

David Holst

From: Sam Paior | Skuut [sam@skuut.com.au]**Sent:** Monday, 22 March 2010 8:29 AM**To:** d4dparty@gmail.com**Subject:** MEDIA ALERT: Kelly Vincent Leads the Way for People with Disabilities and their Carers - For Distribution**Media and Friends Alert for Distribution****Monday****22nd March 2010**

Kelly Vincent Leads the Way for People with Disabilities and their Carers

21 year old Dignity for Disability candidate for the Upper House looks set to make history

While media are reporting that Kelly Vincent has earned the 11th and final Upper House seat in the South Australian 2010 State election, Dignity for Disability are cautiously optimistic for this win for all people with disabilities in South Australia, which may not be announced by the Electoral Commission for some days.

When (we are optimistic) the announcement is made, however, Dignity for Disability will have scooped the pool in making Australian Parliamentary History:

- Youngest female elected to any Parliament in Australia's history.
- Youngest elected Upper House Parliamentarian in Australia's history.
- First person who uses a wheelchair elected into South Australian Parliament.
- First Australian Parliamentarian elected on a disability platform.
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"Kelly Vincent will be making some big changes on North Terrace" said Dignity for Disability spokesperson Mr Rick Neagle. "She will be South Australia's own *elected* social inclusion board".

Parliament itself will need some work – work that is long overdue in the eyes of people with disabilities across the State – the Legislative Council is currently entirely inaccessible to a wheelchair user.

"It was always a source of humiliation for Paul (Collier) to have to use a side "trade" entrance with huge metal gates to get into Parliament house, and many areas of the building are totally inaccessible" said Kelly Vincent of Dignity for Disability's late leader who was also a wheelchair user since a car crash left him with quadriplegia on his 21st birthday.

"One of my first jobs will be an audit of Parliament House's disability access issues – an audit that I hope will be the first of many of government buildings and services. It's shameful that the seat of our government has been unavailable to people with disabilities for so long."

"Although it is still too early to make an acceptance speech, I would like to thank the many volunteers who have supported Dignity for Disability in so many ways throughout our campaign – it would be such an honour to represent you all" she said.

Ms Vincent may face many challenges, but she will be meeting them head-on, and her election will ensure a voice for all South Australians living with disability, and their carers.

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