



Parliament of Western Australia
Legislative Council

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

Member for Mining & Pastoral Region

Shadow Minister for Disability Services; Mental Health; Child Protection

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Hon Simon O'Brien MLC

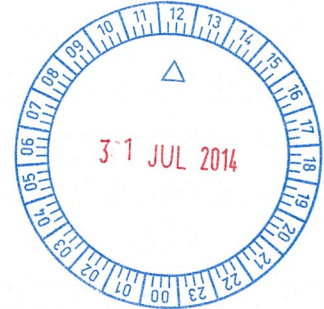
Chairman

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Parliament House

Harvest Terrace

PERTH WA 6000



30 July 2014

Dear Chairman

Simon

Petition No 46 – Disability Services Commission Accommodation Services

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission in support of Petition No 46 – Disability Services Commission Accommodation Services that I tabled in the Legislative Council on 26 June 2014.

I confirm that the issues raised in the petition have not been raised with, nor have been the subject of an investigation by, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations.

When the Minister for Disability Services announced late in 2013 the State Government's intention to outsource 60% of the accommodation services currently run by the Disability Services Commission (DSC) the Minister said this decision was about providing choice to the affected families.

However what has transpired since then is that while the affected families and advocates are free to choose a private accommodation provider for their loved one the choice does not exist for the loved one to remain living in their existing DSC run accommodation.

This decision is causing immense heartache to many of the families involved who are now faced with great uncertainty and the need to resettle their loved ones in new homes with new staff and new housemates.

I understand from talking to families and advocates that in some cases it has taken years for their loved one to finally settle into the home they now live in and as a result of the State Government's decision they are now faced with upheaval again.

The State Government should ensure that the wishes of the families involved are taken into consideration before they move any residents from DSC run facilities.

Your attention to this issue will be greatly appreciated by the affected families and advocates.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Dawson', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC
Member for Mining and Pastoral Region