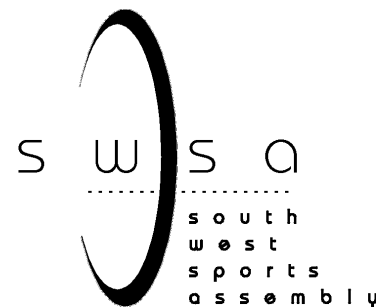


19/9/2008



Family and Community Development Committee

Inquiry into Supported Accommodation for those
with Disability and Mental Illness

Parliament House, Spring St,
East Melbourne, VIC 3002

P.O. Box 679
Warrnambool 3280

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a stakeholder involved with the Southern Grampians Disability Support Group I would like to reinforce some key points that the group has ascertained in relation to the status and issues associated with Supported accommodation in the South West, particularly the Hamilton area.

The key points being:

- The lack of vacancies in Community Residential Units (CRU) in the Hamilton Region.
- The pressure and burnout experienced by carers, many who are ageing, to support family members.
- The need for additional resourcing of physical infrastructure and also support workers to address the identified need to expand the current Supported Accommodation program.

From an agency point of view, and in relation to the entire South West, I would also like to raise the issue of improved support for individuals to access community recreation opportunities. The promotion of individual choice and inclusion is not always matched by resourcing individual support (activity cost and carer support) to access community based activity. I would hope that a greater focus on inclusive recreation is considered in the context of supported accommodation with the possibility of a potential funding allocation to ensure that recreation is accessible to all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Neoh
Executive Officer
South West Sports Assembly
Access for All Abilities Program Provider