



# *"MEDIA RELEASE"*

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## **"WHERE'S LANCE?"**

Sometime soon Premier Mike Rann will need to announce SA's worst kept secret..... Lance Armstrong's new cycling team "Radio Shack!" will compete in the 2010 Tour Down Under. With SA event promoters already searching for a private residence for Lance's comfort, Mr Rann will no doubt think his omnipotent "Lanceonabike" will divert media and community attention away from significant social problems like our states tragic disability crisis. Subsequently non steroid enhanced swinging voters will be expected to zoom wearing lycra shorts with gatorade fuelled smiles to the March polling booths to deliver Rann an "Arc DeTriomphe" like reception and a third term. History beckons?

Maybe "Mikenotonabike" will announce on the next bad news day in the disability community. After all, the giant and passionate golden army of Lance fans (We are all genuine fans of the great man!!!) might fall for that strange accent that Mike projects when making his "How great am I and look who's standing next to me" pontification or when recently on radio disparaging disability advocates for challenging Mr Rann's glowing self eulogy on support for the disabled.

The attached official government file, <http://www.dfc.sa.gov.au/pub/tabid/258/itemid/1365/Reports-plans-and-statistics.aspx> just released, showing the June 2009 unmet need waiting lists contradicts Mr Rann's on his government's effective attack on the disability crisis. A 5% blowout in waiting list numbers in just 7 months to 2283 is horrific, making Mr Rann's self proclaimed "King of the Disability Mountain" status seem to some in the disability community as phony as that accent and questionable disability commitment record. The mathematics of how many years it will be before such critical disability services are delivered would rival the economic benefit modelling of "Le Tour de Lance" which is beyond the comprehension of most trackside supporters. On a dollar per vote basis clearly "La smelly bike seat" beats "disability services" handlebars down.

Mr Rann was recently invited by Disability Speaks to pick any day, date, time and place and Disability Speaks would organize a community meeting so Mr Rann could spell out the "Future Tour De Route" for disability services. As yet he has not responded to this invitation. Mr Rann would be most welcome to bring Lance with him to such meeting. Lance is widely respected for his outstanding charitable work and his acclaimed Livestrong Foundation. His presence would no doubt be a fill up for what already would be a bumper crowd.

This invitation remains open. Disability Speaks founder David Holst has indicated he would be delighted to front a public disability debate with Mr Rann on "The State of our State" Mr Holst said "let's go head to head like the cyclists do in the Swiss Alps" Let's hope Mr Rann is not wearing his Maillot Jaune jersey and accepts this challenge!

While SA routinely underfunds disability services by 5% per annum and provides service at the lowest per client rate in the country lets hope that none of the amateur cyclists who sweat the bitumen to ride with Lance strike a pothole and crash a la O'Grady. On joining the growing ranks of road trauma/ brain injury victims on the disability unmet need waiting lists they may have a very different perception of 'La Twitta Premiere' and his record of disability success.

SA is pedalling uphill, on a 30 year old bike, into a gale, using high gears, with 8 inch rims and flat tyres as the updated disability data confirms.

It is time for disability support to become a priority

Please circulate this information to your friends, clients and disability supporters

Disability Speaks is delighted to have added over 1000 new recipients to the database in the last two weeks which is now closing on 5000 recipients. Please do everything you can to add 10 new recipients of people who genuinely care to the database this week. Simply type subscribe and send to email below.

**DISABILITY SPEAKS**

**[email@disabilityspeaks.com.au](mailto:email@disabilityspeaks.com.au)**

**Information; David Holst 0418555683**