

MEDIA RELEASE

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When will you cough up Mr Foley?

Monsignor Cappo, Kelly Vincent MLC and Community Leaders Call for IMMEDIATE Action on Disability Services

Groups demand that the Government clear the Disability Services Unmet Needs Category One waiting list. Cappo review meaningless without show of faith.

South Australia spends less per person with a disability than any other state, and as of June 2009, had 510 people on the Disability Services Unmet Needs category one list. With 238 waiting for supported accommodation, 177 waiting for critical personal care and another 191 people desperate for respite, case management, behavioural intervention and other critical services.

The category one list is defined as people who are at critical risk of homelessness or immediate and high risk of harm to self or others.

“I met with Monsignor Cappo regarding the Social Inclusion Board’s review of Disability services in South Australia, and it pains me to be unable to support his much needed review at this time” said the Hon Ms Vincent.

“While carers are breaking, falling apart, even killing their children, and while people with disabilities wait for their most basic of human rights and needs to be met, we cannot stand by and wait for a review which will take 5-7 years to implement.”

As Monsignor Cappo stated on ABC891 this morning regarding his meeting with Ms Vincent “There are too many crisis points in the disability area in terms of the immediate needs of people for supported accommodation for respite, for equipment ... a whole lot of areas and I’ve taken her message to heart ... that means cash”

“This review is seen by many in the disability sector as yet another stalling tactic by a government unwilling to prioritise our most vulnerable citizens. While a review is clearly necessary, it must not be at the expense of the community’s most vulnerable. This is why we cannot support the Social Inclusion Board’s Review until a show of good faith with the clearing of at least the Category one and two Disability Services Unmet Needs list” said Ms Vincent.

When asked about the \$85m budget blowout on the Adelaide Oval redevelopment, the Monsignor replied “Well, it’s really not a good look at all and ... I understand Government has a wide range of responsibilities to the community but I really hope that this particular year we can put the social issues really at the top of the list.”

Ms Vincent says “It’s over to you Mr Foley, and your Government. Put your money where your mouth is, listen to the people of South Australia, feel that “Kick in the Pants” and do the right thing. We await your response. We’re far too used to waiting”.

Community Leader Responses:

‘Every day we hear from Carers who are doing it very very tough, most are in crisis, an immediate injection of funds would not only be an act of good faith on behalf of the government but also provide urgently needed services which would relieve some of the burden on Carers’.

- Rosemary Warmington, CEO Carers SA ph: (08) 8291 5600

‘Like many in the disability sector The Intellectual Disability Association of SA (IDASA) regarded another government inquiry announced in a lead up to an election particularly from a government with a terrible track record of supporting people with a disability with deep suspicion. We are all aware numerous promises made as far back as 2001 by this Premier remain undelivered. We totally support Kelly Vincent and the D4D approach. We need an immediate crisis aversion funding injection for disability services now, if the Govt expects widespread sector support for the Cappo inquiry’.

- David Holst, Chair, IDASA ph: 0418 555 683

‘Guide Dogs SA.NT supports the review of disability services in the sector by Monsignor Cappo and recognises that the long term need of the sector will only be addressed by major reform; however there are families and individuals in crisis today who need an immediate response’.

- Kate Thiele, CEO, Guide Dogs SA.NT ph: (08) 8203 8333

‘The unmet needs for the disabled community is at a crisis point. It is criminal how the government can find massive amounts of money (in excess of \$500M) for a circus arena when it neglects those who require a fraction of that amount to help with their basic human rights with day to day living. It is time for the government to wake up to its responsibilities and get down to priorities’.

- Steve Nirta, President, Physical Disabilities Council SA ph: 0402 479 219

For further information, please contact:

Sam Paor | Adviser to Kelly Vincent MLC | 0410-513-013 | sam.paor@parliament.sa.gov.au
or Rick Neagle | Party President | 0431-704-074 | rickneagle@internode.on.net

Dignity for Disability Inc is the political party for those who believe in 'a fair go' for everyone. We are a human rights based organisation that aims at ensuring representation in Parliament for people with disabilities, in particular. We have a unique opportunity, which we must grasp together. With strong leadership, and by bringing the often fractured disability community together, we can bring about real change. Our goal is to ensure **Dignity Through Choice**. More information can be found on the web at www.d4d.org.au