



Kevin Rudd MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Rob Allen
President, National Council on Intellectual Disability
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Dear Rob

Thank you for your fax of 29 June 2007, concerning the Labor Party policy on the current CSTDA negotiations.

Federal Labor has absolutely no intention of stripping funding from disability services and facilities.

Federal Labor initiated the first joint Commonwealth-State Disability Agreement in 1991. This agreement has resulted in dramatically improved services for people with disabilities and their families.

Our commitment to further improvements in services to people with disabilities was one of the reasons Labor recently initiated a Senate inquiry into the Funding and Operation of the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement, which is the funding mechanism for disability services. The Commonwealth contributes about 20% and the States and Territories 80%.

Evidence to the Inquiry from people with disabilities and their family carers across the country was consistent. Access to services, adequacy of support, reliability and predictability of services were issues raised in hearings and submissions.

Further, people expressed frustration and anger when governments blamed one another when service needs were unmet.