



"MEDIA RELEASE"
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FIREWORKS NOT JAZZ?

Australians living with disability will focus on Sydney on Sunday!

This is an event not to be missed.

The exquisitely timed Disability Rocks; Mad as Hell public meeting in Sydney on Sunday August 1st at 3.00pm at The Everest Theatre, Seymour Centre, Chippendale Sydney could deliver real fireworks. With ALP Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Bill Shorten no doubt looking to go head to head with Liberal Senator and Disability Shadow Mitch Fiefield the sparks seem certain to fly particularly given Labors disability announcements today in Melbourne. While less than the initial financial boost many would have hoped for, some details of today's ALP announcement including the exciting new concept of community and NGO groups being encouraged to develop innovative and flexible new supported accommodation models will be widely applauded as will the early intervention boost. Full details can be found at www.alp.org.au

An unbiased summary of the ALP announcements is attached from National Disability Services who like many see the ALP plan as well targeted.

Our very own Kelly Vincent MLC S.A. (d4d) will add reality to Sundays debate where the other participants including Ian Cohen (NSW Greens) will be looking to convince that they are fully committed not just participants or timely vote seekers. Kelly has life experience the others will never truly understand.

Many across the country who cannot make the meeting will look for the distribution of notes or bullet points to highlight the major promises of the meeting. The big questions will no doubt be:

Will major parties give unqualified support for National Disability Insurance? **How serious are the leaders?** Julia says "if feasible" Tony says "more seriously than the Henry review"

Will there be more major disability funding announcements to attack the crisis that exists now in disability services? With some 25,000 on national lists surely just 150 new supported accommodation positions is not the only financial commitment to reduce chronic unmet need waiting lists nationally (did someone leave a zero of the ALP media release? e.g. 1500)

Will anything really **change** or are we just looking at more talk?

What are the States forced to do?

Do Prime Minister Gillard or Opposition Leader Abbott personally care or is disability just another of those boxes that get ticked in any election period?

Who should we vote for and why?

Disability Speaks looks forward to distributing a précis of the meeting next week

At a local level (S.A) the next meeting of the Disability Speaks steering committee will be held on Thursday 5th August where the Federal election will no doubt be the main topic of interest at 1.00pm at *DIRC, 195 Gilles St Adelaide*. As always anyone is welcome to our open meetings.

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