



"MEDIA RELEASE"

18.02.2010

"A Step Forward"

A great crowd of nearly 250 people gathered at St Peters College last night to hear our parliamentary leaders discuss the key issues facing the disability community in SA.

With occasional interjection from the floor, and with an outstanding representation of key disability community leaders present the speakers responded positively and spoke strongly in support of the flavour of the night "Choice and Change".

With over 210 questions submitted by over 75 respondents our speakers came well prepared and determined to make their points! (With the odd sledge included).

There is no doubt the strategies of all parties for this election are better prepared, better targeted and reflecting the mood of change being driven by consumers in the disability sector.

The shocking stories highlighted in Mondays ABC Four Corners program appeared certainly to have made a genuine impact on our parliamentary leaders!

Key Topics addressed included

- **Totally inadequate recurrent funding**
- **Unmet need waiting lists**
- **Accommodation**
- **Education options**
- **In home support/care**
- **Self managed funding**

The Hon Stephen Wade Shadow Minister for Disability (Liberal Party) launched key Redmond /Liberal election policies that were warmly received and acknowledged as well targeted!

The Disability Minister Jennifer Rankine replied "Watch this space!"

A copy of the Liberal policy is attached for your information.

Copies of the Disability Speaks power point presentation will be forwarded to recipients on request.

With the SA March Election campaign yet to be officially started there is no doubt that disability will remain a key agenda item and DS looks forward to keeping you fully informed.

More information can be found on the websites of all major parties.

We look forward to an interesting four weeks in what appears to be a much closer election campaign than many were predicting!

David Holst

Chair

Disability Speaks Steering Committee

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"Disability Speaks will distribute on behalf of any organization that meets suitable criteria online information that is of wide disability community interest via our database that now numbers nearly 4,000 recipients for Govt, advocacy groups and other major disability organizations. We hope in the lead up to elections, state or federal we can distribute policy and support information from political groups. Such distribution is not in any way endorsement by Disability Speaks. From time to time Disability Speaks will also distribute media releases commenting on developments in the disability sector. We strongly encourage you to forward all releases to your friends, clients and disability supporters and encourage them to subscribe direct. To do so simply send an email subject "subscribe" to the address below.

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