

CORRECTED VERSION

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Access to and Interaction with the Justice System by People with an Intellectual Disability and Their Families and Carers

Ballarat - 17 November 2011

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The CHAIR — My name is Clem Newton-Brown, I'm the Member for Prahran and the Chair of the Law Reform Committee. This is a committee which is set up by Parliament, a cross-party committee, and we are given terms of reference and we make recommendations to Parliament. The Deputy Chair is Jane Garrett, Member for Brunswick, she's an apology today, as is Donna Petrovich, who is the Upper House member for Northern Victoria. Here today with me is Russell Northe, who is the Member for Morwell, and Anthony Carbines, who is the Member for Ivanhoe.

We're pretty informal here, we'll just ask you to talk us through your submissions and we will ask you questions as they arise. There have been a few themes developing that we may want to ask you questions on. Everything is recorded and you're protected by parliamentary privilege in here but not outside the hearing room. If you could start with your name and professional address and who you represent and then launch into your submission.

Ms MANGAN — My name is Mary Mangan, I'm the Managing Lawyer at Victoria Legal Aid, 75 Victoria Street, Ballarat.

Mr TORNEY — My name is Jacob Torney, I'm the senior lawyer in criminal law at Victoria Legal Aid in Ballarat, same address, 75 Victoria Street.

Ms MANGAN — You would have received the submission from Victoria Legal Aid?

The CHAIR — Yes.

Ms MANGAN — What we were proposing to do was to address about five issues arising in connection with that, particularly as they affect regional and rural Victorians, and then feel free to ask us questions. We will take it in turns to talk about particular topics.

The CHAIR — Just before you begin, what proportion of your clients would be people with intellectual disabilities?

Ms MANGAN — We wouldn't have a figure that we can pull out on statistics. I would be thinking we would probably be talking 30, 40 per cent. It's high.

Mr TORNEY — Especially if you included acquired brain injuries, and this is an estimate but I would guess at least a quarter, if not higher. We have had improvements to our computer systems over the last two and a half years or so that have greatly increased our statistical capabilities to record these figures, and that's been introduced very well since January this year so hopefully the next financial year's audits will be able to give proper figures if people are reporting their disabilities to a proper degree.

The CHAIR — Thank you.

Mr TORNEY — I was going to start by focusing on our recommendation four in the written submission which talks about the availability of housing and the impact that that has on people with intellectual disabilities. A difficulty that our clients find,

especially in regional areas, is particularly in relation to bail conditions, or the ability to get bail. Our colleagues have found that there are situations where a person would either have a prima facie right to bail and have bail refused because of a lack of accommodation and therefore might be a flight risk or an unacceptable risk of committing a further offence, or it might be a situation where they could show cause but for appropriate accommodation being available.

I have a situation at the moment with a young man who is 29 years of age who is in adult custody with an IQ of around 56 who had been released on bail, went to family members and that was unsuitable, he was remanded in custody, we got him some accommodation in supported type accommodation, however that had a lot of people with other criminal problems and he left there feeling unsafe and then he was remanded in custody by the police after he was picked up being in breach of his bail conditions and he is still in custody awaiting trial because there's just no other accommodation available for him.

In terms of a regional perspective there are limited accommodation sources available in each regional area that will take people who are facing criminal charges. Often they're run and funded by religious institutions who want to know, for good reasons, what they're charged with and if it is of a sexual nature some of those organisations will automatically refuse to have that person housed in their institution. That can include ranking a charge of indecent assault at the same level as an aggravated rape. It's a sexual offence, then they can't stay here. My colleague's feelings are that has a disproportionate effect on people with an intellectual disability or an acquired brain injury because of a lack of other supports in terms of accommodation.

Ms MANGAN — And that in a sense flows onto what I was going to mention, it's connected in a sense and it's really court services and the importance of there being the provision of some alternative methods. For example, in Melbourne they have the ARC list, which I'm sure you've heard about, which is a holistic way of looking at what the person's actual problems are and then that court is supported by housing services, they're linked into all sorts of services as they go through. The advantage of that as well is, of course, it's magistrates that are specifically trained and able to appreciate and understand the difficulties of persons with intellectual disabilities. That sort of thing is lacking outside of Melbourne. It's a three year pilot program, I know, in Melbourne only.

The CHAIR — What's it called?

