

**KENNETH EDGAR**

*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 **Kenneth Edgar and his mother.***

Kenneth is a forty four year old man and lives with his mother. Kenneth has an Intellectual disability and epilepsy. He has limited verbal skills and needs assistance with all areas of his life. He is a very light sleeper, and when he wakes up, regardless of what time it is, he thinks it is time to get up to start a new day. When this is in the middle of the night, his mum has to wake up and stay with him to settle him back down to sleep. In the past year, Kenneth has also suffered an increase in the frequency of his epilepsy seizures. This disturbs his and his mother's sleep even more, as she has to stay with him until the seizure is over in case he hurts himself.

Kenneth also has skin problems that require creams to be administered twice a day. He can't put this on himself and putting on the cream takes a good hour in the morning and again in the evening. Kenneth must also wear gloves to prevent him from scratching.

Kenneth works in an Activ sheltered work shop for twenty hours a week. He loves his work. Unfortunately, Kenneth's mother had to sell their family home in Mundaring to move into a small unit in Midland, in order for Kenneth to be on the pick up route for work. Kenneth's mother was not able to drive Kenneth to and from Midland and Mundaring each time he had to go to work.

Kenneth's mother is **SEVENTY ONE**. Her health is deteriorating, she has heart problems, osteoporosis, anxiety and depression. The downsize in living space has added to the pressures felt by her due to the lack of personal space in such a small unit. Kenneth is very demanding and he takes up a lot of time and energy. If his mother can't understand him, he will drag her to show her what he wants. He also gets louder and more frustrated when he can't be understood. Some times the frustration gets too much and he will run out of the unit, telling any one that will listen that his mother has shouted at him or hit him, neither of which is true. Kenneth also wanders, so his mother needs to ensure that the house is always locked when Kenneth is inside.

Kenneth also has a very small amount of funding that enables him to go out, once a week for four hours, three times a month. He especially enjoys going bowling, but Kenneth has to pay for his game and a meal. As both he and his mother are on a pension finding that little extra money just for a game of bowling and a meal, is difficult. Further, despite only being on a pension, Kenneth's mother pays for him to have five days respite, twice a year at Hawkevale. This is desperately needed time out to recharge her batteries, and time out from each other.

Kenneth's mother wants to know when she can secure accommodation for her son, she has been trying now for **TEN** years, without success. She is the only person who fully understands her son and wants to be able to help her son with the transition, but feels that time isn't on her side. Kenneth has had the sole attention of his mother for a number of years now, and will fall apart if anything happens to his mother. He needs to be settled in supported accommodation, for peace of mind for his mother and for him to be more independent. Kenneth's mother would like to be able to enjoy her twilight years. After **FOURTY FOUR** years of caring, most of this time on her own, she is tired and very anxious about the future. She and Kenneth both need support **NOW**.

*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 299.]