

## POWER TO DESTROY

The Victorian government provides many millions of tax payer dollars to support people with intellectual and multiple disabilities to live in the community. Many live in supported accommodation group homes throughout Victoria, where the Department of Human Services is the service provider.

This government department, a direct service provider, spends a large portion of its massive budget on the production of care policies, standards, guidelines and values, in an attempt to ensure the residents of these group homes have a quality of life as the government intended in its legislation the, *Intellectually Disabled Persons' Service Act 1986*. Soon to become, *The Disability Act 2006*.

With the vast majority of the residents of these group homes having limited intellectual ability to make reasonable judgements in respect to all or any matters concerning their personal circumstances and/or estate (unable to care for themselves), the department employs a very large management team with the intention of setting, monitoring and maintaining direct care staff work value within departmental care policies, standards, guidelines and values, and within direct care staff job descriptions.

These direct care staff are intended to support people with intellectual and multiple disabilities in daily living and quality of life activities. They are intended to provide service level and quality to the residents of these group homes within departmental care policies, standards, guidelines and values, and within their job descriptions. Yet these direct care staff have, with the aid of their union HACSU, developed more power than the Minister for Community services!

Department management can be charged with bullying and intimidation if they dare suggest direct care staff actually work, let alone within care policies and values. Managers must not visit group homes without calling direct care staff first. House Supervisors must not attempt to supervise, they must not arrive early, or stay back late.

Direct care staff have over the years, with the aid of their union and the turn-a-blind-eye weak department management, developed the awesome power, the direct power lore to negate management direction, care policies and legislation, to destroy the quality of life government intended for these disadvantaged people in our community.