



Media Release

5th March 2010

Dignity For Disability Key Election Promises

**One in five South Australians has a disability.
Is it you, or someone you love? Who will be next?**

A vote for Dignity for Disability is not just a way to send a message – it could mean the difference in the balance of power in our Government.

Dignity for Disability, if elected, will work with government to:

- Commit the necessary funds (\$76M) to clear the **Category One Accommodation and Support Service list** plus meet the unmet needs of a further 20,000 clients (\$27M)
- Develop three **Autism Education Centres** – with a focus on providing education support and therapy (speech and occupational therapy) outreach services to families, teachers and school staff across metropolitan regional and rural areas (using existing DECS funding plus \$20M).
- Establish a **Community Outreach** program (\$2.5M) – a trained volunteer based home/facility visit program designed as a “watchdog” to spot issues and potential abuse before they escalate. Also a “New Outreach” program which offers regular home (or centre based) visits from trained “peers” for families with a member with a new disability diagnosis.
- Make **Self Managed Funding** available to all who request it (existing administrative costs lowered – funding neutral) – the ability to responsibly self manage disability funds must be an option available to all people with disabilities and their family carers where appropriate.
- Demand **Respite** – Ongoing regular respite as necessary must be made available all Carers receiving a Carer Allowance. Needs must be assessed and hours allocated. Each dollar spent on respite saves eight dollars in future needs for people with disabilities (\$22M plus Federal Funding Demand).
- Make **Transportation** more available and accessible – Access cab vouchers will be made flexible for all qualified people with disabilities – providing the ability to pool vouchers and to use them with private providers/bus companies etc. (funding neutral – uses current funding)
- Increase subsidies/Lower expenses for **Employment** groups to encourage and demand job opportunities and support for people with disabilities.
- Review and amend The **Disability Act** and further its effectiveness by the appointment of an independent **Disability Commissioner** with teeth.

Dignity for Disability’s detailed Policy Document is available at its website www.d4d.com.au

Dignity for Disability is fielding seven candidates in the South Australian State election. A bio of each candidate is available at the d4d website at www.d4d.com.au.

Dignity for Disability is also **seeking funds** to further support its work in getting a fair go for the one in three South Australians who either have a disability or care for someone who does. Donations can be made at www.d4d.com.au

For further information or interviews contact Sam Paior – sam@skuut.com.au 0410-513-013 or any candidate as attached.

Dignity for Disability candidates

Upper House

Paul Collier - 0408-006-065

Ronni Wood - 0408-020-623 or 8363-3145 Adelaide - Sam Paior - 0410-513-013 or 8463-0595

Michele Threadgold - 0412-075-798

Kelly Vincent - 0434-231-698

Lower House

Wright - Garry O'Connor - 0401 235 021 or 8358 2274

Norwood - Rick Neagle - 0431-704-074

Detailed candidate Biographies available at www.d4d.com.au or by emailing Sam Paior – sam@skuut.com.au

Our candidates, by standing for election with Dignity for Disability, are seeking increased, transparent and better managed Disability funding, and for South Australia to adopt and embrace the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.