

Where's Mike?

After the Arnie entree and the Lance appetiser let's see 'Miketonabike' pedal his stuff!

Premier Mike Rann announced Lance Armstrong's cycling team will compete in the 2010 Tour Down Under. Mr Rann may think omnipotent "Lanceonabike" will divert attention away from massive social problems like our State's tragic disability crisis.

Will swinging voters wearing fluoro lycra shorts and Gatorade fuelled smiles reward Mr Rann who hopes to receive "Arc De Triomphe like Lance" acclaim and a third term.

After all, the gold army of Lance fans (We are all fans!!!) may admire that strange accent that Mike projects when making his "Look who's standing next to me" pontifications and when disparaging disability advocates who challenge Mr Rann's glowing self eulogy on his support for the disabled.

Disability waiting lists have rocketed 5% in seven months.

This makes Mr Rann's self proclaimed "King of the Disability Mountain" status seem a bit odd, like that accent. Establishment stationary bike leader "Le Social Inclusiono De Cappio" has already confirmed SA as a major social disaster without a plan.

Mr Rann was recently invited to pick any day, date, time and place and front a community meeting to spell out "Future Tour De Route" for disability services. Mr Rann would be most welcome to bring Lance (or Arnie), who is widely respected for his outstanding charitable work and his acclaimed Livestrong Foundation. Lance supports those in need and may be unimpressed with SA's disability record.

Let's hope Mr Rann wearing a Maillot Jaune jersey shows leadership and accepts this challenge!

Disability Speaks spokesman David Holst has indicated he would happily front a public debate on "The State of our State." Mr Holst said "Let's go head to head like the cyclists do, pushing towards a Mont Ventoux finish. Just as SA routinely underfunds disability services by 5% per annum, any amateur cyclists who sweat to ride with Lance and hit a pothole a la O'Grady, would know what it is like to join the growing ranks of road trauma victims on the unmet need waiting lists. They may have a very different perception of 'La Twitta Premiere' Disability Record.

"SA is pedalling uphill, on a 30 year old bike with flat tyres as the updated disability data confirms." Even the Terminator can't do that.

Disability Services in SA must become a priority.

Authorised by David Holst, parent of a child with a disability.



Disability Services Unmet Need - Quarter ending June 2009

	Nov 2008	June 2009	Variance
1. ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT	853	901	48
Personal support	1031	1005	-26
Total Accommodation Support - Unique clients	1663	1703	40
2. COMMUNITY SUPPORT	512	538	26
3. ACCESS	400	332	-68
4. RESPITE	418	383	-35
Total Unique clients	2173	2283	110

UP 5.1%