



'Front Page News' Disability Crisis Worsens in SA

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The Front Page of today's Adelaide Advertiser says it all Cappo says "Disabled fobbed off with nice words!"

Former social inclusion Commissioner David Cappo has pulled no punches describing disability services in SA as totally unacceptable. The link to the article is below.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/disabled-fobbed-off-with-nice-words-cappo/story-e6frea6u-1226285580544>

Backed by SA Public Advocate Dr John Brayley who has also released a damning annual report the stark reality of the disaster that is SA disability services will not go away.

Critical need waiting list data published by the Government this week showing waiting lists ballooning at an alarming rate Cappo, Brayley and Kelly Vincent have served it up to the Government.

The attached spreadsheet shows the terrifying escalation in waiting lists For example 281 clients were rated critical cat 1 in Nov 2008 by Dec 2011 that number is 504.

Please note this is an internal use DS document and we apologise for the quality. The link to the official government announcement can be found at

<http://www.sa.gov.au/government/entity/1646/About+us+-+Disability+Services/Who+we+are/Plans+and+reports>

the resolution of these problems will cost some \$240-\$400 million dollars over the next four years

New Disability Minister Ian Hunter's explanation that self managed funding is the answer appears a little flimsy.

90-95% of Disability service users are expected to show no interest in this form of individualised funding and the 2689 clients on the urgent needs waiting list will be unable to access SMF as they have no services.

Mr Hunter's failure to specifically address the unmet need waiting lists was disappointing and his advise that disability services needed a significant overhaul was probably an understatement. Whilst everyone understands Mr Hunter is new in his position his lack of conviction that he will fix the problems is causing escalating concerns.

Mr Hunter may also wish to elaborate on how a client, Anthony Esposito can have their crisis status downgraded simply because they did not harass the department for a short period. The client did have a letter from the department confirming their critical need status 1 rating and if anything in the interim period the clients desperate need had escalated not diminished?

How does this happen?

Disability Speaks would like to thank the Adelaide Advertiser for giving this issue front page priority.

It is a massive social injustice that needs fixing now.

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