



"MEDIA RELEASE"

7.08.2009

"I Need to do Poo?"

LAST FRIDAY DISABILITY SPEAKS RAN A PRESS ADD HIGHLIGHTING THE EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION OF CHILDREN BEING UNABLE TO ACCESS DISABILITY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

The add is attached for your interest and with over 500 children waiting for equipment as we speak the attached blog from an Adelaide Now reader makes interesting reading

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,25850041-2682,00.html>

"How about mandatory publishing of waiting lists and unmet demand on a regular basis and some targets for improvement so the government can see just how appalling the situation is? I have a disabled 4 year old with intellectual and physical disabilities. Novita won't take him as they can't deal with his 'intellectual' disabilities. Whilst he is a Disability SA client, they have to put any requests for equipment through to Novita, who manage this for the state. We also suspect he has Autism, but we will have to wait months to find out. How does it make you feel Mr Rann, to have a 4 yo on a waiting list for a potty chair to give him some dignity and so I don't have to try and lift him onto his change table half a dozen times a day, because it's not seen as a priority? All we are eligible for is around 3 hours of therapy a MONTH. No social worker, no counselling, no support. For a child who can't walk, talk, feed themselves and is up for hours at night screaming, hits me and pulls my hair out by the handful. Can you wonder why people snap after 16 years of this? I work extra hours during the time my sons sleeps to try and pay for the private therapy he so desperately needs. A charity paid for his wheelchair/pusher because the government doesn't provide enough funding.

Posted by: Sharon of 2:43pm July 29, 2009

Please distribute this information as widely as possible.

Please make a determined effort today to forward the email address of ten people who strongly support the rights of people with disability to assist with the development of the database

Rick Neagle
Parent of a child with Autism

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