Ms MANGAN — The ARC List. It's the Assessment and Referral Court. It's referred to in VLA's submission, I think between pages 15 and 17, and there are specialist lawyers from VLA in Melbourne who attend as duty lawyers. It runs on a daily basis but, of course, it's only available for people that fall within a particular locale of the Melbourne Magistrates' Court.

Mr TORNEY — I think Ms O'Shea might have — —

Mr NORTHE — Yes, they provided a submission and they tendered evidence a couple of weeks ago so we understand the assessment of the program has not yet been articulated but it seems to be kicking some goals.

Ms MANGAN — It does seem to be, yes. The other interesting one is — not that it's necessarily restricted or is just for people with intellectual disabilities, but again the Neighbourhood Justice Centre and again the support services that are built into the process. We have here in Ballarat the CREDIT/Bail Program. We don't have what's called the CISP program, which is the Court Integrated Services Program, which is through metropolitan Melbourne, also in the Latrobe Valley. That's a much broader support program and these essentially are people coming before the court, not only necessarily with intellectual disabilities but drug issues, mental health problems, where there are services that they can be linked into and on a supervised bail program. We would love to see CISP in Ballarat because we think it would provide our clients with a further range of options than what they have at the moment. We have the CREDIT/Bail Program here but it's a much more limited program.

Mr TORNEY — I guess to some degree we are actually blessed to have the CREDIT/Bail Program because I spent a long time working in Warrnambool and there was no bail assistance program in Warrnambool, Portland, Hamilton. I understand it's the same in the Horsham and Ararat courts where there's no assistance program whatsoever for people while they're on bail, it's simply post sentence, a community based order or those types of sentencing.

Mr NORTHE — Can you elaborate a bit more on the CREDIT/Bail Program?

Ms MANGAN — Say someone is remanded in custody, say they have issues affecting intellectual disabilities, substance abuse, housing can be another issue, mental health, there's a CREDIT/Bail worker who will go and interview them in custody and will work out a range of service options for them. For example, get them linked immediately to drug and alcohol services, get them referred to disability services, look for accommodation, although it is a limited program because the accommodation options that she has are very limited. So then as part of their bail conditions they're then released on bail in the community with these conditions on what's called CREDIT/Bail. They must return to the court every month and a progress report is done as to how they're progressing and that entitles them to an extension of their bail.

The CISP program itself is much broader than that. When we have clients appearing before courts in Melbourne, we see CISP being used even as a type of sentencing option, it's before the sentence is imposed, but it's where the case may be adjourned for a period of even up to six months coming back at different times, of course, where their progress under a much more extensive program is looked at during that time. CREDIT/Bail itself here isn't used in that way, it really is just the bail program. The CREDIT/Bail worker from the court has great trouble finding accommodation, certainly for our clients, it's incredibly limited. Often it's Reid's Guest House, which really is just unsuitable, particularly for clients with an intellectual disability, they're not going to last there and then they're going to end up breaching their bail and then running the risk of being put back into custody. But these things all require resources and services. Our CREDIT/Bail Program, if there were more services and resources, would operate a whole lot better as well.

Mr NORTHE — Mary, is there any specific type of accommodation or living arrangements that you would be advocating for or is it purely and simply dedicated housing?

Ms MANGAN — You do need dedicated housing and to a certain extent I'm not the person who can really answer that. We deal with a lot of clients who live in different types of supported accommodation, and disability services have different ranges of them. Sometimes your client may be someone who needs to be in, if you like, a smaller more supported environment where maybe there's six residents as opposed to housing where there's 40 residents. Even if it's informal supervision, if you like, it's going to be much better if there's a limited number of residents.

I'm thinking of one particular client I have at the moment who has an intellectual disability, he's a serial offender in a minor way but inevitably annoying if you're the victim, and it's not something that anyone wants to see continuing to happen. But at times it's been really successful with him, and Disability Services have put an enormous amount of work in, as actually have for this particular client the Corrections to a Justice Plan. But what he needs is accommodation where there's five or six people, not in a big supported accommodation arrangement. The people running it didn't know and weren't able to have any idea of what he was doing and what he needed each day, each morning, each evening, what are you doing, what can we do? So smaller probably is better generally for people with an intellectual disability.

Mr TORNEY — What I recall from having worked in Melbourne a number of years ago was that there was dedicated bail housing in Bundoora, from memory, for people with an intellectual disability. While there was always a shortage of more people that wanted to go there than there were spaces available, there was that option available, the Department of Human Services had that housing specifically available for people to be released on bail. As far as I'm aware, that just isn't available anywhere regionally.

