

## Outsourcing Community Service Delivery



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Partially Confidential

We have a Daughter currently in care, in a community based residence run by The NSW Government. specifically ADaHC . Our daughter was severely disabled after having a severe reaction to the Whooping cough vaccination in 1978. She is currently 34 years of age and is still on high doses of medication to control her epilepsy and other health issues. It was the Government Sector which was able to provide the care required by our daughter as Private sector organisations were not prepared to take on the responsibility of caring for an intellectually disabled person with high needs. I suspect that this would still be the case, therefore ADaHC run houses are still required to cater for those who the Private Sector cannot care for .The need for Community based housing for persons with a Disability is Increasing, and there are ever growing lists of people requiring care, especially in families where the carers are becoming elderly and will not be able to care for their children much longer. We welcome the Private sector in Providing "NEW accommodation" for this sector of the community but must insist that the Government should not be taking the view of relinquishing its responsibility in the sector by Privatising its service. As the need is ever growing it should be looking at expanding its involvement in this sector by maintaining its own network of houses as an example for the Private sector especially for Residents with high care needs, which the Private Sector is not capable or willing to service. These High Care Facilities require constant staffing (24 hours a day, 7 days a week - fully serviced shifts no sleep overs) at high service level ratios of 2:1 (2 residents for 1 staff) . The Private sector may also become a "for profit" sector in the future, and this would leave a large number of people in a very difficult situation. The Government finds itself in a situation where it constantly looks at systems or system changes in an attempt "to reduce costs". The Government should change it thinking to "Planning for the future needs of our Disability Community" and invest in programmes of early detection and intervention to assist families to cope with their disabled Sons and Daughters and acknowledge the Fact that the range of needs of People with a Disability is so vast that Government assistance will always be required. Perhaps it should or may look at the concentration of their efforts to the "High Need Category" while the Private Sector is entrusted with the Low to Mild Category of Disabilities. Both the Government and Private Sectors are required to care for our Disabled Community , and they should both be considering Our Future Requirements , not just on what is presented to us at this moment . Future Planning requires a true picture of what is required and there are thousands of families who are currently caring for people with disabilities in their private homes with minimal assistance, but what happens when these Carers die or become aged and are unable to fully care for their children? Do not think about relinquishing or deluding your responsibilities, look at what is going to be required and be prepared.