

Mary Wooldridge MP

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Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Media Release

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BRUMBY CONTINUES TO NEGLECT DISABILITY SUPPORT AND ACCOMMODATION

Victorian families wanting to access disability support are still waiting, highlighting an uncaring Brumby Government that cannot be trusted to provide these vital services, Shadow Minister for Community Services Mary Wooldridge said.

Government figures show that as at December 2009, there were 2,718 people on the Disability Support Register (DSR). This represents a 7 per cent increase compared with the same time the previous year.

These figures reveal that as at December 2009, there were:

- 193 people statewide waiting for day time activities;
- 1,234 people statewide waiting for support to live in the community; and
- 1,291 people statewide waiting for supported accommodation options.

The Southern Metropolitan region has 717 people on the DSR, the highest in the state and Barwon South West region had 210 people on the DSR, the most people recorded waiting for disability support in regional Victoria.

Statewide, the Loddon Mallee region had the greatest 12 month increase with a 93 per cent increase in people waiting for disability support, including a shocking 182 per cent increase in people waiting for support to live in the community.

“People with a disability cannot access much-needed programs and activities, and instead they spend years on never-diminishing waiting lists,” Ms Wooldridge said.

“Carers are crying out for help, frustrated with an inefficient system which does not even meet current demand, much less plan for the future.

“In many cases, ageing parents who have spent their lives caring for their disabled child are afraid to die for fear that their child will not receive proper care and accommodation.

“In addition to feeling incredibly stressed, families also feel neglected and abandoned by the Brumby Government as they are forced to wait in limbo for support they need and deserve.

“Victorian families are incredibly frustrated with an arrogant and out-of-touch Brumby Government.

“It is appalling that the Brumby Government does not care enough to provide the support and much-needed accommodation that vulnerable Victorians so desperately need,” Ms Wooldridge said.

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