

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

17/4/2011

'REQUEST NAME BE WITHHELD'

Dear NDIS team,

'When in Doubt – Don't'

As a carer and family member who has provided 30 years of love and support for our daughter whom has an intellectual disability, I oppose the Productivity Commission's key finding that "the disability support system is inequitable, under-funded, fragmented and inefficient and gives people with a disability little choice". In our state of Western Australia there would be considerable presence within the community of people who would not agree with this conclusion from the Productivity Commission.

In Western Australia, Disability Services Commission is **not** inequitable, is however under-funded, **not** fragmented **nor** inefficient and we **do** have some choices. Local Area Co-ordination has been extremely successful and has helped put safeguards in place for people with disabilities and their families. I strongly suggest your report along with your recommendations and your scheme to be extremely de-valuing. Not just for the person with a disability but their carers and support workers and already existing services such as our state Disability Services Commission and employment services that have already been working, striving towards and achieving your suggested recommendations. WA has been doing good work for a long time ... what makes the Federal Government assume this is not the case? and ... what makes the Federal Government think they can do any better? I can personally claim that Western Australian Disability Services Commission is the **only** government agency I **do** trust. I really feel that with government departments ... the bigger they get, the worse they get.

Being a carer and having a family member with a permanent disability means we are up to our ears in governmental bureaucracy, control and ownership. The last thing our family needs is to be involved with yet another governmental system

such as a large Centrelink. History shows that anything centralized just does not work. You very fast become a number instead of a person and then ends up being a far cry from being 'person centered' or 'individualized'. Enough is Enough! These governmental systems are hurting real vulnerable people and are devaluing. It is attitudes and discrimination issues that need change. No amount of money will buy that.

Claims of consensus relieve policy bureaucrats and politicians of the need to validate their claims. They have little knowledge of what is really happening on the ground floor and then they use this to intimidate those who beg to differ. It is so easy to get a consensus these days and sign up as a supporter, as many surveys now involve little time and effort as they utilize the click of a computer mouse and the process for understanding what they are really about and signing up for is lost. Is this really right, proper or transparent? ... and yet the majority of Aboriginal people in remote Kimberley towns and communities have as yet not even been consulted by the NDIS team. Your scheme will simply not work in remote areas and once again these people will miss out, be dismissed, excluded and marginalized even further then put out of our minds. Please note that deadlines for submissions are a mere 2 weeks away!

I agree that too many Australians with a disability, their families and carers struggle to achieve a basic quality of life. I know this because our family is one of them. However, the Federal Governmental bodies have continuously made so many 'blunders' with tax payer's monies and they are obviously going broke, that I just cannot trust that this will not be another 'bureaucratic blunder' and waste of funds by it not actually getting to the people in need.

In summary, I feel that dangling a carrot full of monies may be appealing to some people on the surface but I fail to believe that your scheme can meet the peoples needs and 'make it better'.

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