

KINCUMBER LODGE
RESIDENT ADVOCACY GROUP

Ms. D. Rance
Administration
Disability Discrimination Act Inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Dear Ms. Rance,

**Government Policy and discrimination
against people with disabilities
wishing to choose their living options**

I am writing this submission as both a Service Provider of vocational and residential services for people with intellectual disabilities, as a parent of a son with significant intellectual disabilities, and as Secretary of the Kincumber Lodge Resident Advocacy Group who have requested that I formally communicate with you in respect of policies by State Government DADHC which may discriminate against people with intellectual disabilities wishing to choose their preferred living arrangements.

Kincumber Lodge is a small high quality residential facility supporting sixteen (16) residents with moderate to high support needs in extremely pleasant surroundings.

The facility is modern, has high quality caring staffing, and is fortunate to have an ideal social infrastructure with residents being in safe walking distance to supermarkets, restaurants, entertainment, banking, medical and dental facilities.

The Kincumber Lodge Resident Advocacy Group and individual residents, are highly satisfied with the service, and wish it to be maintained in its present form and location. At the present time we are advised that State Government DADHC is requesting a transition of residents from this facility to small group homes containing two or three individuals located throughout the community in Government contracted housing.

At the same time the Department has been approached for the use of this property as a possible residential facility for aged people should the transition occur.

Simply put, how is it that Government policy dictates that group home accommodation is not suited for people with disabilities, notwithstanding the residents satisfaction with their current living circumstances, and yet the same Government Department (DADHC) deem group or hostel style accommodation suitable for aged citizens.

Would this policy of discrimination apply if all the residents with disabilities were aged?

This facility was established by the parents in 1980, and is now funded by State DADHC who have subsequently imposed their transition requirements in the name of normalisation policies.

The Kincumber Lodge Resident Advocacy Group would very much appreciate your response, particularly as the transition requirement will significantly degrade the quality of life currently enjoyed by residents.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely

John Leddy
Secretary