



***"MEDIA RELEASE"***  
*02.08.2010*

## **LIBERALS DELIVER ON PROMISE?**

Abbott and Pyne Disability Education policy excites many!

*Media Release: - Monday August 2nd 2010*

The best part of the Liberal Party Press Release of July 30th may be in the last paragraph

**"These measures are the first instalment in the Coalitions Disability Policy"** What else is to come?

Given the Liberal Disability Education has been received very positively and last weeks ALP announcements have received mixed responses like from Mary Lou Carter from the Carers Alliance who said '**This policy means access to disability services remain a lottery for the lucky and the few**' and "**Bill must be bitterly disappointed in a policy that smacks of platitudes and pittances**" some within the ALP might get a surprising jolt with how well structured and strong the Liberal policy is?

Julia Gillard's article in the Adelaide Advertiser on Friday 30th July "So much to do to help the disabled" said she was "proud to announce 150 new supported accommodation positions"?

Most if they were Prime Minister and there where over 25,000 people nationally on waiting lists for accommodation would be embarrassed to make that statement.

Mr Abbott's Sunday announcement of 3,000 new aged care places will be noted with angst by the disability community and increase their expectations from the Liberals

With three weeks of the election campaign to run we doubt the ALP like the Liberals have yet to show its full hand?

The Liberal Disability Education policy shows that Mr Pyne in particular who since 2004 has welcomed advocates from d4d is listening and accepting change is essential and he is driving historic change in his own party (like Mr Shorten is doing within the ALP).

Mr Pyne hosted the luncheon in May in Adelaide when Mr Abbott publicly said "I have got the message on disability"

The Liberal Education Disability policy has been well received because

- It gives consumers the choice of where their children will be schooled, public or private, regular school or specialist school,
- It will encourage schools to develop appropriate programs to attract and retain students with disability and clever school councils will embrace this opportunity
- Education decisions will be flexible and controlled more by the student and family
- It will be transferable between schools and states following the student
- It is new Education funding of \$314 million
- It bypasses state control reducing cost in the supply chain (pleasingly like the ALP supported accommodation plan also does)

Ken Baker of NDS said "This initiative would boost the educational opportunities available to children with disability" A copy of the NDS press release is attached

The Liberal policy announcement can be found at

<http://liberal.org.au/Latest-News/2010/07/30/Real-action-to-help-students-with-a-disability.aspx>

Heike Fabig mother of two children with disabilities was quoted in Saturdays Australian as very aptly saying "I have looked carefully at the policies (of both parties) and I wonder why they can't be joined together. Heike has it right, we need both parties' policies plus some and we need it now!

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.*

**David Holst**

**Chair - Disability Speaks Steering Committee**

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