Sept 17th 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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to draw your attention to the long term accommodation crisis for people with a disability in South West Victoria.

There are no Community Residential Unit (CRU) vacancies in the Hamilton area.

Caring for someone with a disability is a 24 hour per day responsibility and on evenings and weekends when day services are not available, the constant supervision and physical exertion required can leave carers without the time or energy to develop essential family and community relationships. Most parents are full time carers and many are ageing and struggling to support their sons and daughters who have high support needs. They are exhausted emotionally, physically and financially and will require permanent accommodation for their child, now or in the near future.

Parents facing the desperate plight to meet the physical and emotional needs of their disabled child often have difficulty expressing their needs to governments or appropriate departments. Facing the pressure that no permanent ongoing accommodation is, or will be available is adding to the pressure of an uncertain future.
Younger parents battle to keep their families and marriages together, protect siblings from neglect and discrimination and run a 'normal' life. With the responsibility of full time care of their disabled adult son or daughter, they have little time to focus on their other children or have time to themselves.
Mulleraterong Centre Inc is the Hamilton adult disability day program agency which has approximately 60 adults (18 years and over) registered in day placements. We estimate that as many as 20 people attending the Centre require ongoing supported accommodation immediately or in the near future.

We urge you to use the funding allocations in current budgets to address this issue as soon as possible to create better outcomes for people with a disability and their families.

Yours truly,

Annette Read
Chief Executive Officer
Mulleraterong Centre Inc.
Family and Community Development Committee
Inquiry into Supported Accommodation for those with
Disability and Mental Illness
Parliament House, Spring St,
East Melbourne, VIC 3002

19 September 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Murray to Moyne Bay Riders is a Melbourne based cycling group that raises money for Murraraterong Centre in Hamilton and the Harrow Bush Nursing Centre. Over the last 7 years we have distributed some $800 000 to these respective charities. Whilst we are delighted to be able to make a contribution to health care in rural Victoria we can only do so much and I write to draw your attention to the long-term accommodation crisis for people with a disability in South West Victoria.

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Yours truly

Tim Gurry
On behalf of the Bay Riders Fund Raising Committee
Sept 18th 2008

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[Signature]

[Handwritten Signature]
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[Signature]

Principal
Hamilton Special Developmental School
Sept 18th 2008

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