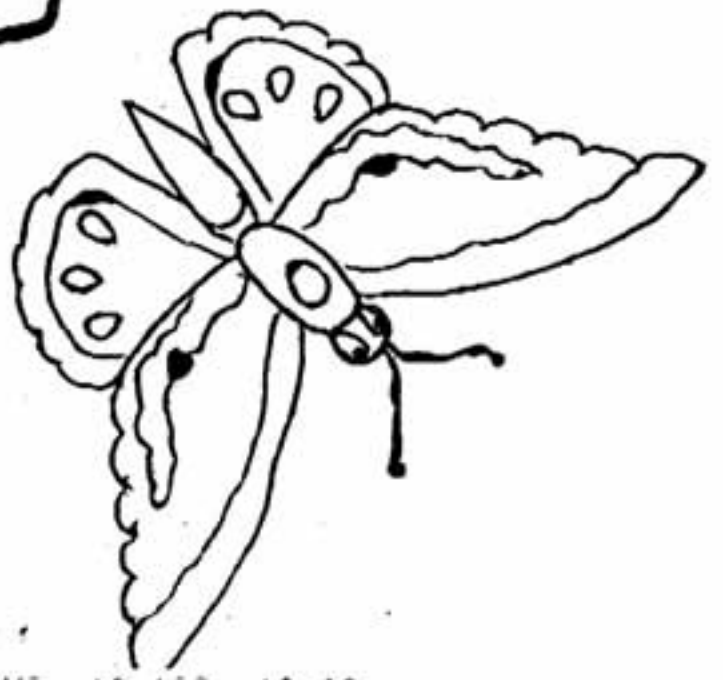
Thank you so much for listening to our views.

Yours sincerely,

If you have a mental health issue,
then you are invited to the:



Mental Health



Support Group

for consumers rather than carers nor families.

We meet monthly at MSCHC,
75 Patterson St, East Ringwood 3135.
on Lilydale train line and bus 367.

We meet 2pm FRIDAY 2005:-

- 28 Jan, 25 Feb, 18 Mar, 22 Apr,
- 27 May, 24 Jun, 22 Jul, 26 Aug,
- 23 Sep, 28 Oct, 25 Nov, 2005.

It will be good to see you.
Bring your experiences, ideas,
thoughts on your condition
and your smile.

