

**Submission
No 106**

INQUIRY INTO POST SCHOOL DISABILITY PROGRAMS

Organisation: Seton Villa Parents and Friends Association

Name: Mr Gordon Lapham

Position: Chairman

Telephone: 02 9398 6160

Date Received: 11/03/2005

Subject:

Summary

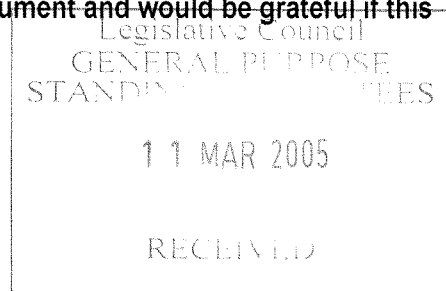
GPSC2 GPSC2 - Fw: Submission to GPSC No. 2 inquiry

From: "Gordon Lapham"
To: "Mr. S. Reynolds Director GPSC No. 2" <gpscno2@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/03/2005 6:20 PM
Subject: Fw: Submission to GPSC No. 2 inquiry

Dear Mr. Reynolds,

I hope I am not confusing you by this resend of yesterdays email.
This action is due to computer problems and perhaps my earlier transmission was unsuccessful ????.
I have also used this opportunity to slightly amend my earlier document and would be grateful if this version is accepted.

Yours faithfully,
Gordon Lapham



----- Original Message -----

From: Gordon Lapham
To: Mr. S. Reynolds Director GPSC No. 2
Sent: 10 March, 2005 6:42 PM
Subject: Submission to GPSC No. 2 inquiry

Dear Mr. Reynolds.

I apologise for this is a late lodgement, and whilst accepting that this is an oversight on my behalf,
ask that this document be included into your inquiry.
I thank you for what ever concession you can extend to our submission

Yours Faithfully
Gordon Lapham



**SETON VILLA PARENTS and FRIENDS
ASSOCIATION**
SUPPORTING
SETON VILLA

FOUNDED BY THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY
TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY TO LIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

4th March 2005

Mr. S. Reynolds
Director of GPSC2
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir

Reference: Legislative Council Inquiry GPSC No. 2

Seton Villa Parents and Friends Association welcome your committee's inquiry into the appropriateness of recent changes to the POS/ATLAS programs and is thankful for the opportunity to participate in the review process.

Our Association is a group of concerned families and friends representing 33 disabled women living in supported accommodation. We understand that you will receive many submissions from the disabled community expressing a complex diversity of need together with a wide range of concerns and recommendations. In recognition of the demand on your time we feel it is appropriate that we quickly set out our associations core concern by advising that the greater majority of our Seton Villa residents, will due to the nature of their disability be assessed as being a "low productivity worker" and ineligible for participation in the Transition to Work (TTW) program, and therefor dependent on the lesser funded Community Participation (CP) program for their occupational day care requirements.

Our concern is that the \$3000/client/year reduction in funding for the CP program will support less hours of day care (+/- 2 days/week) than the total hours provided when attending a workshop. Families and service providers will inherit the financial burden for the extra staffing hours (+/- 3 days/week) necessary to provide the unavoidable "at home" care.

Additional to the above core concern, our members along with the greater community of NSW families with a disabled member, have a collective fear that the ATLAS experience will be a continuing reality during the early life of the TTW and CP programs. This fear is the result of past confusion and frustration resulting from the unclear ATLAS policy and program objectives,

implemented through a poorly managed and resourced delivery process which failed to provide the security and confidence necessary for the disabled to enter and remain in the workforce, or if ineligible for work, to at the least achieve a level of enhanced participation in the community.

Our members agree that better programs were required to meet the personal aspirations and potential of the disabled, thus requiring reform of the former ATLAS program. However we have grave concerns that the TTW and CP programs whilst having the structural potential to deliver better outcomes, may miss their objectives as a result of not fully understanding the current and evolving individual employment and lifestyle aspirations within the diverse community of disabled or the necessities for a stable and permanent service delivery network. We suggest DADHC's performance would be enhanced by:

- A rigid timetable of ongoing consultation with individual disabled, supporting families, service providers and adequacy bodies to enable informed response to changing funding and service requirements.
- Program costing that provides for realistic administrative, service delivery and related capital costs.
- Predictable levels of recurrent funding to service providers to enable industry and staffing stability.
- Licensing agreements tied to an audit process that emphasis program outcomes and quality of service.
- A regime of close monitoring, data collection and analysis to ensure the TTW and CP programs remain accurately targeted and clearly defined at all levels of involvement.

Our peripheral position and the nature of information release by DADHC regarding the intention and application of the TTW and CP programs dictates that we contain our comments to those aspects of the reform which we believe will specifically disadvantage our family members. Therefor aside from our general recommendations in respect to the implementation and administration of the programs we have left the opportunity for more detailed comment to those better informed.

However we believe we have sufficient history and "on the ground experience" to impress on the committee that even the best intended and designed programs have failed due to poor communication, the absence or abandonment of a critical review process and/or an essential level of recurrent funding.

In view of the above experience, and because of the lack of appropriate service costing before the implementation of these two new programs, we suggest the inquiries final report should recommend that a further review of the performance of both the TTC and CP programs should occur approximately 12 months from this inquiries reporting date.

We thank your committee members for their interest and support.
Yours faithfully.

Gordon Lapham
Chairman
Seton Villa Parents and Friend Association

PH:

Correspondence to:
SETON VILLA PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION,