As carers we are predicatably late in doing what we need to do - such is our lot. We have so much to say but no time to say it

What is not right with the provsion of care in the ACT should be quite obvious to the commitee.

Lack of funding and too many administrators.

An absence of carer/parental control or autonomy in the supply of ad hoc 3rd rate services. Agencies like Tandem that have become a disgrace and the plaything of mangerial cultures and `executives'. We have been with Fabric/Tandem for 8 years and never been offerd the chance of anonymous feedback. No other agency using tax payers' fund coud get away with such a lack of auditing. Teachers face it every year.

Carers ACT is well meaning but woefully inefficient. Funds are distributed in a random fashion to loud voices or just as the funds come in - there is little ranking of needs. They do not have the resources and of course don't know those who are not registered with them - or are too busy with caring to chase funds.

Our son has autism, is 10 years old and wants friends and I have argued for play groups. Canberra has an excess of infrastructure. I have sought this and no agency provides. The new Rudd scheme might service those younbger but I am told that special needs play groups would be seen to go against inculusion. What crap - we and our son are excluded every day. One needs to chase ISP support and do all the paperwork. GIVE US VOCUHERS! I am near 60 and need to be his best play mate.

Much good care could be proived at quite low cost - and we can charge parents without guilt. Monkey Mania is enourmosly popular. Even that as a model is more than the state provides.

I won't go on about Therapy ACT - it is a sham and should be disbanded and the funds distributed to parents to spend on care and therapies. They always want to close your case book - even when they have failed to provide input.

Like with education in Victoria I think - there needs to be a Commissoner of Carers/Disabilities - these ACT govt employees do not have our interest at heart - they defend the `policy'.

We are heard only in such enquiries and then forgotten - there needs to be permanent representation of carers and some grunt attached

Pleased to talk more when Im am less tires and late