



"MEDIA RELEASE"
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S.A. State Budget 2010

It could have been worse for disability!

In a SA Budget that sees nearly 4000 public servants lose their positions the SA disability community will feel a sense of relief that Disability S.A. has avoided any service cuts and has received a funding increase?

With budget disability expenditure forecast to rise from \$331.0 million in 2009/2010 to \$359.0 million in 2010/2011 this 7.2% increase will bring a sigh of relief from many in the disability community who feared the worse.

Forward expenditure which includes \$17.2 million of new funding plus \$8.7 million flowing through from previous budgets will enable Disability S.A. to continue to try and stem the escalating crisis that is threatening to sink support services in S.A. as the state government appears to be in holding pattern looking for Federal intervention.

The 7.2% sounds significant until compared with the 55% increase in critical waiting lists in the last 12 months highlighted recently by Kelly Vincent MLC d4d, which shocked even hardened disability advocates. With new funding for 2010/2011 providing just 29 new supported accommodation positions the 368 clients rated category 1 on the DSA waiting lists rated critical and in immediate danger of harm to self and others hopefully will not be driven to drastic action.

A copy of an open letter from Kelly is attached for your interest that appeared in the Adelaide Advertiser today.

Anyone feeling unable to cope is strongly urged to contact Kelly Vincent d4d and tell your story. Only by continuous pressure is the govt likely to take the next steps to provide the massive support that is still so clearly lacking.

Further budget details will be distributed as they become available.

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