

# **Sydney morning Herald 18 June 2007.**

Taken from 'Letters to the Editor'

## **Parents of disabled children share a painful plight**

Thank you for highlighting a subject so painful for parents of disabled children ("Carers cry for the eternal children", June 16-17). As I am coming to an age where my friends with "normal" children are sighing with relief seeing their children leave the nest and eventually even offer support to their ageing parents, I ask: "Who will care for my babies?" - disabled twin daughters, aged 23.

**Leita Boltwood** Oakville

I have realised that we parents of disabled children display the best of the Anzac spirit. We dig ourselves into the trenches, making dangerous forays into enemy territory while exposing our private lives to attack, and even though we know the battle is dangerous and unlikely to succeed, we keep coming back again and again. My grandfather, Albert, who fought at Gallipoli, would be proud that Australians continue to fight against the odds nearly a century on. How long do we have to keep this up?

**Jenny Rollo** Putney

Kevin Rudd has spoken of his vision for a better, fairer Australia; he speculated that a new federalism could bring improvements to many areas of need. Mark Metherell's article portrays one pixel of a large picture of desperate need. Messrs

Howard and Rudd, I urge you to consider our plight.

**Catherine Murray** Wentworth Falls

My mother is now 87, wheelchair-bound with chronic osteoarthritis and in a nursing home. For 55 years she and my father cared for my brother Andrew. Now he is cast adrift, moving from respite home to respite home, some with wonderful caring people, some seem only in it for the money. He is bewildered, unable to communicate even such simple things as he is cold but needs help to put on a jumper. Permanent place for Andrew? The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care is looking, as it has been for the past nine months.

**Richard Kirby** Woodbine

Apparently the Government cannot find sufficient funds to provide adequate support services, respite or residential care for countless disabled children of desperately worried, ageing parents. Yet alongside the story was a large ad the Federal Government felt must be funded: "No tax on super payouts", despite the fact we are also advised "... every household will receive a booklet which is a guide to the changes ..."

**Antoinette Hirst** Double Bay