



Moreland City Council

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

MORELAND CITY COUNCIL - SUBMISSION TO THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY - DISABILITY CARE AND SUPPORT

Moreland is a municipality located in the inner city of Melbourne Victoria. Approximately 20 percent of our population experience a disability of some kind. While many of our citizens with a disability live active and productive lives, others experience difficulty accessing the support they need to contribute to our community in a meaningful way. In some cases individuals lack the appropriate support to even have their day to day needs met.

It is in this context that Moreland City Council strongly supports the introduction of a long term disability care and support scheme. As expressed by many others, such a scheme has the potential to transform the lives of many Australians with a disability. The inequity that exists in the current provision of disability support is clearly highlighted in the issues paper that was released as part of the productivity commission's inquiry.

The introduction of a scheme that provides the amount of support needed to enable individuals to have their needs met and be active community members is sorely needed. Council feels that it is important that the mutual benefits of such a scheme are recognised. When an individual receives the support they need to have their needs met, then they are in a position to be active and equal members of our community. This in turn results in stronger and more complete communities. This principle is clearly highlighted in Councils Access and Inclusion Policy 2010 – 2014.

In addition this scheme has the potential to provide people with a disability and their families and carers with an element of certainty that their needs will continue to be met throughout a person's life cycle.

Whilst strongly supporting the improvement of disability support in Australia, Council also wishes to outline some of the potential issues and opportunities associated with the proposed scheme. These include:

- Ensuring any new support system adequately integrates with current and potential support schemes for people over 65. The proposed scheme is targeted at individuals who acquire their disability before the age of 64.

Language Link

中文	9280 1910	Español	9280 1916
Italiano	9280 1911	Hrvatski	9280 1917
Ελληνικά	9280 1912	हिन्दी	9280 1918
العربية	9280 1913		
Türkçe	9280 1914	All other languages	
Việt Ngữ	9280 1915	9280 1919	

- Ensuring that the new scheme places people with a disability and their families in control. Much work has been done within Victoria and other states to introduce self directed approaches to disability support. Any new system should have this approach fully integrated into its delivery.
- Ensuring that the needs of all people are considered. There has been much discussion about this scheme catering for the needs of individuals with higher support needs. Council is completely in support of this intention and recognises the specific needs of the cohort. Having said that, often the needs of individuals with seemingly lesser support needs are not indentified. Many individuals may not be accessing formal supports. Having more support clearly available to such individuals would allow more people the support they need to be active community members.

In conclusion Council commends the Government for seeking to improve the care and support for Australians with a disability. Council looks forward to monitoring the developments of this proposal over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Stella Kariofyllidis
MAYOR

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c.c. Councilors