

ROC 17/7/08

Supplementary Submission No. 776.1
(Inq into better support for carers)

From: Tony & Heather
Sent: Wednesday, 2 July 2008 7:02 AM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Carers Submission, "Better Support for Carers" - Committee, FCHY (REPS)

From: Tony & Heather
Sent: 2 July 2008
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Carers Submission
Supplement: Guardianship & Administration

Dear Secretary,

This is a supplement to our submission dated 1 July 2008. We would like the Committee to consider this as important tools to assist family carers better support their family member with a disability, in all circumstances.

When our family member becomes 18 years of age, the law say they are an adult. Parents no longer have the legal right to make decisions for them. Our legal rights as a parent cease!

If you consider your son or daughter's needs have not changed significantly upon reaching adulthood, and your same level of intervention is needed to ensure adequate care continues in all life areas, then you need Plenary (whole of life) Guardianship to continue to be a legal parent.

To obtain Plenary Guardianship you have to apply to the Guardianship and Administration Board. The Board, however, issues very few Guardianship Orders. The Board makes it extremely difficult for anyone to obtain Guardianship!

With the present privacy laws, it is almost essential to be a legal parent, family member or carer of an adult person who is unable to make reasonable judgements in respect of all or any matters concerning their personal circumstances and/or estate.

A recent example was that of a Health Fund making it difficult for a regular parent to make changes to the health cover of their family member who was over 18 years. Another was the Ambulance service refusing to release reports to a regular parent. And it goes on.

There is another form of Guardianship, but this is very specific, being "Limited Guardianship". This is easier to obtain, but lasts only for the specific problem. Parents are provided with short time authority in specific life areas. The most common, is "Health", to allow parents to make decisions and give authority for surgical procedures, for example.

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Administration, an Administration Order, (mainly of finance) is another powerful tool for parents of those who are unable to make reasonable judgements in respect of all or any matters concerning their personal circumstances and/or estate.

Most parents attend to their family members finances in an informal way. This is fine whilst there are no challenges or disputes from service agencies, or service providers, for example.

Where the authority of a parent is challenged in any way, they should apply for an Administration Order. This is quite easy to obtain, and gives them legal authority to act for, and on behalf of their family member.

More specific details can be obtained from state government authorities in each state. In Victoria, it is the Office of the Public Advocate, and the Victorian Civil and Administration Tribunal.

Yours, sincerely,

Tony & Heather

Lifestyle in Supported Accommodation Inc.

HELP US TO HELP YOU!

We are a small unfunded lobby group working where the large funded advocacy groups are generally reluctant to tread.

Our aim is to encourage quality of life improvement for those with an intellectual disability living in supported accommodation, especially that provided by DisAbility Services of the Department of Human services, by focusing our energy on those factors which directly effect the level and quality of service, at the service point.

We are not looking for members, subscriptions or people to do work! Just register an interest with us, and tell us your story...

For we need to keep the pressure on service providers to ensure family members living in supported accommodation group homes do not lose skills and become vegetables looking at four walls, because the direct care staff fail to provide Developmental Interactive and Social Activities — Quality of Life!

LISA...

Is a parent support and lobby group, for parents and families with a family member having an intellectual/multiple disability, and living in a supported accommodation group home in the State of Victoria, Australia.

ADDITIONAL CARER INFORMATION

COMMONWEALTH CARER RESOURCE CENTRE

TEL: 1800 242 636



L . I . S . A Inc

Tony & Heather Tregale (ACRACS, Dis)
Parents, Plenary Guardians & Administrator

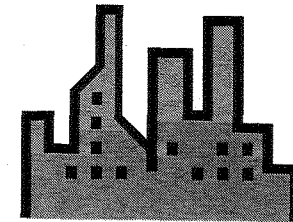
73 Nepean Street, Watsonia, 3087

Web Site: www.lisa-aus.blogspot.com

Email: yk3qq@optusnet.com.au

L . I . S . A

**L I F E S T Y L E
I N
S U P P O R T E D
A C C O M M O D A T I O N
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**PARENT SUPPORT
& LOBBY GROUP**

Tel: 03-9434-3810

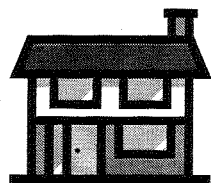
The Best Place to be...

One of the best places for those with an intellectual disability is to continue living with their family!

Unfortunately, parents do not live forever, or are able to provide adequate support forever, and other family members may not be able to take on the commitment.

So we urge families not to leave it to the last moment before investigating the option of supported accommodation for their family member.

Equally, if your family member is living in supported accommodation, we can help you better understand service level and quality entitlements.



Group home care should equal family home care

Those disadvantaged by disability...

Those with an intellectual disability are generally unable to advocate effectively for themselves. They are therefore very reliant on support staff to provide a comprehensive level of care which should be designed and intended to enhance their lifestyle to the full extent of their ability.

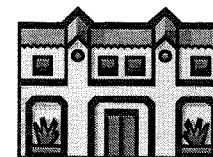
It is disappointing that many residents of supported accommodation services, especially those with high support needs, receive mainly basic care with quite limited Developmental, Interactive and Social Activities.



**REACH FOR THE SKY
Ensure residents receive quality care**

Service Providers...

Some service providers have a long standing reputation for making it as difficult as possible for anyone to question their level and quality of service provision, being more concerned with self-preservation than self-assessment and real customer service. It is therefore important for families and friends to be aware of what they can expect of the service, in order that they may ensure the person with the disability is receiving the very best service.



No matter which group home, care must be first class

L . I . S . A Inc

**Tony & Heather Tregale (ACRACS, Dis)
73 Nepean Street, WATSONIA 3087**

**Web Site: www.lisa-aus.blogspot.com
Email: yk3qq@optusnet.com.au**