

Brief submission

Having worked for 16 years for a Public Health Service in the field of disability and rehabilitation I have seen the difference between the quality and service provided publically and that provided privately.

The most physically disabled in our population require the most costly and specialised equipment but the private providers can't provide the level of service they need to solve their technology issues, and still make a profit so they just don't service them at all. These people rarely can pay for the service they need, they have so many other demands on their funds. Public provision, which treats everyone as equal regardless of SES is essential.

When public services are not supported because 'the private sector can do it better' they gradually shrink to the point that they can't sustain themselves due to lack of critical mass, training opportunities and career tracks. Then the most needy in our society lose access to the services they need.

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