Mr NORTHE — Roughly, do you have any idea of numbers in terms of how many people might find themselves in this scenario so at least you can equate that to what is the accommodation that's required?

Ms MANGAN — It's not that many. We see a lot because they tend to probably come to our office as much as anywhere else, or we would pick them up through the Duty Lawyer Program. We have a good working relationship with Disability Services and they too tend to refer a lot of their clients to us. They're intensive clients always and they're the sort of clients that it's difficult for the private profession to handle in a sense because, of course, they're going through Legal Aid, it's going to be very time intensive for the lawyer, so we see a lot but I suspect overall it's probably not that many.

Mr TORNEY — I would say it's probably less than 10 a year.

Ms MANGAN — More. 20.

Mr TORNEY — That require accommodation from bail?

Ms MANGAN — Maybe 10 to 15.

Mr TORNEY — Ms Hadden might be able to — —

Ms HADDEN — I would have said hundreds.

Ms MANGAN — No, I don't think it's that many.

Mr TORNEY — Depends on the size of the catchment area.

Ms MANGAN — But if you're talking around this area, it's probably 10 to 15 in respect to people with intellectual disabilities.

Mr TORNEY — In respect of other people that may not be able to get bail because of accommodation issues then it can even be hundreds.

Ms MANGAN — But the other really important thing is Ballarat has CREDIT/Bail. You go anywhere else in rural Victoria, except the Latrobe Valley, there's not even a program. Maryborough, which is one of the poorest socioeconomic localities, has absolutely nothing. There was a time — and I'm going back probably two or three years — where one of the local magistrates got something going with the Community Health Centre to have a drug and alcohol counsellor at court so people could be immediately referred to them. That Magistrate left, that worker left, and that was more or less like a voluntary type thing that was just set up to try to provide something. These are just what I see. Jacob worked in Warrnambool.

Mr TORNEY — There was a similar arrangement in Portland and Hamilton where one of the nurses from the local — I think it was McCormy House, which was a drug and alcohol counselling service, would turn up to court once a week or once a fortnight when they sat, but she was there because someone had asked her to, there was certainly no formal structure. At Warrnambool, like the bigger regional court, we would have to see if we could get one of the workers in from one of the service providers to come to court rather than there being an agency at court that would be there to arrange for the CREDIT/Bail program or the CISP program.

Ms MANGAN — Anything else on that?

Mr NORTHE — We've heard a bit about the CISP program anyway so it will be interesting to see how the pilot program evolves.

Ms MANGAN — It will be interesting to see how that goes.

Mr TORNEY — One of the problems that we do have, being a smaller regional area compared to Melbourne or a Heidelberg court just in terms of the numbers of people coming through court, is if someone is on leave or they're sick, just nothing will happen with the program such as CREDIT/Bail. The clients have to come in for their regular reviews and get referred to whatever it might be, but if that person is not there then nothing happens. You do get situations where someone comes back for a monthly review from being in the CREDIT/Bail Program and the Magistrate says that nothing's happened. I released this person on bail because they were going to get treatment for drug and alcohol concerns and they've had one assessment and it says

that they're drinking a slab a day. That's not filling them with great confidence that this person isn't going to re-offend again if they've had one assessment and they're still drinking an enormous amount of alcohol. It's great that the program is there but if it's not working the way it's meant to then the efficacy of it is lost.

What I was going to lead into on the next point of our submission was what had been referred to by other people in the past as problems with postcode justice, what people would refer to it as. An example that we use in the country is if someone has been found guilty of a sex offence and they're being considered for a community based order, a condition of being placed on a community based order, if you're found guilty of a sex offence, that Corrections requires that you undertake the Sex Offenders Program. That program lasts for 12 months and it is run out of Carlton, it's not run anywhere else in the state. It's difficult enough for someone who is in Ballarat and has an intellectual disability or other problems to get to Carlton once a week for 12 months, but it's impossible if they're in Mildura or Sale or Warrnambool or Portland to do that. It may be possible if someone was employed full-time and had a very generous boss but — —

The CHAIR — So what happens then for people who live that far away?

