



SA BUDGET UPDATE 2012

With the political rhetoric removed

MEDIA RELEASE: June 1st , 2012

There is something decent about SA Premier Jay Weatherill you notice when you meet him personally.

Yes, he is a tough hardnosed politician who did a long overdue hatchet job on his predecessor quite beautifully, much to the joy of the SA Disability Community who despaired under the former Premier

Yes, we have had some serious arguments both privately and publicly over the last 8 years!

But even in the steamiest situations you sense he stands for something real and basic human decency is a personality trait he genuinely reflects.

His first budget as Premier of SA has that tone about it.

The 2012 Disability Budget upgrade is not "sensational, fantastic or mind blowing".

It is however fair, decent, badly needed and a very solid step forward for a community that has been long ignored. Those wanting to read the numbers should go to SA 2012-13 Budget paper 4, Agency Statements, Volume 1 page 106.

People with a disability awakening on budget day knew there were over 1264 SA clients with disability on the unmet need crisis category one and two waiting lists for accommodation. (Jan 31st 2012 government website data) We estimate that number will drop by approx 160 over the next four years as the \$106.1 million that has been allocated for new services is spent. There will still however be a mammoth list awaiting accommodation. Not all this new money will be spent on accommodation.

We estimate the 436 clients waiting for community support will drop by about 180

The 173 clients needing critical community access should decrease by about 50% or 120

The 353 clients desperate for respite will drop by about 140

And the 200 school leavers desperate for Day Options should largely be accommodated during this period. The government claims some 800 clients with disability will benefit over four years and our estimates largely match.

The government was unwilling/unable to provide breakdown of distribution data as all funds "will be directed to crisis management support" we were told hence our own estimates being used.

These new lower waiting needs balances are calculated however on the basis that no new clients seek service

The reality is that we expect demand to lift at the current growth rate of over 30% so it is almost certain that every list will be higher in 2015 than it is today. That is a sobering thought. When the Strong Voices report estimated we needed over \$400 million dollars in new service funding they were accurate. The new service money in the 2012 Budget is well short of that.

Other announcements including the housing trust building approx 65 new houses that are accessible, the final devolution of Strathmont and a NDIS start up provision of \$20 million inflated the headline number of new funding to a so called \$212.5 million. We are not quite so convinced about some of that? Many of these additional dollars do not take clients off waiting lists and our cynical minds (yes we have been analysing data for a while now) smells a hint of a money shuffle.

The \$4.4 million spent on a home visitors scheme to us is problematic. Volunteers don't inspect hospitals, schools or jails but this new scheme will please many in the sector. If Disability SA was smarter they should get out of service delivery and only focus on governance especially in an individualised funding/ NDIS era. There is an overwhelming business case for such a devolution.

This budget is decent and fair and puts in place a tone and a direction that establishes a foundation for better in the future. It is a good first step by our new Premier, but it is only the first of countless steps that still need to be made.

Of the 34 key recommendations of the 2011 STRONG VOICES, (Social Inclusion Cappo Report) only two have been fully funded at this stage. Some 24 have received some attention and 8 still await even basic action.

Please find attached a copy of the press release of Kelly Vincent D4d for your interest.

David Holst

Chair - Disability Speaks Steering Committee & Intellectual Disability Association of S.A (IDASA)

Mob. 0418 555 683

Web. www.disabilityspeaks.com.au

Email. disabilityspeaks@internode.on.net



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