

Media Release: - Wednesday September 15th 2010

S.A. Disability lists explode in lead up to Horror Budget

Kelly Vincent MLC (d4d) calls for the Disability Minister to resign!

The Adelaide Advertiser 15.09.2010

A DAMNING report into disability services shows almost 2000 people are on a waiting list for crucial State Government help, including more than 1300 at risk of harming their children or themselves.

The Disability SA report shows that, in the past 12 months, the number of disabled people who are homeless or at immediate risk of harm waiting for support has jumped by 55 per cent.

In the past six months, the unmet need for those in the "critical" category has increased by 120 per cent.

A response to the report by Disability Minister Jennifer Rankine, which praised the Government's achievements in the sector, has been slammed by Dignity for Disability MP Kelly Vincent.

Ms Vincent said she was "disgusted" by Ms Rankine's misrepresentation of the statistics, and has called for her to resign her disability portfolio.

"It was insulting. It makes me feel like the Government doesn't even have the decency to admit it is failing. It is not being honest with people," Ms Vincent said. People with disabilities in South Australia deserve a minister who is willing to acknowledge their needs and who acts appropriately to fix them."

Ms Vincent warned that without further funding to help those most at risk, there would be more instances of harm against disabled children or carers.

She said the case of Beverley Eitzen, who allegedly killed her disabled son in desperation last year, would "undoubtedly" be repeated without urgent intervention.

"We often talk to people who say their children would be better off dead than in the Government's hands," Ms Vincent said.

Glengowrie couple Bev and Paul Garton, who care for five adopted disabled children, said four of their children had been on waiting lists for supported accommodation for five years. "The part that gets up my nose is they can find \$500 million for the (Adelaide Oval) stadium and yet they can never seem to find enough for people with disabilities and I think that is atrocious," Mr. Garton said.

The report also found the unmet need for respite care had increased 80.5 per cent in the past 12 months, leaving 469 families still waiting.

It found that 1097 people are waiting for supported accommodation places.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/on-south-australias-disability-services-waiting-list/story-e6frea83-1225923065607>

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