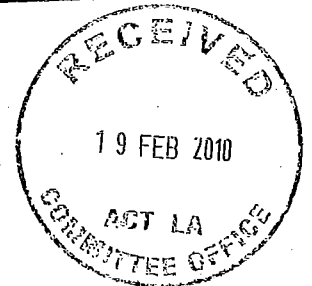


18 February 2010

Standing Committee on Health,
Community and Social Services
ACT Legislative Assembly
PO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Attention: Grace Concannon



Dear Grace

I received an email from Community Living on 18 February 2010 asking for parents' views and experiences of respite services, I therefore provide the following response.

My daughter [REDACTED] (aged 13) who suffers from a moderate intellectual disability did utilise respite services in the Teen House last year.

[REDACTED] was unhappy during her stay ringing my husband and I asking to come home. We tried on three occasions to use the Teen House thinking that she just needed to adapt, however on each occasion she asked not to return.

I feel that she was placed in the facility with other children that suffered from a severe disability and she was unable to interact with them.

There were also no activities to occupy her time for example bike riding, basketball, craft, swimming, gymnastics, bowling etc.

Another aspect was that she did not feel comfortable staying overnight and I am not sure why that was the case.

What my husband and I would like to see is a facility where children with disabilities could attend during school holidays. The facility would need to provide a range of activities as mentioned above, at a reasonable cost. At present there is only one facility (Noah's Ark) available in the ACT, however it is very expensive and only offers a few placements.



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