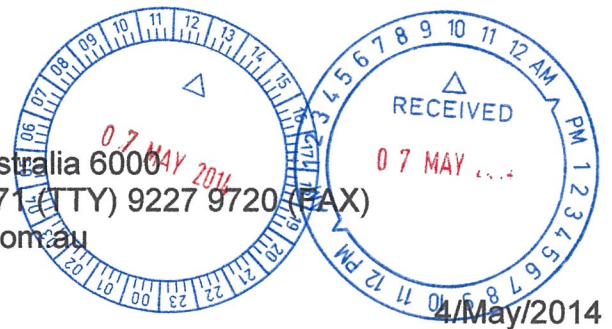




A SELF HELP CENTRE
for People with Disabilities
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4 May/2014

DISABILITY SERVICES ACT 1993 - LONG TITLE

An Act for the establishment of the Disability Services Commission and the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability, for the furtherance of principles applicable to people with disability, for the funding and provision of services to such people that meet certain objectives, for the resolution of complaints by such people and for related purposes.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

First I need to apologise that this submission is late. The letter was addressed to me at Personal Advocacy in Morley. I, Barbara Harris, am Coordinator at Emmanuel Centre at the above address. The invitation to respond to the proposed Amendments to the Disability Services Bill 2014 took some time to reach me at the correct address.

I hope my comments will be included. I have attached a link to Emmanuel Centre's Brochure to give you some sense of our background.

I understand the amendments are necessary because it is proposed to trial two models for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. One of the trials will be modelled on delivery in other states and the second using the State My Way model. While we do not have any specific problems with the amendments, we want to note that the implementation of the regulations **MUST** be able to achieve the desired outcomes and this can only be achieved if "common sense" prevails. WA is in a unique position to have two trials running simultaneously. Maybe the result will be that the best of both scenarios will be incorporated in the Commonwealth legislation.

I have no objection to the short title and the inclusion of Clause 4 Part 4B and Section 26D-26I and Clause 5 and 6.

Emmanuel Centre since its commencement in 1981 has always believed in ensuring people with disabilities be treated as individuals with individual needs. We have never sought Government funding because we have not believed that block funding is beneficial to the individual needs of a person but rather focuses on moulding a group of people to fit the funding.

Over the last 33 years Emmanuel has developed a wide volunteer base and endeavours to find volunteers who are able to meet needs. We are impressed that the focus of the NDIS is on individuals and choice.

We are concerned however that the emphasis may still be on specialised services and funding to these specialised services even though individuals will be able to choose whom they use. We believe that all agencies receiving Government funds, both government instrumentalities and non government agencies, including generic agencies should be obliged to provide services particularly if they are funded regardless of whether they are specialised disability services or not.

We believe that generic services who receive funding should be obliged to make their services more accessible. This will mean that monies for NDIS will be able to be used for the needs of more people.



In an ideal world for example, a person who is deaf and uses Auslan who needs counselling has very few options to work through issues with a counsellor who signs. They may have an interpreter but this changes the dynamics of the session. All agencies that provide counsellors, if they receive Government grants need to have trained counsellors who use Auslan. In the long term these would be less costly than NDIS. Similarly while there are a few buses that are accessible if we are talking about people with disabilities getting to appointments, work, social activities etc, why are transport providers not charged with making transport more accessible?

There is no provision in the Amendments for the future of the NDIS in either model. What happens after the completion of the two trials? Is it envisaged that we will have another amendment?

Thanking you for the opportunity to provide these thoughts.

B E Harris

Mrs Barbara Harris Cert Welfare, Dip T, Grad Dip Special Ed, Grad Dip Health Science (Addiction), Bach Art & Theology.



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/d0obsbww3p2y4h8/latest%20ec%20brochure%2029%20march.doc>

SPECIFIC GROUPS AT EMMANUEL CENTRE

Catholic Association for Special Education

Support for parents and others working to encourage acceptance and support of children with special needs.

“Positive attitudes to disability and inclusion will remove most obstacles to inclusion...

Positive attitudes will remove low priority in resource allocation and dispel the myth that lack of finances precludes action.”

Archbishop Hickey in “One in Christ” February 1999.



After the Open Forum “People with disabilities and their families in the community” held at Emmanuel Centre in July 2013, a working committee was set up to work on issues that were raised at the meeting.

