



# Unfinished Business

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Disability Speaks welcomes new SA Disability Minister Tony Piccolo. While it is concerning Mr Piccolo becomes the fourth Disability Minister in just over 5 years, many in SA remain optimistic that Premier Jay Weatherill has a genuine and far reaching commitment to people with disability and the portfolio is significantly advantaged as a priority while Jay is Premier. Jay was of course the Disability Minister from 2004 -2007 and at the time was recognised by many in the sector as visionary in his passion and truly committed to disability sector reform in a manner well above acting like disability was just a job to him.

Jay took disability to his heart and has not lost his passion or touch despite his career elevation.

We suspect Mr Piccolo's hardest marker in his new role will not be the disability sector (who are always exacting assessors) but his own party leader. Many ALP leaders in the past cared little for disability with out of sight and out of mind appearing the most popular political strategy . The elevation in priority is a very healthy position for all involved.

David Holst, Chair of Disability Speaks and the Intellectual Disability Association of SA will meet with Mr Piccolo very shortly

**We would like to ask you what you think should be the priority for the new Minister in 2013?**

**Please email your comments and suggestions urgently by return email to Disability Speaks and we will raise as many as we can with the Minister as appropriate. [disabilityspeaks@internode.on.net](mailto:disabilityspeaks@internode.on.net)**

In his public welcome Shadow Minister for Disability John Gardiner wrote

- Ensuring negotiations on a funding agreement with the Commonwealth are finalised to enable full implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in South Australia on schedule. South Australia's expenditure on disability services would need to be significantly increased in order to meet the Commonwealth's current demands.
- Articulating a vision of how the South Australian disability sector is to transition to an NDIS framework over the next five years, without losing out on existing services.
- Meaningfully implementing the Strong Voices recommendations.

Despite agreeing to 32 of the 34 recommendations in Monsignor Cappelletti's 2011 Strong Voices Report, the Government is yet to fully deliver on even a dozen.

- Presenting a Bill for a new Disability Act in time for reasonable consultation on the draft Bill before its passage through the Parliament this year.
- Delivering reductions in the category 1 waiting list for supported accommodation. These are the most vulnerable people in our community: at risk of harm to themselves or others, or of homelessness and they do not have a suitable place to live. Despite Monsignor Cappelletti's recommendation that this unmet need be reduced to zero within one budget cycle, since then the list has instead blown out by nearly 100 to 558.

"There are another 20 Strong Voices recommendations to deliver. There are still disagreements and confusion over eligibility for the new Medical Heating and Cooling Concession to be resolved. There is a huge amount of work to do in ensuring that South Australians with a disability get a fair go in our schools and in our justice system.

"Disability should not be an area that gets bogged down in partisan politics. The Opposition will continue to hold the Government to account, but we will also work constructively with the Government in a bipartisan way whenever we are given the opportunity.

***Disability Speaks would like to know what you think? We have been compiling and refining our own action plan for some time both for 2013 and the run up to the March 2014 SA State Election. As part of this process we are working closely with D4D and in communication with other key SA disability sector advocates and organizations and getting your input would further enhance the facilitation of tightly focused and relevant targets and outcomes***

***Your feedback will be appreciated and taken very seriously***

### **David Holst**

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

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