

The Executive Officer,
Family and Community Development Committee,
Parliament House,
Spring Street,
East Melbourne Vic. 3002



Dear Sir / Madam,

As the ageing parents, (over sixty), of a thirty year old autistic son, we are becoming increasingly concerned about his future. We have applied for a supported accommodation placement for him but have been told that we are not in a ' crisis situation' and he is therefore only classed as low priority.

As anyone who has lived with an autistic person can testify, they can be extremely demanding , and my husband has suffered ill-health over the past 18months, so we're now at the stage of feeling worn out, and don't know how much longer we can continue to care for him.

We love him and want to see him settled, and, as he doesn't cope well with change, it will be much more difficult for him to adjust to a new setting as he gets older. We have been told placements are possible for independent living , but this is not an option for Adam as he is non-verbal and needs 24 hour support.

We have also been told that a future placement may be possible in a bigger town, but all Adam's support networks are based in Benalla, and it would be traumatic for him to have to move away from everything he knows.

We hope the Committee of Enquiry can address the real problems existing in supported accommodation for the disabled.

Yours Sincerely,

Shirley Swallow and Kevin Smith

104 A1 Road

Lima 3673

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is "Shirley Swallow" and the signature on the right is "Kevin Smith". Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.