Mr TORNEY — They get sentenced to a different type of outcome. I had a gentleman who lived in a small town 50 kilometres from Warrnambool who was clearly in need of counselling, he was clearly an alcoholic, he had an intellectual disability, he had a prior history of inappropriate touching of an adult female, and it was a similar type of offence. He got a fine for it the first time and five or 10 years later he probably failed to read signals properly and was convicted of indecent assault, grabbing on the upper thigh. It was, in the greater scheme of things, perhaps lower level sexual offending but where you would want to see some counselling in place to avoid escalation, but he had no licence. He could get to Warrnambool but he couldn't get to Melbourne and the magistrate put him on a suspended sentence. You've gone up the scale, so if he messes up he goes to jail, whereas he wouldn't if he was on a community based order necessarily, and the community doesn't get protection of him getting some treatment.

Mr NORTHE — Just on that, a point of clarification. Is there an obligation on this person to actually do the counselling and, if so, if he's breached it that's it?

Mr TORNEY — If he was put on a community based order for a sex offence, Corrections require them to undertake, as part of their order, the Sex Offenders Program, and then if they don't do that they're in breach of their order and they will be brought back to court and be re-sentenced for the original offence. That's probably one of the biggest problems I have in terms of availability of services to regions is that specific program.

Ms MANGAN — Anyone with an intellectual disability, unless they're well supported by work, is just not going to be able to get down there.

Mr TORNEY — The difficulty is obviously multiplied for someone with an intellectual disability, it's difficult for anyone to get into Carlton once a week for counselling if you live 300 kilometres away, but especially for vulnerable people it is

impossible just on \$380 a week disability pension, getting the petrol and the money to get there and the time is effectively impossible. That, I guess, ties in with recommendations eight and 12 that have been made, but that was a specific example.

Ms MANGAN — One of the things I wanted to mention, because we have had quite a bit of experience with it here in Ballarat, is the issues affecting fitness to plead and mental impairment. Two issues really: as it affects adults, as it currently stands, and as it affects children. In relation to children, I don't know if you're aware but up until — I think it was this time last year when there was a decision of the Supreme Court, *Lazry J*, which said that the Children's Court didn't have the power to deal with fitness to plead issues concerning children. I don't really think that was controversial in the sense that I think the Crimes Mental Impairment and Fitness legislation clearly didn't apply to children, but there had been a practice that had built up of the Children's Court in fact dealing with those issues. So what that meant is that anything other than a summary offence would get uplifted to the County Court, totally inappropriate for children, with all the sorts of delays, going through the committal mention process, hand-up briefs. I'm not talking murder, I'm not talking manslaughter, it's not at that level but it's children with serious intellectual disabilities.

Mr TORNEY — Criminal damage.

Ms MANGAN — Theft of motorbikes, dangerous driving. Not something, of course, that you encourage but in the scheme of things not the worst level of offending and offending that would normally be dealt with in a Magistrates' Court or the Children's Court. There certainly needs to be something done and I understand it is being worked at in terms of children and the power of the Children's Court to deal with them if they do have these issues instead of once the issue is raised it has to go upstairs to the County Court.

We seem to have had quite a lot of it here and I suspect there will continue to be issues. It's very difficult for lawyers, of course, because what inevitably is encouraged is to enter a plea for these children in circumstances where you feel it's not a plea that's entered on their instruction and with their full understanding, but the lawyer in a sense takes on the best interests role. Of course if that was legislated by Parliament as a best interests role, fine, but as it stands it's not the role of a lawyer to do that so that's something that really needs to be looked at, I think.

The other issue is as it affects adults, it's a real problem as well. I have a matter at the moment where the client was originally charged with a summary offence in the Magistrates' Court and he's not fit to plead, according to the psychiatrist, so that charge is just dismissed, it's at an end, it was a minor charge. Then he is involved in a further charge that involves some sexual offending — he's been charged with indecent assault — it would be able to be dealt with in the Magistrates' Court but for the fact, of course, he's not fit to plead so he has to go up to the County Court. He's on bail, he has to attend a pre-hearing, he sits there and I can see he really has no idea what's going on. He will go through a special hearing and then if he is found unfit then there will be the actual trial, in inverted commas, and he may be acquitted. I mean, it's quite on the cards that he will be, but he may not be, and then the options that the court has are really supervision orders so they're a lifetime imposition as in if he then commits a further offence when he's on a supervision order he's unlikely to be given a custodial

supervision order, it would be a supervision order in the community, but if anything else happens then he's back before the courts, he will find himself at great risk of going to Thomas Embling.

