

# Family Statement to the Premier and Minister for Disabilities Regarding the Privatisation of Government Disability Services

31 May 2017

We, the parents and siblings of people with disabilities receiving government disability services, have significant concerns regarding the Victorian Government's proposal to privatise those services provided to our loved ones. We note that government disability services are characterised by:

- Best-practice supervisory structures (one supervisor per group home).
- High-levels of training and ongoing skills development for support staff.
- Well-developed and well-understood quality and safeguarding systems.
- Better pay, conditions and job security for support staff.
- Low levels of casualisation and staff turnover.

Each of these elements facilitates long-term continuity of support of residents by their current staff teams, which is essential to their quality of life.

We are alarmed by the enormous funding disparity that currently exists between government and non-government group homes in Victoria and that the NDIS looks set to provide an even lesser level of funding in the future. In light of this widening gulf in funding, we submit that the Victorian Government has failed to explain how its proposal to privatise government disability services will improve the lives of our daughters, sons, brothers and sisters.

We reject the Victorian Government's justification that privatisation will lead to increased choices for our loved ones. Far from being given increased choice and control, these residents are being deprived of the option of retaining the status quo (which, in all our cases, is most certainly preferred).

Therefore, we call on the Victorian Government to uphold the principles of choice and control under the NDIS and to give residents and their families the choice to remain using government disability services.

You stated that under the NDIS no resident would be worse-off and we fail to see how you can keep this promise under privatisation.

Sincerely,



Brian Beecham



Deb Johnson



Patti Bradbury



Bruce McBroom



Leo Waterfall



Phil Lipshut

Roslyn Fitton

