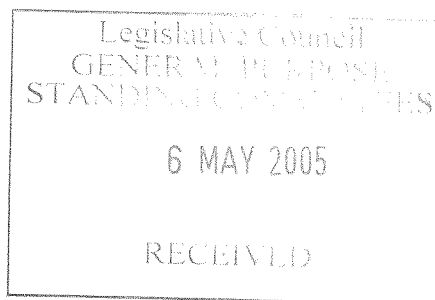


INQUIRY INTO POST SCHOOL DISABILITY PROGRAMS

Organisation: Australian Music Therapy Association Inc
Name: Ms Stephanie Thompson
Position: Chair, Government Relations Committee
Telephone:
Date Received: 6/05/2005

Subject:

Summary



5 May, 2005

Mr Steve Reynolds
Director – Committees
Inquiry into Post School Disability Programs
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney

Dear Mr Reynolds

I am writing to raise my concerns about the proposed funding cuts to post school programs for young adults with disability, and its impact on client's basic rites to receive a quality service, namely music therapy. As you are aware music therapy has been part of the post school programs for some time, contributing to the improvement of the clients' quality of life. Music therapy is a relatively young allied health profession, unless funding is allocated it is at risk of being excluded by managers when budgeting and planning for service provision.

Music therapists registered with the Australian Music Therapy Association Inc. have completed a university based accredited music therapy course, specializing in all facets of music, behavioural sciences, current educational and medical treatment and therapeutic approaches. Music therapy is an evidence based intervention that holistically addresses clients' physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual needs. More specifically with disability:

- Reduces inappropriate behaviours
- increases attention and concentration span despite cognitive and physical impairment
- provides an ordered, structured and predictable reality where clients can maximize ones level of interaction and participation
- improves auditory awareness and language skills

- promotes motor skill development
- promotes expressive and receptive communication
- interactive medium for developing appropriate social skills

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May 5, 2005

The 1993 New South Wales Disability Standards identifies that each person has a right to service access, decision making and choice, participation and integration, family relationships and service access, music therapy addresses all of the above needs. Should funding not be made available for music therapy in post school programs clients' unequivocal right to this service will be compromised.

I strongly recommend that funding be maintained for music therapy services in post school programs.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Thompson
Chair, Government Relations Committee
Australian Music Therapy Association, Inc.