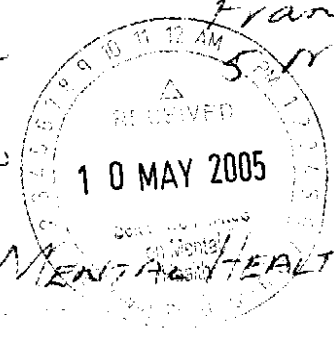


Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee
on Mental Health
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA, ACT. 2600

Ⓟ MR. F. + MRS M. NEUMANN
9 Barleight Court
Frankston, VIC. 3199
5 May, 2005



SUBMISSION REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir / Madam,

Frankston Carers & Parent Support
Group, c/o Orwil St. Community House, Frankston 3199.
Email: orwilst@optusnet.com.au

have asked that I forward our Submission to you. We are Carers for babies, children to adults with varying disabilities, with the majority having, with over 40,000 Victorians, Acquired Brain Injuries (A.B.I)

SUBMISSION

1. OVERWHELMING IMMEDIATE NEED FOR DISABLED
 - Excellent Age-Appropriate, Accommodation + Rehabilitation - most importantly AFFORDABLE
 - In Government, Community or Private Facilities
2. IMPROVED STATE + FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CO-OPERATION
 - For Increased Delivery of Funding + Overview + Rehabilitation
 - Particularly for young people who usually have no finances to afford privately-run facilities
3. SUBSIDIES OF PUBLIC FUNDS
 - Into private facilities
 - Hostels are usually financially struggling
 - Limited or no funds for upgrading, renovating
 - Some lack heating or cooling esp. in common areas
 - Fees cannot be increased as young people in particular are unable to meet increased costs for ^{maintenance} ~~upgrading~~ or major repairs

P.T.O

Conclusion

- Present Situation is Socially & Economically generally Unsatisfactory
- Urgent Matter to be addressed for countless thousands of people with disabilities often socially isolated & with their Carers ageing, often with limited financial resources, plus ongoing grief & health problems.

Trusting this Submission will receive your kind attention & consideration for action for these very vulnerable & needy citizens of Australia.

Fred & Meredith Neumann &
Frankston Carers & Parent Support Group