



# MEDIA RELEASE

**RUTH FORREST MLC**

**PO BOX 104, WYNYARD TAS 7325 TEL: 03 6443 8600 FAX: 03 6443 8603**

## **NO RESPITE FOR DISABILITY CLIENTS**

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest has today highlighted the issues of under funding and a chronic lack of resources and support for disability services on the North West.

“The under funded and under resourced disability services on the North West Coast deal with some of the most complex and difficult clients in the State, often with significant mental health issues as well as an increasing broad and complex range of disabilities, with lack of allied support services” Ms Forrest stated.

The North West Coast has only one adult respite centre in Burnie that services the North West region including Circular Head, the West Coast and North West Coast through to Devonport and all areas in between.

“This respite service provides respite for clients and their families for approximately 40 – 50 clients and has recently been closed to all clients except two clients who have such complex needs that the centre has been unable to provide respite to any other clients whilst managing these clients” Ms Forrest stated.

“There is an urgent need for support and funding for services to meet the requirements of these complex and high needs clients, who do not ‘fit in’ to other services. This must be addressed as a matter of urgency, with a long term solution, not just with a short term fix” Ms Forrest said.

Ms Forrest has been assured that this situation will be resolved within the next week.

“Whilst assurances have been given regarding a resolution for this appalling situation, an review of services and commitment to a long term solution, that is appropriately funded and provides certainty for the families who utilise this service, must be provided by the Minister for Health and Human Services” Ms Forrest stated.

May 30<sup>th</sup> 2007

For further information phone 0419 879 524

The following people represent the families that rely on this respite service and are willing to discuss their personal experience.

Wendy Cumming – 0429 312 052  
Diane Ewington 6431 6349 or 0400 623 121  
Glenda Scaddan 6432 4433 (Class Boutique)