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Productivity Commission Inquiry into Disability Care and Support

Family Advocacy Inc. would like to offer the following:

Firstly we would appreciate more information by way of overseas examples, where a disability insurance scheme has been successfully implemented.

We believe that there needs to be a substantial injection of funding into disability support services, especially by way of recurrent funding rather than capital works, however we are not saying that assets such as housing and equipment still require funding.

We believe that Australian taxpayers should fund those services that support and promote a good life (rather than the lowest possible denominator) for those in our society who need support, the aged, child protection, education and of course those who are unable to afford the support to lead an inclusive lifestyle because of their disabilities.

We are not entering into the debate of how that funding should be raised, whether through the current tax system or by an additional tax, the bottom line being that there is not nearly enough funding going into disability services presently, to meet the needs of people who have disabilities and their families. In fact many families are locked into poverty because of their caring role, often for all of life.

WE have serious concerns about the current administration of disability funds through the National Disability Scheme (formerly the CSTDA). There are too many layers of administration and furthermore there are disparities between state commitment to disability services, exacerbated by a lack of transparency and accountability, as to where the dollars are going. ***It is essential that the maximum amount go to the grass roots level.***