

SHAUN EVANS

Petition

Mr P.D. Omodei presented the following petition bearing the signature of one person -

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, bring to your attention the situation of Sean Evans and his family.

Shaun is 20 years of age. He has Autism and lives with his father in Inglewood. Shaun's mother, due to ill health, is unable to care for him.

Shaun requires individual attention 24 hours a day. He has no knowledge of electrical or fire safety issues, he will open the door and let strangers into the home, he has no stranger danger awareness and will wander off with anyone and he has no concept of road safety. He also needs assistance with attending to his personal hygiene and dietary needs.

Shaun has many behaviours which are difficult to live with and are considered "anti social" in most settings. He constantly rocks back and forward and makes loud noises, he screams when he is anxious or upset, he flaps and waves his hands repetitively (particularly when he is excited or upset), he is unable to sit still in social situations and he becomes extremely difficult and distraught when upset or disciplined.

Shaun has a very serious problem with aggression when upset or frustrated. He can harm himself, biting, pinching or scratching until he bleeds. He also can be aggressive towards others, lashing out at the nearest person, especially his father. As he has developed into a strong young man, his father has become increasingly concerned that he could be seriously injured by Shaun.

Shaun's father feels that the pressures of living with Shaun caused the break up of his marriage. He has had a nervous breakdown because of the constant pressure he is under. He loves his son but cannot continue to live this way. He feels powerless, hopeless and isolated as a single father. He appreciates the assistance he receives from the Disability Services Commission to care for Shaun, but has reached the point where the only option for him and Shaun is for Shaun to be accommodated outside the family home.

Shaun's father has applied for accommodation funding NINE times for his son, without success. He is desperate to receive the help he and his son need, for the safety and welfare of both himself and his son, and for the longer term maintenance of their relationship.

Now we ask that the Legislative Assembly give urgent attention to:

The provision of the accommodation support services needed by the estimated 300 people with disabilities and their families in Western Australia currently unable to access the accommodation support they need.

The provision of the respite services needed by the estimated 950 people with disabilities and their families in Western Australia currently unable to access the respite they need.

The provision of the "Post School Option" services needed by the estimated 800 people with disabilities in Western Australia currently unable to access the support they need to engage in activities during the day.

[See petition No 73.]