



# S.A. "Critical Need" disability waiting lists spiral out of control

**Do we really need to waste \$600 million on a football stadium?**

**Media Release: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

***The number of people with serious and multiple disabilities in S.A. needing crisis services is a disgrace.***

The South Australian Government uses a rating/sorting system to place priority on people with disability who it fails to provide services too. They call it the "unmet need" waiting lists. A simple name for a list of despair?

It is common knowledge of the dismal level of service that the SA government has provided to some of SA's most needy for a long time.

S.A. remains unchallenged for its bottom ranking for providing less funding per disabled client than any other state, a title Mike Rann's government has won every year during his tenure as Premier

***The December 2010 unmet need data released on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April for the period to Dec 2010 makes horrific reading***

<http://www.sa.gov.au/subject/Community+Support/Disability/Reports,+plans+and+statistics>

Category 1 clients are defined as " Critical (Homelessness/ immediate and high risk of harm to self and others)

Fatalities like the Eitzen tragedy and other occasions of parents attempting to kill their children have yet to force serious action, despite nearly ten years of public outcry including the election of Kelly Vincent MLC (d4d) to the SA Parliament.

***The category 1 waiting lists for clients desperately needing help has ballooned from 525 in Dec 2008 to 810 in Dec 2010. This is an increase of 54% in just two years.***

***The number of clients needing accommodation has jumped from 853 to 1117 an increase of 31%***

***The number of clients needing services has jumped from 2173 to 2602 up 20%***

It would cost approx \$500 million dollars over the next five years to support the critical category 1 service clients (and probably save some lives)

Do we really need to waste \$600 million dollars on a new stadium? After all Adelaide oval has already been done up?

And the \$100 million left over would be enough to tidy up West Lakes

If Port Power and the Crows are struggling for cash maybe they better recruit some better players and better coaches and play a more entertaining style of winning football.

Then maybe the crowds will come as they did in the past, although deep down inside we all know to spend \$600 million on a stadium when AFL is becoming a made for TV product is just rubbish.

The demand for live broadcasts was reflected in thousands of empty blue seats at AAMI Stadium last Saturday night. The demand for live TV is the future not revamped football grounds.

Maybe before you get delisted Mr Rann you can actually show some long overdue decency and fix the disability crisis?

What are the priorities of SA?

Are they right..... Footy or Families??

**David Holst**

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