

**NSW Council for Intellectual  
Disability  
3 April 2007**

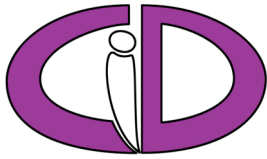
**Statement of Claim**

For many years the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability (NSW CID) has advocated for more money for accommodation services for people with intellectual disability in NSW. In May 2006 the NSW Government announced a plan for disability services, *Stronger Together* that promises to deliver significant additional accommodation, respite and therapy places for people with disability. NSW CID welcomes this progress.

*However* the additional funding accompanying the plan will not address the significant unmet need that we know still exists. Because no specific data in relation to unmet need is available it is difficult to quantify unmet need.

But we do know from calls to our Information Service and recent public meetings that many families are desperately struggling to support their sons and daughters. They are full-time carers: providing 24 hour personal care with no outside help or driving their son or daughter to a day program because no transport is available and constantly dealing with the uncertainty of their future.

**NSW CID calls on the both the Commonwealth and State governments to fund high quality accommodation and other supports and services that afford people with intellectual disability lives in the community that have meaning and dignity. Families of people with disability have the right to expect a life that is free of unnecessary struggle and they deserve the kind of certainty that families not affected by disability take for granted.**



## **Recommendations to the Senate Inquiry into the CSTDA**

- i) That consideration is given to the development of a National Disability Strategy that goes beyond the scope of the current and previous CSTDAs.
- ii) That the 4<sup>th</sup> CSTDA incorporate mechanisms across all jurisdictions for consistent data collection to determine unmet need.
- iii) That the 4<sup>th</sup> CSTDA incorporates performance management measures to ensure people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Indigenous people with disability are able to access services.
- iv) NSW CID strongly recommends that the next CSTDA enshrines a commitment to only funding accommodation supports and services that are compliant with Commonwealth and State legislation and that support adults with disability to live in a manner that is in keeping with community norms; i.e. people living alone or sharing houses or flats where they have their own room
- v) NSW CID strongly recommends that the 4<sup>th</sup> CSTDA enshrines a commitment to only funding employment supports for adults with disability to work in a manner that is in keeping with community norms; i.e. paid a living wage, having work that is interesting and having career development opportunities.
- vi) That work is done to explore the development of more flexible mechanisms to allow for self-managed funding, more case-based models and direct payments to people with disabilities and families.
- vii) NSW CID recommends that the Committee explore the potential of the German Long Term Care insurance and other international models.