



## MEDIA STATEMENT

12th July 2016

### DSC HOMES VOTE TO STAY IN PUBLIC HANDS

In a resounding voice to keep public services in public hands, people living in Disability Services Commission accommodation have unanimously voted to stay in the public system. When sweeping changes came through last year, then Minister Helen Morton announced that 60% of accommodation services would be privatised.

The rest of DSC's accommodation services would be given a choice; to stay within the public system or also be privatised.

Last week, the DSC homes that were given a choice unanimously voted to stay within the public system.

Secretary of CPSU/CSA Toni Walkington says it's no surprise.

"We knew that if given the choice, people would choose the Commission's services. It makes sense that established relationships with Social Trainers and staff working to support accommodation services would be preferable for families."

"It has been heartbreaking working with families whose lives have been thrown into turmoil by the decision to forcibly privatise some accommodation services," Ms Walkington said. The overwhelming endorsement to stay with DSC is a reflection on the great work Social Trainers working in group homes do.

Maz Kowald who Chairs *Caring About Residents with Disabilities* says staff are vital for well-functioning accommodation services.

"The staff are not just carers – they are friends who have been alongside us through thick and thin, some for many years."

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#### For further comment

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