

Dear Committee,

My personal submission to...

Parliamentary Inquiry into Accommodation and IFS for PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Who am I?

My name is William Booth, and now 78 years old; having served 42 years at the coal-face of disability with my 42 year old intellectually disabled daughter, Janelle.

Over these years I have been active with numerous disability groups. Currently I am a long-time member of Developmental Disability Council WA and People With Disabilities.

*I have always considered the Disability field to be a 'Battlefield' and am an outspoken, independent advocate for **'OUR CHOICE'** in the provision of support services.*

01. ACCOMMODATION OF 'OUR CHOICE'...

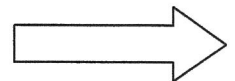
16 years ago in 1997, a CLUSTER of 7, 2-bedroom homes, opened by Greg Joyce of Homeswest, for intellectually disabled adults in Bentley WA.

The City of Canning Disability Services have provided 7 days-a-week, excellent support services within the DSC funding structure. This CLUSTER living arrangement where each person has their own home is financially more sensible than if these residents were scattered through-out the community.

The purpose of CLUSTER living as opposed to single homes in the community is the family atmosphere. Birds of a feather – flock together! Is this lifestyle successful? Well, just ask the residents who don't want to move. And when mum & dad fall of the perch they will be family to each other. We have no other family members.

It is a fallacy to suggest that with integrated living, the general community will look after them or associate with people who have an intellectual disability.

We desperately need MORE CLUSTER STYLE ACCOMMODATION!



02. INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT...

My daughter and others in this complex do not require 'intensive' supports. However, all people living with disability and their families require various levels of supports.

The current DSC funding does not cover all of their needs. Each family, especially parents fill-in the gaps. For Example, if Janelle wants to go with her also disabled husband to Fremantle for fish & chips...my wife and I take them. If she wants to go shopping at Morley Galleria, we take her. A recent holiday down to Albany is another example where parents are vital to quality of life for the disabled.

Carers are not currently sufficiently funded to provide this service. As parents age and acquire ill health, their 'financial' and 'hands-on' contribution diminishes and then finishes upon passing away. These residents do not have the capacity to request nor seek additional supports.

I suggest...

The financial value of additional carer supports by DSC be determined 'today', including any financial legacy, so upon our not continuing this care, the DSC can plan for additional future funding.

To keep this simple, perhaps it is determined that parents/family provide 20% of the current carer supports. Then the DSC funded part can plan on a 20% increase for future funding.

Yes, I would be pleased to appear before your Committee, and this submission is open to public examination with my full name and address.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Booth".

William Booth



18 June 1997 - GRAND OPENING! - 90 guests include speaker at rostrum Hon. Paul Omodei, Minister for Disability Services

- behind him seated, Brian King, President of parent lobby group 'In Homes Support Group' - Hon. Kim Hames, Minister for Housing - Hon. Michael Lekias, Mayor City of Canning (Management of Complex) - Bill Booth, Founder of In Homes Support Group) - also present is Greg Joyce, CEO of Homeswest, Alan Carpenter, Opposition Minister for Disability Services - Hon. Graham Kerieth - and Len Buckridge, Builder - and many others!