

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **SENATE REPORT ON DISABILITY Due 8<sup>th</sup> February!**

**The Report of the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the funding and operation of the Commonwealth State and Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) is due on Thursday 8 February.** It will be posted on the web [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/cstda/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/cstda/index.htm)

This Report is of vital importance to people with disability and their families across Australia. It is through the CSTDA that Australia's Governments decide how they will work together to provide supports and services to meet the needs of people with disability and their families across Australia. The current CSTDA expires at the end of June and the next Agreement is being negotiated.

The current CSTDA has fallen well short of providing the supports and services that people with disability and their families need. They have been caught in the crossfire of Federal State relations. While they continue to struggle every day against, at times, insurmountable difficulties, governments have blamed each other for not providing even the most basic of services and supports.

The Senate Inquiry has looked very closely at the Agreement and how it has worked for people with disability and their families. The Committee has received submissions from, and spoken to, hundreds of people with disability, their families and organizations from around Australia.

A National CSTDA Community Alliance has been formed by people with disability, their families, organisations and disability sector representatives from across Australia *to take a stand for a fair go for people with disability and their families* [www.cstdaalliance.org.au](http://www.cstdaalliance.org.au)

In a National Position Statement the Alliance calls for a CSTDA that:

- Reflects a genuine commitment from the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to people with disability and their families.
- Demonstrates a commitment from the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to work in partnership.
- Provides a detailed plan to resolve the unmet need for support services and a commitment of funding to achieve this.
- Articulates a comprehensive national framework to provide supports and services into the future.
- Ensures services that meet the individual needs of each person with a disability.
- Fosters full participation of people with disability in the community.
- Guarantees, from the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, the increase in funding required to resolve the unmet need for support services and to ensure the adequate and effective provision of services into the future.

Alliance spokesperson, co-convenor Su-Hsien Lee has applauded the Senate for conducting this Inquiry. "The Alliance will be looking to the Report for recommendations to help ensure that the next CSTDA works for people with disability and their families".

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