

We are the grandparents of Kieran Buckley . He is severely autistic . His parents, one of whom is a teacher, have provided substantial additional therapy to him since he was three . As a result of the training that his parents have given ,, he is able to behave in a socially acceptable behaviour . Unfortunately he cannot communicate orally very well , He is able to use a computer and is able to produce art of an interesting level and is capable under supervision of some repetitive work

The problem we foresee is that he will leave Black Mountain School at the end of this year . He requires twenty four hour a day care. . There are very limited opportunities for him to undertake employment since few sheltered workshops exist in Canberra for people with his disability

There is no option for him to move into some day care institution and Nursing Homes are quite inappropriate for him and would also be difficult for the other patients.. If he has to leave home he will be severely disturbed and the advances he has made may be lost

His Father is an Information Technology specialist at the Institute of Sport and his mother is teaching as a Literacy Coordinator

If either of them is to leave work the family income will be seriously decreased and the community will lose the services of two important contributors

There is a need for a post - school day activity centre for people like Kieran , preferably involving some development and use of occupational skills

We appreciate the opportunity to make this submission

Phil and Louise Ibbotson