INQUIRY INTO THE EXERCISE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT AUTHORITY AND THE LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL - FOURTH REVIEW

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Tuesday 30 August 2011 - hand delivered

The Hon David Clarke MLC Standing Committee on Law and Justice Review of the Lifetime Care and Support Authority Parliament House Sydney 2000

Good afternoon Mr Clarke

I thank you for your letter dated 23 August 2011 and the invitation to make submission, I was phoned for my submission and asked for extension of time until end of August as I was away, thanks for extra time.

It appears to me the Lifetime Care and Support Authority (LTCSA) is moving along in a positive way. I attempt to watch over LTCSA and discuss ongoing progress. As with all such such structures we must ensure that the servicesbenefits are directed to work and be flexible for the people with injury and NOT for service providers, government, private or personal agendas. LTCSA is for our injured folks and must be firmly structured with ongoing and sustainable appropriate checks and balances.

Also with respect to the disabled person and those closest who support these people. Each family has their own beliefs and customs and these must always be considered where it does not contravene or compromise good care and rehabilitation being provided to the most important person, the one who is injured.

We have a change of members on the Committee this year, welcome. I would like to refer to the letter attached dated 18 July 2005. Jackson Paul Stubbs my maternal grandson was tragically injured (3 months of age) and orphaned in a Motor Vehicle accident 27 November 1993. Jackson sadly passed away 18 December 2005 in my arms. I was Jackson's best friend, "Ma", advocate, carer, protector and legal guardian. Large third party compensation was awarded Jackson in 2003 Stubbs v NRMA after over 9 years of massive preparation. No ongoing benefit to Jackson, nor the Insurer and those who paid the insurance premiums. Sadly the Office of Protective Commissioner ignored Jackson's life long treating medical and rehab team for the vital ongoing and evolving prescription for his home based care and rehabilitation. Then Jackson died.

Our first step to a fairer system was the NSW LTCSA legislation in 2005 - 2006. Now we go beyond that to Productivity Commission Inquiry into a National Disability Care and Support. The style and template of LTCSA may well assist with the national model soon to evolve. Catastrophically injured or ill people should all receive care and rehabilitation whether or not they receive compensation. We as a nation must be judged by how we decide to care and protect our most weak, ill and injured citizens.

I am happy to help in any way to ensure the LTCSA keeps evolving positively and provides superior and sustainable outcomes for their clients. My details are listed on the base of this letter.

Thankyou for your good work in helping the most injured and vulnerable in our society.

Yours sincerely

Judie Stephens OAM