

Sent: Tuesday, 26 April 2005 11:01 PM

To: Committee, Mental Health (SEN)

Subject: Submission re Supported Accommodation

26 April 2005

Committee Secretary ,
Senate Select Committee on Mental Health ,
Parliament House ,
Canberra ACT 2000

Senate Inquiry Terms of Reference 1 e & 1 m

We wish to address the matter of accommodation .

Our daughter has been suffering from schizophrenia since her mid thirties and is now in her 44th year . She also has a mild intellectual disability . About a year after diagnosis of her illness she was found a supported accommodation place in a Community Care Unit (CCU) . Her time spent there was invaluable : Medication was closely supervised Close supervision by her case worker Regular consultations with the psychiatrist Social interaction with residents and staff in this cluster housing arrangement Shared meals , activities and outings A monthly parent/carers' discussion group .

Overall , her and our involvement with the CCU was most worthwhile , but her time there was limited as the role of the CCU is one of rehabilitation rather than permanent accommodation . After 18 months she moved into supported accommodation (run by SAILS) which she shares with a woman her own age.

We strongly urge the Select committee to recommend much more funding to provide supported accommodation for all those living with psychotic illness now in marginal housing. Suitable accommodation is absolutely vital for the well being of these fellow citizens of ours.