



Media Release

Wednesday 6th November

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Be careful what you wish for”

QAI responds to the article in the Bendigo Advertiser which states *“The report by Anglicare Sydney recommends state funding for a shared care residential school model in which children would be in care during the week and with their families on the weekend.”*

We understand the angst many families experience due to a lack of funded supports to enable their loved ones with disability to remain at home.

“As tempting as it may seem to try to force the hand of government (by relinquishment) to deliver supports and services needed to keep my daughter with me, I would be terrified of what may happen to her in any shared care living arrangement” said Michelle O’Flynn – Acting Director of Queensland Advocacy Incorporated.

It is alarming that a support service would recommend a model that is clearly a return to institutional living. It is disappointing that Anglicare would promote this despite the evidence that proves that this model of care is ineffective, expensive and most detrimental to both the residents and their families.

Further to the Bendigo Advertiser article, Anglicare went to the ABC Radio Program with Tony Eastley to promote their centre-based respite option and to suggest that the NDIS fund such facilities in order to support carers.

We find this very distressing that a service provider would attempt to usurp the NDIS into supporting archaic outmoded facilities and use families in a bid to prop up their own failing business. It is clear that at least one service provider has misunderstood that the NDIS is meant to support the persons with a disability – not carers, not service providers. This is finally for the people with disability themselves!

“If funding and supports are directed to the individual with a disability (no matter how young or old) to have a life of their own, then carers are supported and there is no need for traditional respite”.

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QAI endorses the objectives, and promotes the principles, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Patron: Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley, AC Governor of Queensland

QAI would encourage any services, family members, allies and advocates to engage in vigorous, loud, systemic advocacy for adequate funds and better service delivery models. Anything less is to ignore the lessons from history and to reinforce the devaluation of people with disability.

Join QAI and its efforts for community living options for all people with disability.

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