Inquiry on the State Governments Provision of Support Accommodation for Victorians with a Disability or Mental Illness.

2008

Accommodation and Care Solutions (A & C S) is a service provider of Independent Non-Government Supported Accommodation that provides high level care to young people with disabilities across Victoria.

The supported Accommodation provides boutique care to young people who have multidisciplinary disabilities, including, Brain Injuries, Spinal Injuries, MS, Wilson’s Disease and many more.

The momentum of the boutique style of Accommodation started 5 years ago, when the Director (who has spent 25 years working in Community Care) identified the heart break families and young people go through, having limited choices, and being moved into Nursing Home facilities, inappropriate to their age, rehabilitation potential, emotional and social needs.

The innovative housing model is based on the philosophy “normal house, normal street”. The development of each accommodation setting is done within the parameters, of having universal design (to accommodate full wheelchair access), all fire and safety laws adhered to and most importantly having a homely feel that is not confronting for family and friends to spend time and visit frequently. Many different accommodation models are used across the organization, including: independent units, shared support, and transitional accommodation to independent living.

The housing model, accommodates up to four residents, and is based on the model of “matching”, trial respite stays, and choice of housing models, if the match hasn’t worked out.

The houses are based in Sandringham, (two homes, with joining garden paths (to facilitate social bbq’s and get togethers), Carrum Downs, Frankston South, and Heidelberg (which also has three independent units on site, that are supported with 24 hour care, as well as our first accommodation setting in Gippsland.

All homes have 24 hour care and the carer’s are qualified with Certificate 4, many of which have gone onto achieve their Diploma in Disability and Case management, by the sponsorship of A & CS.

The services are designed to maximize independence and facilitation of activities that the young person enjoys, whether it is, sailing, gardening, writing, or just going to the pub on a Friday night with their mates.
The services are currently funded through a matrix of the disability system including a mix of compensable and non-compensable clients. The service delivery of these clients remains at the highest quality.

Last year, ACS also associated with specialist case managers to assist a young gentleman as a pilot, to transition out of a Locked Psychiatric Ward, to transition to a community home, shared with one young other man. This has been an exemplary success story that has re-connected family relationships and friendships.

The different options of support that are available to the diverse target group, including those with an Acquired Brain injury, Spinal injury or neurological or mental illness, insures that clients and families, are able to receive the support they need, and are able to live life as independently as they are able.