

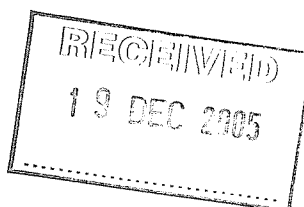
Hon Carmel Zollo MLC

05PAR/0442

Ms Karin MacDonald MLC
Chair

The Standing Committee on Health and Disability
of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
SUBMISSION NUMBER	22
DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION	21/12/05



**Government
of South Australia**

Minister for Mental Health and
Substance Abuse

Minister for Emergency
Services

Minister Assisting in Regional
Health

Minister Assisting the Minister
for Industry and Trade

Level 11, 50 Pirie Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 1563
Adelaide SA 5001
DX128
Ph: 08 8463 6611
Fax: 08 8463 6642

Dear Ms MacDonald

Thank you for your letter of 15 September 2005, concerning the Inquiry into appropriate housing for people living with mental illness being conducted by the Standing Committee on Health and Disability of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT.

May I direct you to a relatively recent report into supported accommodation that was undertaken by the South Australian Parliament's Social Development Committee, tabled in November 2003, and available on the web site www.parliament.sa.gov.au. I believe that there is a degree of overlap between the terms of reference of your Committee and the South Australian inquiry.

The SA Department of Health transfers funding of \$1.882 million per annum to the SA Department for Families and Communities for psycho-social support for people with psychiatric disabilities. This funding covers three metropolitan and eight country supported-accommodation initiatives.

The goals of these projects include sustainable community tenure, improved health and quality of life and reduced demand on the acute mental health sector. The programs offer a minimum of 84 and maximum of 93 metropolitan places and a minimum of 45 and maximum of 62 places in country areas. The projects are based on the provision of an integrated model of care in partnership between the consumer, specialist mental health services, the support provider (NGOs) and the social housing provider.

The Department of Health funding is in some cases the sole funding for the project, in others it is combined with Commonwealth State & Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) funding and, in one case, SA Community Housing and CAP funding. This health funding for psycho-social support for people with psychiatric disability has been provided because, historically, CSTDA funding has not gone to this population in South Australia, despite the fact that this group is a priority under the CSTDA. Similarly, HACC allocation to people with psychiatric disabilities is very low in South Australia compared to other jurisdictions. This is at a time when mental health reform is a priority

for this Government and there is an urgent need to support people with psychiatric disability to live in the community.

In line with the National Mental Health Plan, people currently residing in long term institutional care in South Australia will be progressively returned to live in the community with appropriate support. The Department of Health will be rolling out both clinical rehabilitation services and psycho-social support for these people with complex needs. However, there will be a need to ensure more stable accommodation in the communities where they wish to live or may still have a natural connection.

People with a psychiatric disability are clearly one of the most disadvantaged groups amongst whom there is a high prevalence of homelessness. The South Australian State Housing Plan identifies them as a vulnerable population.

Whilst there is often good local cooperation with SA Housing Trust offices, there is a need for a more formal planning process between the public housing sector and mental health services to anticipate the increasing and different demands that will eventuate from transferring people with psychiatric disability back to their communities.

Yours sincerely



Hon Carmel Zollo MLC

Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Minister for Emergency Services

Minister Assisting in Regional Health

Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry and Trade

14 December 2005