

MACCRO, Mansfield Adult Autistic Services Ltd.

Manufacturers of ACORN OUTDOOR ORNAMENTS

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2 October 2008

The Executive Officer
Family and Community Development Committee
Parliament House
Spring St
East Melbourne Vic 3002

**Submission on Inquiry into Supported Accommodation for those with Disability
and Mental Illness**

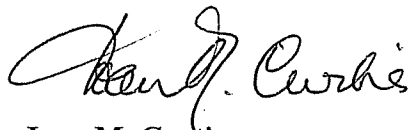
In the early part of the 20th Century, many people with intellectual disabilities were institutionalised. Changes in Government policy led to the gradual deinstitutionalisation of these people, and the decommissioning of the large institutions. The Government takes pride in the successful relocation of the former inmates in supported accommodation in the community. It appears satisfied with the position now reached and has stated that it will not be setting up any more full time supported residential accommodation. This overlooks the reason the large institutions were set up in the first place. Every year children are born with disabilities, and despite the best efforts of early intervention services, therapists and teachers, in time many of them will require 24 hour care. The same services which have been called in to supply the needs of the de-institutionalised residents need to be marshalled to care for them. This is not happening. The burden of care falls upon their parents. Sometimes there is a day program providing a few hours respite, but often there is not. The fact that full time residential care is what is needed, and being provided by the parents at no cost to the Government, is quickly overlooked. A whole generation of potential Kew Cottages residents is left in limbo, as if the need which led to the foundation of the institutions no longer exists.

Currently, parents in their 70's and 80's, some with serious health problems, are left to care for intellectually disabled adult children, some with challenging behaviours the parent is neither trained nor physically and emotionally able to manage.

I refer to the document setting out the terms of employment for a residential care worker in a community residential unit.

**“The hours of work for an ordinary week shall be 38.
No more than 12 hours may be worked in any one shift, and no more than 48
hours in any one week”**

Perhaps the unpaid parent carers should get themselves a good union!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan M. Curtis', written in a cursive style.

**Dr. Joan M. Curtis
CO-ORDINATOR**

CC. Hon Bill Sykes M.P