

My thoughts re funding:

I have just received my second CAPS application refusal for my intellectually disabled daughter - Shannon, 19yo.

I would like to know how this is a logical decision as I am now left to request funding through my LAC, which I will probably receive. And I will receive next time I need funding. And the next time and so on.

I understand this funding comes from different sources but please explain to me how this really differs as ultimately the funding comes from the government and from public taxes, regardless of which agency issues the funds.

I also understand CAPS is a more permanent funding source and what my LAC may find is repetitive and on a short-term basis (which wastes peoples time, resources and money in finding such sources every few months) but do you think my daughters intellectual disability is miraculously going to be cured?. So then explain to me what if I can no longer gain any short-term funds?

Do I stop working so can care for my daughter – as you'll remember I have no funds to access assistance?

Good idea!

Now Centrelink must pay me some allowance so my daughter and I can survive (oh don't worry that's federal payment, even though it all comes from our taxes).

I no longer can afford private health insurance so we are both a further burden on an already over taxed health system.

My tax contributions decrease.

I may need assistance paying my water & electricity bills – thanks Mr Government!

My 25 years as a specialized operating room nurse are wasted – just as the state opens a new hospital!

I am now doubly stressed with caring for a disabled child (who requires a lot more financial and emotion care) and trying to balance my budget that I require psychological assistance – further health burden!

Being stressed I am no longer able to care for my daughter and the state must find respite care (and fund it) for her.

Can you think of any other scenarios?

Now explain to me again how refusing my CAPS request (and don't you dare say that there isn't enough money, if you don't give it to me my LAC will find some and if she doesn't then one or more of the scenarios outlined will come into effect and that will probably cost the government more than the amount

requested) is logical and out ways the total financial, health and psychological consequences to me and my daughter.

Would you sit quietly while a government that boast "they care for the disabled" destroy your lifestyle?

Lesley Pascoe

8/12/2013