

Deception
The Illusion of Care, Protection and Rights in Victoria's Disability
Accommodation Sector

"The five case studies in our folio tear apart the deception occurring in Victoria's disability supported accommodation sector," said Max Jackson and Margaret Ryan. Max and Margaret are the authors of a folio of case studies analysing the experiences of five families with the disability sector.

"Deception is the name of the game, and power plays, threats and diversions, and the meeting treadmill are tactics and strategies used by service providers to keep control of the illusion that they are doing a good job." "These case studies are indicative of systemic practices in the disability sector," they said, "and expose the deception that is being perpetrated."

"It is not enough to pretend that the current institutional approaches and the way they are practised provide the answers. We see it as akin to what has happened with child abuse, where the realisation emerged that the abuse was far more widespread than ever contemplated and that it was far more systemic than just a handful of individual cases."

"It is not enough to hope that things will improve with the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Decisive action and government leadership are required to fix today's problems."

"Duty of care and the protection of rights for those people with disabilities who live in supported accommodation go well beyond platitudes and the illusion of care and protection."

"We have had parliamentary committee and audit reports into disability accommodation. There is a never-ending supply of strategic plans and standards and charters and principles, full of good intentions. Yet there are staff and organisations who either ignore them or pay lip service to them." "What is now required is a hard-hitting judicial inquiry into the disability accommodation system."

"The State of Victoria budgets over \$1.58 billion annually in Victoria's disability services. All people in Victoria, not just the families of people with disabilities, must have confidence in the disability care and support system."

18 February 2013

Contact: Max Jackson, Mobile 0413 040 654. Margaret Ryan, Mobile 0412 409 610.