

Terror, like charity, begins at home

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CRPD



- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2006. It entered into force at the international level on 3 May 2008. It is now the principal international instrument dealing with the human rights of persons with disability.
- The CRPD was developed in an effort to overcome the 'invisibility' of persons with disability in international human rights law and practice. Although the major human rights covenants apply to persons with disability on an equal basis with others, it is now generally accepted that these treaties have done little in fact to protect, promote and fulfill the rights of persons with disability.
- CRPD makes it clear that understanding disability according to the social model is essential to a human rights based approach to the needs and concerns of persons with disability.

Core elements of the right to housing



- Legal security of tenure
- Availability of infrastructure and services
- Affordable housing
- Habitable housing
- Accessible housing
- Housing Location
- Culturally adequate housing

When a home isn't even a house



“People with a disability do not want to live together just because they have a disability, but they do want secure homes. People with a disability do not want to play ‘tourist’ or ‘visitor’ in their local communities, moving around and recreating in large congregated groups as though they all share exactly the same interests. But they do want to be part of their local community, to be genuinely included...”

Institutions



- The NSW Government gave a commitment in 1995 to relocate people with disability living in DADHC provided and funded institutions to community based supported accommodation options. By 2010, people with disability would be living in the community.
- The NSW Government broke this commitment when it announced in its 10 Year Plan, *Stronger Together* that three DADHC provided institutions would not close but would be redeveloped. These institutions are Peat Island, the Lachlan Centre and Grosvenor Centre.

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Boarding Houses



- Licensed Residential Centres (LRC's) are legally required to be licensed by DADHC when a boarding houses provides accommodation to two or more people with social habilitation needs.
- Was a transitional accommodation support arrangement contained in the YaCS Act 1973
- As of January 2009 there were in 927 beds in 45 LRC's (average of 20.6 people per LRC – largest is 105 people in on centre, largest number of people in one room – 7 as far as we are aware).

Group Homes



- the 'contemporary' institutional housing and support option that are actually segregated simulations of the larger group style accommodation. Subject to other human rights considerations being satisfied, if persons with disability were to choose to live in larger group environments with a range of other persons of their choice, there would be no objection to such arrangements. However, that is not what the proposed 'contemporary' institutional models of accommodation involve. They segregate persons with disability from their non-disabled peers.

An agenda for action



- close all residential institutions accommodating persons with disability
- provide persons with disability with control over the resources they require to live with dignity in the community
- increase the availability of social support services
- increase the availability of accessible social housing for persons with disability
- building regulation that will ensure that all future residential accommodation is accessible and adaptable



“... In general, we have closed down the large institutions. We must always remember why and never look to re-open them or to replace large institutions with small institutions. People with disabilities belong in the community. If that requires a degree of government and community effort, so be it. Even if it makes some of us in the community uncomfortable, we are the ones who need to change.”

Senator Sue Boyce, 12 June 2007.

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