



"MEDIA RELEASE"

24.05.2010

" Some People with Disabilities are effectively asylum seekers in their own country ! "

Kelly Vincent MLC , Sunday Mail, Adelaide, May 23rd 2010 !

A quick quiz?

1. Is Kelly Vincent correct?
2. Why did Kevin Rudd provide virtually nothing in the recent budget for people with a disability?
3. Yet why did Kevin Rudd provide \$1.2 Billion dollars over the next four years for asylum seekers to live in motels?
4. And why did Kevin Rudd double the funding for overseas aid to \$8.0 billion per annum? (yes per annum!) and
5. Why does the Federal Govt only spend \$1.3 Billion dollars per annum on disability services? and
6. How many of the 20,000 people with disabilities employed by Australian Disability Enterprises will lose their jobs because zero additional indexed funding was provided from this budget?

The Answers!

1. Yes, without any doubt! Kelly might only be young but she's smart !!
2. Like politicians often remind us when the election heat comes on disability support drops off the priority list again it appears!
3. While no one would begrudge asylum seekers appropriate care it must be more important that asylum seekers have daily showers than 200,000 former CSTDA clients living nationally on unbelievable unmet need disability service waiting lists! Can't we support adequately both groups?
4. Maybe Kev forgets there are still a few social problems at home! Inquiries fix nothing, funding helps!
5. Because Kevin spends \$8.0 Billion dollars on overseas aid and there is no funding left! (Headlines, the Adelaide Advertiser today reports so much overseas aid is wasted!)
6. Not sure , but ring Max Dyason SA Chair, National Disability Services and CEO, Bedford who without an urgent \$200,000 funding top up may need to do the unthinkable and lay off some one with a disability. Bedford is just one of many employers in this shocking position with over 20,000 people with disabilities employed nationally under this scheme!

Can you help?

Yes, attend the next meeting of the Disability Speaks Steering Committee.

Attendance as usual is open to all interested parties Agenda items for next Thursday will include

- National Disability Insurance, recent developments e.g. The Abbott Commitment.
- National Disability Insurance public consultation meeting (Adelaide, scheduled Wed 16th June 2010) info at website www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support
- Possible National Disability Insurance, SA Public Forum for late June with guest speakers The Hon Kelly Vincent MLC, Mr Bruce Bonyhady, Australian Productivity Commission, The Hon Bill Shorten Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Disability (ALP), The Hon Mitch Fiefield, Federal Shadow Minister for Disability (LIB). Venue and date to be confirmed.
- The 2010 Federal Budget and the implications for disability services (note comments above)
- The SA Social Inclusion Inquiry/ Capps Report into SA disability services scheduled to start shortly
- The forthcoming Federal Election and the role of Disability Speaks in this event.
- Local, Interstate and National Alliances for Disability Speaks.
- Minda redevelopment
- Strathmont, an ongoing problem
- Any other business

DIRC, 195 Gilles St. on Thursday May 27th at 1.00 pm.
Anyone with an interest is welcome.

look forward to seeing you there

PS we have also attached for your interest a request for information from Disability Services SA. Your response may assist. Please give it your attention.

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www.disabilityspeaks.com.au

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