

## Submission of David Irving, VIC

### **Productivity Commission Inquiry into the increased application of competition, contestability and informed user choice to human services**

To be honest when I heard that the government was trying to make these proposed changes in the community services sector I felt very let down. I have been a residential care worker working with at risk young people for five years, funding and wages are already very tight.

The government need to stop thinking that pulling funding and coming up with strange ideas to save money is going to solve their own spending problems. You are playing with people's lives who are in need, the people of our country who can not fend for them selves and who rely on our government to help improve their lives.

What kind of country would we be if we just said no to supporting these people in times of need such as homelessness, poor mental health or any such situation where an Australian person can find them selves in need of support. What kind of country would we be if we made people pay for these services, that everything became an issue of weather you have enough money or not.

The whole point of living in the "lucky" country was suppose to be that the kind of support these people need was to be free of charge and that the people working in that industry were supported enough to help the sick, the tired, the poor and the hungry. Australia risks becoming something it never intended to be if these changes to community services are made, all because the government of the day can't control their own spending and then go back to the people for more. Australians expect better than that from their government.

Every time you play a game or trial something in community services to see if it is going to work, you play with people's lives and people's livelihoods. Theses are living breathing people who need our help and there workers in that industry also who need to be supported. Don't play a game with our industry.... As a worker who cares very much about what happens to his clients and co workers I have these final words to leave you with.

How dare the government of the day even think of taking funding away from the vulnerable in our population, get a hold of your selves for god sakes. What are you thinking! This is the reason our country is great because Australians have always been looked after! You ruin that with the thought of making these changes how dare you touch the community services sector. Remember why you ran for office and what you believed in before you got too comfortable and started earning too much money. Don't forget that we have people who are crying out for support and you will only make it harder for them to access that support and drive workers away from the industry in the process.

Control your spending for God sakes be responsible and don't come looking for money from the community services sector ruining more of the fabric of our country in the process.

Regards.

David Irving