



Lifestyle in Supported Accommodation (LISA) Inc

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For Immediate Release

State's Creative Accounting of Federal Funds

State Minister furious at being frustrated in attempts to extract unjustified money from people with disabilities, to fill the black hole in her budget last year, has been assisted to save face by the creative accounting of her department, the Department of Human Services (DHS) Victoria.

The department has bundled Rent and Housekeeping components for 2,300 residents of DHS group homes throughout the state, to make these residents eligible to receive the full CRA (Commonwealth Rent Assistance).

The department is, however, demanding this federal funding be handed over to the department in exchange for spasmodic white goods and domestic items which residents are occasionally required to pay in addition to that covered by their housekeeping charges which are currently quite comprehensive.

Residents will receive around \$270 per month in CRA from Centrelink. This will net the department over \$19,000 per year for a six bed group home or, \$7.4 million from the 2,300 DHS group home residents throughout the state.

Given the intention of the CRA is the benefit of people, not state governments, we question how much will go into the state government's general revenue pocket, how much will support residents and if the state government will ensure transparency of this federal money intended for people not government coffers.

With the DHS to have a comprehensive one-fee similar to aged-care residential, many families are concerned they and their family member will have little control or say in respect to the quality of the bulk purchases - such as food, manchester and whitegoods. Residents of aged care residential pay a similar one-fee, and have no choice or say in their institutional style lives!

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.