



“Out of the frying pan, into the fire?”

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The SA Budget has provided relief for about half the clients living at Strathmont

With \$7.7 million allocated to move 32 clients into community accommodation by the end of 2011

This is a good thing as Strathmont is a very very unpleasant place for anyone to live

The Dept of Families and Communities is currently working on an alternate plan for the balance of the clients.

The problem for the clients being transferred is that while the environment may be new and shiny the Governments own report , released two weeks ago shows the clients may not necessarily be better off?

With both the Federal Government Australian Productivity Commission report due soon and the SA Social Inclusion Report also scheduled for release in the next 90 days there will be much angst in the disability community about whether the voices of the consumers has been heard.

[Will these reports enshrine consumer choice as policy?](#)

This is not dissimilar to the Strathmont situation. Has anyone actually asked the clients what they want?

Unless the opportunities that are available to people with a disability mirror the same range of choices that the general community has then people with a disability will remain disenfranchised and powerless.

Any suggestion that either report should dictate the structure, form or design of how the choices, needs and service requirements of people with a disability are delivered would totally destroy the very reason for which these inquiries have been held.

The powers to be must ensure that all options are on the table and then provide the resources and funding to allow service users to facilitate delivery of the services they individually require in a form that meets their personal needs.

While some choose to still believe they somehow have the academic, educational or learned knowledge of how services should be supplied the attached report talking of the significant social benefits of meeting the personal needs of people with an intellectual disability contrasts starkly with the damning report of the Strathmont devolution. Isolation in community housing is a serious problem for people with intellectual disability

Unless when the NDIS and Capped inquiries when complete finish with a broad range of choices and options available to all disability service recipients so they can personally choose their own lifestyle then we will have once again failed as advocates for those we love the most.

Let's hope the SA Govt while supplying new accommodation continues to develop a genuine person centred planning approach for the clients from Strathmont.

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