There have got to be more options for clients that have intellectual disabilities, can't understand the court process, can't instruct their lawyers, there needs to be more sort of options in terms of how we deal with them, and then how we deal with them at the end when we're satisfied that, yes, the offence has been committed, either by way of a plea being entered — and I say plea in inverted commas — or alternatively after a contest. So we'd really like to see something like that happen. I know that's also referred to in the submission of VLA, I think it's recommendation 10 that they refer to, fitness to plead in mental impairment matters.

Mr TORNEY — Just picking up on that point of the children being forced to go through the County Court process for what might be considered more minor matters, often these are children who are in state care, they're being charged with threats towards carers, damage of say a door or a window in the housing where they're housed, and the organisations that provide the housing have a zero tolerance approach to threats of violence or damage, so we have these children facing, on one occasion, 22 separate briefs from 22 separate incidents of threats or damage or minor assaults to their workers. If it had have happened to its parent, you don't know whether or not any of those charges would have even proceeded with, would ever have been reported to the police, but because these children are in state care every piece of their behaviour is automatically criminalised. Because they've got an intellectual disability may be one of the reasons they're in state care and it just automatically leads them with this massive amount of — not automatically — it leads in some circumstances to a massive amount of charges where the police are saying: you're already on five counts of bail and now you're charged with another offence so we have to remand you in custody. And then you have a big roundabout session with the magistrate where you apply for bail, they get released, they blow their top and kick a hole in their door again and they get remanded. If they were fit to plead, they would be in a situation where, because of their disabilities, they would never be admitted in a type of sentence of detention, but because it takes so long to go through the committal process and get them into the County Court and have it dealt with that way, and sometimes the Director of Public Prosecutions will withdraw the charges and discontinue the charges because there's no prospect of success, but that can take up to a year, and we've got these kids sitting in custody whereas, if they were fit to plead, they would be on a supervisory type order. It is a very problematic situation that if the legislation allowed the Children's Court to hear or determine fitness and either discharged or placed them on a supervisory order, if they were unfit or found to have committed the offences it could certainly be dealt with in a much quicker way and wouldn't waste enormous amounts of juries and County Court resources. The process legally is that you need a separate jury to determine whether they're fit to start with, then a separate jury to determine whether or not they committed the offence. And if we get these ones where there are five, 10 or 22, that would involve 44 separate jurors.

Ms MANGAN — Which is just crazy.

Mr TORNEY — Fortunately in that case the former Director discontinued the prosecution and now that girl has another six briefs.

Ms MANGAN — In a sense these kids really get it both ways because they're in State care, they've got the intellectual disability, nothing is getting any better. Once they turn 18 all of a sudden they're in the adult system and unfortunately our jails are full of people with intellectual disabilities who have had limited opportunities, and that's expensive and there's all sorts of reasons why the resources need to go in at that early end.

Mr NORTHE — That's very interesting.

Mr TORNEY — I think the final point we were going to talk about today ties into recommendation seven of the written submissions about the infringements system as it applies to regional areas. In the Melbourne Magistrates' Court there's a program called the Special Circumstances List where people, if they fit into the definition of special circumstances — that includes mental health issues, intellectual disabilities and the like — can go before a Magistrate in a specialist list to apply to have the charges that originally lead to infringements dealt with in a certain way based on what lead to those infringements. When we say infringements that might be anything from littering to driving an unregistered motor vehicle on the tollway, to nowadays including wilful damage and shop theft being included in the pilot program for infringements.

We can see people, especially with an intellectual disability, racking up an enormous amount of infringements that operate to some degree like a form of mandatory sentencing in that you or I would receive a \$600 ticket for driving an unregistered motor vehicle, and so would someone with an IQ of 60. Whereas if you or I were before a magistrate charged with that offence, we would be sentenced as someone with education, income, life experience, whereas the infringement system doesn't allow for those differences to be taken into account in terms of sentencing. So we get a situation where people are homeless and living in their cars often, racking up an enormous amount of infringements. What I was tying back to is that in Melbourne there is this Special Circumstances List where a magistrate has special sentencing provisions available to them, it's anything available under the Sentencing Act but often includes releasing them on an undertaking to be of good behaviour or a community based order focusing on counselling treatment rather than community work.

