

## **Disability funding talks break down**

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The states and the Federal Government have failed to agree on a new funding arrangement for disability services.

On the way into the meeting at the Marriott Hotel in Sydney, words were exchanged between the federal Community Services Minister, Mal Brough, and his Queensland and New South Wales counterparts, as people in wheelchairs and their carers looked on.

Inside, negotiations over a new five-year funding package for disability services broke-down for the second time this year.

The states want a funding boost to match Consumer Price Index growth, but the Federal Government says this is covered by the \$1.8 billion announced in the last budget.

Mr Brough says progress has been made in the talks, and the new money will provide more certainty for carers.

"What we can say to any person with a disability, is that the \$1.8b of new money is there, regardless of what the state or territory they live in decides to do," he said.

Negotiations have now been extended to December.

### **Carers disappointed**

Parents of disabled children say they are disappointed over what they call a lack of progress on funding for disability services.

Katrina Clark is the mother of a severely disabled girl.

She says that while the funding announced in the last budget is welcome, many carers will miss out.

"If this is it, and the door's closed then I would be terribly disappointed, because I'm only 45-years-old myself and I've got a long way off before my 10-year-old is turning 40, so I won't qualify for another 30 years," she said.