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LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL

The President
NSW Standing Committee on Social Issues
Legislative Council
NSW Parliament

RE: Inquiry into Department Ageing Disability & Home Care

Dear Mr West

I refer to my appearance before the standing committee on Social Issues on Monday 27th September 2010 and the received transcript of evidence and additional questions on notice.

In respect to questions on notice I would like to correct an error of fact. This refers to a question from the Hon Helen Westwood on page 54 of the transcript provided where Ms Westwood asks about visiting respite services. My answer should have included the following fact.

"Only respite centres where people with a disability are living as their permanent home i.e. in what is known as a blocked bed, are visitable."

I have no other changes to the transcript provided.

In respect to the additional questions on notice, Boarding Houses No. 13, I make the following comment.

"It appears to me that the definition of the role of carer underpins the answer to the questions posed. Obviously the minister can not allocate this role in respect of guardianship of children or adults with a disability or as that of a family member who receives a carers pension for caring for a person in their home. My view however is that the very act of applying for a license to run a boarding house for people with a disability is an undertaking to provide services in accordance with the Act and any associated Regulations. Where this creates an obligation to take care of some aspects of these people's lives such as providing meals, furniture and undertaking to administer medication it is also an undertaking, in the absence of any other person to do so, to act as a carer. In this respect therefore I believe the Minister does have the role to allocate this function and in the best interest of a person with a disability should do so.

Yours sincerely

Roz Armstrong
Official Community Visitor
On Behalf of Community Visitors Consultation Group