

Dr Wendy Naunton

Ms Margaret Liveris
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
GPO Box A11
Perth WA 6837

Dear Ms Liveris,

I am writing to protest about the privatization of Disability Services Commission group homes and hostels. My son [redacted] is 30 yrs old and one of twins, has lived at Spencer St Hostel in Yokine for the past 7 yrs. He has many complex needs because he has quadriplegic cerebral palsy, is non verbal, has a tracheostomy and a gastrostomy. He is currently very well looked after by caring and well known staff who have known him for a years. To train up new staff and change his surroundings would be a distressing thing for him – the staff are like family to him. Why would there be any reason to change a system that is working so well? His last birthday he had a lovely party with live guitar singer, his favourite people around him – he has a personal ‘special’ staff member who particularly knows his special likes and dislikes and organizes accordingly.

The transition decision has been sprung on us out of the blue, with no suggestion that the current arrangements are inadequate or not appropriate. The building he is in is in good shape, and requiring no more maintenance than any other older building. There is a pool, and a lot of staff and client input to the outdoor areas with gardens and vegetable growing etc, making a pleasant home-like atmosphere.

I have received lots of information, treating the transition process as a given and causing me a lot of heartache. Then the time frame or process changes and there is a new scenario, which creates a tense atmosphere of uncertainty. I don't know why this is happening as [redacted] is perfectly happy and well supported where he is .

[redacted] initially came from a private sector hostel (Cerebral Palsy Association) to Disability Services because they (DSC) could offer a better service. This is still the case. We have always had the choice of going to a private service, but it is still the case that [redacted] is better off where he is. Now he doesn't seem to have any choice.

I would like your committee to have an inquiry into this transition process and ease my mind regarding [redacted] so that he can continue to stay in his current excellent accommodation.

Yours truly

Dr Wendy Naunton

2/8/14