



MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday, 25 February 2016

MINISTER OUT OF TOUCH

The Disability Services Minister, Helen Morton, yesterday claimed that the privatisation of group homes is providing positive outcomes for people with a disability.

CPSU/CSA Branch Assistant Secretary, Rikki Hendon, says the statement proves the Minister is out of touch with what is really happening during the privatisation process.

“The Minister wanted to have 53 group homes privatised by October last year. Four months after that deadline only 18 homes have been transitioned to private providers.

“If the Minister thinks privatisation is a success then she needs to have a chat with the families and staff that we hear from every day.

“They raise real concerns about funding, service delivery, accountability and outcomes for the people they care about. These are concerns the Minister does not want to hear.

“Last week we learned that a person with a disability, who had opted to go with a private provider, found himself back in emergency care with the Disability Services Commission after less than a year.

“There are some genuine questions about why this option failed in such a short time. Why did this happen and what is the Minister doing to make sure it doesn't happen again?

“The Ministers talks a lot about choice for people with disability but fails to provide a genuine choice when it comes to service provision.

“A real choice would mean an opportunity to choose their current provider and the long-term, committed Social Trainers that they have built relationships with whilst in Disability Services Commission accommodation.

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“The Minister is wrong to say that the service she is responsible for is a poorer cousin to the service provided by non-government organisations.

“Privatisation of disability services is not the answer to this Government’s budget woes, providing outcome based care for people with disability is.”

FOR COMMENT:

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