

I would like to submit my story to the PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION in support of the NDIS Scheme.

I am 71 years old mother who is still required to work part-time for ongoing medical, physiotherapy and acupuncture to support my daughter Shelley who is 49. My son Patrick who is 38 is financially dependant on myself where I assist with ongoing psychology consultations and general medical expenses. They are both on disabilities pensions.

Shelley has epilepsy hydrocephalus tunnel vision, sever deafness, cerebral palsy and chronic T.M.J which has been cause by her ongoing hydrocephalus for the past ten years, which has resulted in her losing 25kg in weight.

Patrick has deep depression, social phobia and an anxiety disorder resulting in him being prescribed BETA BLOCKERS and blood pressure tablets as a result of his racing heart due to the stress of sexual assault when he was 7 years old.

The increased costs of Patrick's ongoing condition with psycholgists has been a heavy financial burden on me for many number of years.

I was forced into selling the family home being the sole parent of my children and now live them together in a rented home as the only option due to financial pressures.

As I am providing all medical and alternate treatments financially I am providing a better quality of life for Shelley where her epilepsy has been controlled to the level of **bareable** due to the accupuncture and physiotherapy. I have paid for her to keep her Private Health Insurance and have been advised in the past a bed was not a guarantee without insurance!

These alternative treatments has made her quality life and everday living due to the controlled level of pain resulting in more mobility and decreased neck and head aches as a result of her enlarged head and cerebral palsy.

Because of my failing health I will be unable to provide these ongoing servicc and the treatments that my children require, which will result in them having failing health themselves especially Shelley with increased hospital admissions.

I am a big supporter of the NDIS which would be a fantastic relief for me knowing that the quality of my childrens health would be ongoingly supported when I am unable to give the full support financially as I currently do.

Hoping this gives you a picture of my day to day life.

Yours Truly

Patricia Talmage (30.4.11)