

Submission  
No 55

**INQUIRY INTO SERVICES PROVIDED OR FUNDED BY  
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGEING, DISABILITY AND  
HOME CARE**

Name: Name suppressed  
Date received: 6/08/2010

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Partially Confidential

## **Submission to the Standing Committee on Social Issues**

**Inquiry into services provided or funded by Dept of Aging , Disability and Home Care .**

**\* Unmet needs and associated funding matters.**

**There is an unmet need for respite care for children, young people and adults.**

**Specifically on the Central Coast there is no provision by ADHC to provide respite services. The nearest service is in Newcastle and the waiting list for a minimum period of time is extensive. The consequences of very limited respite accommodation is that families become stressed and deteriorate physically and emotionally and require full time supported accommodation earlier than they would have otherwise expected .**

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**\*Service delivery variations**

**Credit must go to ADHC for the consistency of their service delivery. The uniformity of staffing, policy, planning, programs, documentation, and accommodation are to be commended. In contrast, the Non – Government sector is still catching up in all these areas and variations are observable across each Non-Government Organization. Furthermore, the cost of services within the non-government sector varies greatly depending upon the service provider regardless of location.**

**\*ADHC a funded advocacy services need to be increased and they in turn need to be more accountable in terms of actually obtaining appropriate services for individuals and group.**

**\*The provision of Computers and Computer Programs in ADHC Group Homes for the development of communication systems and programs for individuals with disabilities needs to be greatly increased. Good communication programs for people with disabilities exist however their potential is not being used for the benefit of people within Group Homes.**

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**\*Auditing:**

**The auditing and accountability requirements of Non – Government Organisations providing services to people with a disability with funding from ADHC and other sources is in drastic need of a review. There is a significant element of “empire building” within and between Non-Government Disability Services which is preventing cost effective improvements flowing onto individuals requiring support.**

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**Other Matters:**

**\*Projected needs :**

**The increasing demand for services for people identified with autism must be a priority for both ADHC and future Government. The analysis of this disability and the demands they will place on the system require immediate attention.**

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