What we find is that if clients are referred to that at an early stage, they mightn't be able to get there because it's in Melbourne but often they just don't get referred to that just because of the distance and the lack of knowledge from service providers, whether they're financial counsellors or disability workers, about that system. We often see them at the stage when they're before the courts having not paid their fines, the sheriff has come around to their house, then converted the fines to unpaid community work, they haven't done the community work, or they haven't done all of the community work, or they weren't able to do the community work because of their disabilities, and then it goes before the magistrate. The magistrate has, to some degree, the ability to discharge those fines under the Infringements Act but that's if the magistrate is aware of their disability or their circumstances. If they're not, the default provision is that they are to be imprisoned for one day for each penalty unit, \$22-odd that they're owing, so if we're talking \$6,000 it's 60 days. If we're talking \$60,000, that's 600 days in prison. What a magistrate will often do is put them onto a payment

plan, called Imprisonment In Lieu, which they will be imprisoned for that period if they default on their payment plan, and it's usually a very reasonable payment plan, a magistrate will put them on \$50 a fortnight, for example. And what happens if they default on that is a warrant to imprison automatically gets issued and there's no appeal right.

Ms MANGAN — And they're not back to a court, they're taken direct to jail.

Mr TORNEY — With no right of appeal because it's not a sentencing order under the Sentencing Act, it's a default in lieu of payment of fines, and the court has previously held that that is not a sentence capable of being appealed so it is the only way in Victoria that you can be jailed without a right of appeal. If people stick to their payment plan it's not going to be a problem, but if someone's got a disability or a mental illness they may well find themselves forgetting that payment plan, or unable to pay it for one reason or another. Or, in a case that Victoria Legal Aid has had, find themselves locked up in a mental hospital in a psychiatric unit owing 800 days imprisonment, defaulting on their payment because they're in a psychiatric hospital, getting released from the psychiatric hospital to jail.

Mr NORTHE — What's the answer to the question, what's the resolution?

Mr TORNEY — Accessing an appeal right to the County Court, like any other sentence.

Mr NORTHE — Does it need to go back any further?

Ms MANGAN — I think so. There's no point someone ending up with \$60,000 in fines, they just can't pay them, there needs to be some assessment earlier. This is going off the point a bit too, but we see the same sort of thing building up a bit with court fines. For example, we see sometimes people that come in after 10 years and they might have had unregistered cars, drink driving, this or that, and they've built up, it might only be \$5,000, but you're talking about someone with an intellectual disability, on a disability pension, they're never going to be able to pay that now. So there needs to be some ability to look backwards.

Mr TORNEY — A circuit breaker before it gets to that point.

Ms MANGAN — It's got to come in earlier.

Mr NORTHE — One of the things that's been mentioned is recidivism of people with intellectual disabilities seems to be far higher and probably some of the examples that you're raising today probably add to that no end and I guess as a committee we've got to come up with some form of recommendations to put forward and that's what I'm interested in being proactive in recognising it earlier on that there's a problem rather than it escalating.

Ms MANGAN — Yes.

Mr TORNEY — And it would obviously be better if there can be that circuit breaker earlier on to stop it getting to that point but as the immediate solution to what

is, in our view, a clear injustice is that step to have the appeal right there because it is, as I say, the only way you can go to jail without having a right of appeal. In that particular case that I referred to, the fellow being taken to the psychiatric hospital, a petition of mercy was actually requested to the Governor-in-Council and that's currently before the Governor and the Supreme Court has ordered a stay on the imprisonment while that's considered and that was the only way we could think of to have this fellow not do that amount of time, but it is a highly inefficient way of dealing with it, I would suggest.

Ms MANGAN — And there are other people out there that haven't come to our attention that are going to be in that position at the moment so it is a real problem. Recidivism is a problem and it's a problem in a sense because once you've got someone with an intellectual disability that's never going to change. Sometimes there can be behaviour modification, it's changing the environment around the person that is the way it has to go otherwise it does keep going on and on and on. It is really difficult.

The CHAIR — Thank you very much for coming in today. Anyone else got any final questions? It's been very helpful; well done.

Ms MANGAN — Thank you for your time.

Mr TORNEY — If it would be of assistance, we could take the question on notice in terms of the percentage of our clients with intellectual disability.

The CHAIR — I suppose it's more just a matter for the record, the extent of your experience and it's clear that it's more than an isolated incident so obviously it's a major part of what you have to deal with so don't worry about going into the detail.

Ms MANGAN — Thank you.

Witnesses withdrew.