



Lifestyle in Supported Accommodation (LISA) Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Outrageous Board and Lodging Increases by DHS Victoria

A 50% increase in one hit - taking 75% of the disability pension

The Department of Human Services, Disability Services, Victoria, is demanding a 50% increase in living expenses from its supported accommodation group home residents, to allow it to continue as a service provider under the NDIS, as well as help offset the state's share of NDIS funding.

For years this department has made sure it had financial popularity to offset its very poor service record. This was done by underfunding the non-government services, so they have to charge their residents more to compensate for the shortfall in support-service funding provided to them by the department.

The department, consequently, being able to provide more support service funding to their own services, with their residents paying less than the residents of non-government services.

Now, the department's priority is to stay a service provider under the NDIS. This means it has to take a lower support service fee to compete with non-government services.

Having no scruples, the department is prepared to scalp its residents, in its desperate quest to stay as a service provider when all support service funding is from the NDIS. Yet it can be virtually guaranteed, the service level and quality will not change for the better in consequence of the proposed 50% increase in what DHS residents are currently paying.

The original intention of the NDIS was that no person with a disability should be required to pay any part of their support service costs. Yet this is clearly what the DHS have made CSO residents contribute to for years. And they are now expecting DHS residents to pay towards their support service costs, but far more than CSO residents, and all whilst the department wastes with its bureaucratic bungling.

Tony Tregale
Coordinator LISA Inc.

The objective of LISA Inc is to empower and support families with a member with an intellectual or multiple disability who is living in supported accommodation to better understand service provision procedures, care policies, standards and values, and thereby be better positioned to scrutinise service providers. And, to lobby service providers for consistent and meaningful provision of quality of life care.