

**BRIAN BROWN**

*Petition*

**MR P. PAPALIA (Peel)** [5.36 pm]: I have a petition that is certified as conforming to standing orders and bearing two signatures, and states —

*To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.*

*We, the undersigned, bring to your attention the situation of **Brian Brown and his family**.*

Brian lives in a unit in Safety Bay. He is 41 years old and has an intellectual disability and mental health problems. His parents, Irma and Lawrence, live nearby. Brian moved out of home three years ago, with the encouragement and support of his parents. They found that with their increasing age and health problems they were no longer able to manage to care for him at home.

Brian is six foot four inches tall and weighs 170 kgs. Because of his mental health issues, he can experience periods where his behaviour is violent and very difficult. This has become increasingly hard for his parents to manage. He takes regular medication and receives fortnightly injections. He needs reminding and assistance to maintain this.

Brian needs help with all his daily living skills. His parents are his only source of support. His mother prepares all his meals for the week and puts them in his freezer. He has to be reminded to take them out of the freezer and reheat them in the microwave. He is not able to read or write. He regularly rings his parents to come around and 'fix things'. They spend most days at his unit, taking him shopping, cleaning the unit, making sure he takes his medication and taking him to all his medical appointments.

Irma and Lawrence are both in their sixties and are both in ill health. Irma has heart problems, made worse by stress. Lawrence has a form of Parkinson's that is stress related. He is unable to hold anything when he has an attack. For three years they have been asking for help for Brian. To date their requests have been refused.

As time goes by they have found it harder and harder to keep up the support that Brian requires. They have now reached a point where they do not know how they can continue, and they worry constantly about what will happen to Brian if they can no longer support him!

*Now we ask that the Legislative Assembly give urgent attention to:*

***The provision of the accommodation support services needed by the 326 people with disabilities and their families in Western Australia who are unable to access the accommodation support they urgently needed over the past year.***

***The provision of the accommodation support services needed by the estimated 250 people who will be asking for urgently needed accommodation support services for the first time over the coming year.***

[See petition 304.]