Mary Ballantine is the chairperson of the committee. Representatives are drawn from a wide spectrum of people and family members in the community.

The Committee is working on Education issues (including the Arrowsmith Program), the relationship between the Catholic Education Special Needs team and CASES, Waiting Lists, Parent Information re Schooling, Post Compulsory Options, Catholic Youth Ministry and young people with disabilities in Parishes, and the growing number of children with Mental Health issues

Catholic Mental Health Group

This group of people who have mental health issues, carers, pastoral workers, friends, priests and families seek to provide support and encouragement for people with mental health issues as well as those who care.

Some services/activities include:

- **Telephone Ministry** keep in touch with people by telephone to encourage and support.
- **Visiting and Befriending** individuals and families offer support and shared faith. Regional meetings and guest speakers on important issues such as
 - Skills for maintaining good mental health relationships.
 - Marriage and Mental Health
 - Laughter Workshop
 - DRUMBEAT (Developing Relationships Using Music, Behaviours, Emotions, Attitudes, and Thoughts)
 - Mental Health Week Activities including Mass and days of reflection.

Emmanuel Centre

Mrs Barbara Harris – Coordinator

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What is Emmanuel Centre?

Emmanuel Centre, is a self-help centre for people with disabilities and their families, to be a place where each person recognises that “God is with us”.

There are two main aspects of Emmanuel.

- Services offered through Emmanuel
- The Emmanuel Christian Community

Emmanuel’s two major aims in service importance are:

1. To provide opportunities for people to receive support, particularly if no one else will help, and;
2. To provide opportunities for volunteers to offer skills to others. No offer is too small. Emmanuel has a commitment to provide opportunities for people both “at Emmanuel Centre — in house” and in the wider community - “outreach”.

Emmanuel is often described as the place to contact, if you have tried everywhere else.

Through its large volunteer base it offers information, support, counselling, advocacy, library lending and resources, work experience and training.

Emmanuel works with community agencies, schools and parishes.

Emmanuel accepts the challenges that often seem too difficult or too hard. It is common to hear *"There is no such word as can't — we just have not learnt how yet!"*

Programs and activities developed through and within Emmanuel celebrate that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. With Christ as the head we are all part of one body called to share the journey with each other.

Volunteers are very welcome at Emmanuel

What is often seen as an insignificant skill can mean everything to the running of Emmanuel. So don't be shy, we can use your help and skills in a group or individual programmes!

IN HOUSE PROGRAMS

Emmanuel offers a number of "in house" programs at the Centre. These are based on individual or group requests, e.g.

Everyone who wants to be involved in these programs is welcome. Emmanuel's services are offered on the basis of need not creed. Age is no barrier.



Emmanuel Christian Community

This Christian Community consist of people who live together and wish to spend time together in mutual support, trust and challenges. Talents are shared to work towards living the Gospel call and encouraging one another. The Community is located in two houses next door to Emmanuel Centre.



Outreach is very individual and covers areas of service not yet offered by other agencies:

- Specialist interpreting for people who are Deaf
- Inclusion into youth groups, church organisations, etc.
- Accessing generic services, e.g. alcohol and drug counselling
- Working with organisations and parishes on "Action Plans" for inclusion
- Home Visits
- Community development projects in parishes, organisations and educational settings
- Prayer and spiritual support.



Never too young to learn how to make the Sign of the Cross.



Ministry with Deaf and Hard of Hearing

seeks to make God's Word accessible to Deaf and Hard of Hearing people providing

* Facebook, *Telephone Ministry * Information
* Support * Visiting & Befriending, * Counselling
* * Home Groups * Interpreting * *Auslan awareness, *Auslan and Captioned videos and Sacrament and Marriage Preparation.

The Ministry Team works with parishes, schools, families and communities encouraging inclusion.

Sharing God's Word

- * Home visits by a Chaplain and other members who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- * Support of younger Deaf people by older people who are Deaf
- * Aged Deaf (visits are made to nursing homes and hostels).
- * Individual counselling and support for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- * Computer Access, Bible Study Groups.

Regular Church Services interpreted and with PowerPoint St Francis Xavier Church (next to Emmanuel Centre) Windsor Street, Perth 9.30 am Mass every Sunday.



Hi, welcome to our video newsletter