

12 Nov 2008  
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Mr Paul Bourke  
Executive Officer  
Family and Community Development Committee  
Parliament House, Melbourne

### **Submission to the Supported Accommodation Inquiry**

As parents of a 35 year old daughter with Down's Syndrome this enquiry is of utmost importance to us.

At present it is almost impossible to get help with supported accommodation from the State Government of Victoria. Any funds available go almost entirely to those on the Disability Support Register, to those who are in a desperate situation. Our daughter has no automatic right to funding for supported accommodation, unlike those victims receiving compensation from the TAC or Work Cover.

"Individual Support Packages", available through the DHS are almost impossible to get.

At present we have found private accommodation for our daughter in a group situation. This is better for her, to be with others the same age, and will keep her in the community and improve her life skills. But it is very expensive, rent and care costs, and as she is still "on trial" she may be back home with us before Christmas. If this happens we can expect to have her with us till we are too old or ill to look after her, or until we die.

If the Victorian Government allocated a minimum level of funding to all disabled for accommodation and care then more families would be able to organise private group accommodation. At present the financial burden is completely prohibitive. Pooling of care hours would reduce costs significantly.

All we are asking is that our daughter has the same rights as all others in the community, to choose where she lives and with whom, and to have reliable, ongoing funding to achieve this goal.

Yours sincerely



Pam & Stephen Dick