

Subject: RE: Inquiry into respite care services in the ACT

Dear Grace, thankyou. I ran out of time not ideas, and I assume email is a written reply.

My concerns regard the carers sent in to provide the respite, and their individual abilities to settle the carer who is taking the break, and to calm their fears about leaving their person with an unknown. Also their abilities with the client left in their care. Lack of a criminal record is not enough of a recommendation for the staff left on their own with a vulnerable person. Going to dot point now.

*I see that for some a little extra time and patience as well as competence is required for the carer to leave and enjoy their break without concerns about what is going on at home. This trust for some takes a little longer to establish and is a very significant part of the benefit of the respite time away. I know of carers who are so concerned about the ordeal their person is going to put the staff member in that they prefer to stay rather than pass on the trauma. They find it easier to stay and suffer. I think it is important for us to develop a better service.

*Info about the care recipient need not be a novel, but time needs to be given to this.

*Very clear instructions or directions need to be communicated on an individual basis as all are different. The expectations from both parties need to be clear and respite is not to be a domestic service.

I really have no time now but I consider this a very important issue and one that has concerns me. I work as a carer and the picture could be better by a long way.

Thankyou,