

5 August 2010

Inquiry into Disability Care and Support  
Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

As Victoria's state-owned Trustee company, State Trustees has a vital role in the delivery of administration and estate planning services in relation to people with a disability.

Appointed by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), we act as administrator for nearly 9,000 people with disability, illness and injury who need help managing their financial and legal affairs.

State Trustees welcomes this inquiry and endorses the intent of the proposed new system to improve long-term care and support services for people with disability and their carers and families. Many of our clients fall through the gaps in existing disability and mental health services and are disadvantaged through no fault of their own.

Relatives and carers of children with a profound disability often talk to us about how their child — our client — will be supported when they get too tired, sick or die. We are encouraged by any initiative to develop a scheme which may go some way towards alleviating their anxiety.

Based on our reading of the Productivity Commission's Issues paper (May 2010), we do not foresee any unintended consequences of the proposed new system on our role as administrator for people with disabilities.

As a professional service provider, we will quickly familiarise ourselves with the scheme, if and when introduced, to ensure that our clients receive their entitlements. We will also raise awareness about the new scheme with our clients, their families and support workers.

In this regard, we suggest it would be appropriate that the design of any scheme that is to be introduced have regard for the role of substitute decision-makers and the legal parameters within which they operation.

Again, State Trustees welcomes the initiative and will follow the public discussion and the inquiry's deliberations with great interest.

Yours sincerely



**A G Fitzgerald**  
Managing Director