

GROUP SUBMISSION TO PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CARE AND SUPPORT FROM PARENTS' SOCIAL CLUB

(WALTZ-SING MATILDAS DANCE GROUP SOCIAL CLUB)

We are parents, carers and supporters of young people with mild to severe disabilities who meet every week at Cardiff Panthers, Newcastle, NSW, for dance lessons and fun. The ages of our members range from young parents, through middle age, to those who have retired from the workforce.

We all have the same concern; what is there for our children when we are no longer able to care for them? Our group is like many throughout Australia- we all share our good times and our bad times, and our particular experiences of bringing up a young person with a disability into an uncertain future.

A social housing scheme that draws on our group knowledge and expertise could be a cost-effective way of tailor-making small groupings of friends living together in their local communities, with the partial support of their parents, carers, siblings, health visitors, church groups and local service clubs.

We can see that disability touches all members of a community, and that there is a lot of caring and support out there. We believe some help can be marshalled by groups of parents and friends to get good value for money in building some of these local projects.

All young people need security for an independent future, whether they have this network or not, and we support a national insurance scheme, or an extra levy to Medicare, that ensures this.