



Inquiry into the Principles and Objectives that should form the basis of the new Disability Services Act

The House of Assembly has resolved to refer to the Joint Standing Committee on Community Development for investigation the matter of the principles that will form the basis of the new Disability Services Act.

The Minister for Health, the Hon Lara Giddings MP, moved the motion for this inquiry and received the full support of all Members who agreed that past practices such as the institutionalisation of children with disabilities and the consequent damage and abuse that has been suffered is not acceptable and must not be allowed to recur.

Accordingly the new Disability Services Act will require strong principles and objectives that will ensure equal rights for people with disabilities as enjoyed by other members of our community.

The Joint Standing Committee on Community Development will investigate and report upon:

1. the objectives, outcomes and principles that should form the basis of the new Disability Services Act to ensure the approach of institutional care as experienced in Willow Court cannot happen again;
2. whether the legislative outcomes reflect the Tasmanian Government's obligations to protect human rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and
3. whether the quality and safety framework governing specialist disability service provision is consistent with modern approaches to service provision.

Individuals and organisations with an interest in any of these matters are invited to forward a written submission to the Committee addressed to the Secretary, Joint Standing Committee on Community Development, Parliament House, Hobart, 7000, by the close of business on Friday, 1 May 2009.

Hon Kerry Finch MLC
CHAIRMAN

Submissions become Committee documents and are made public only after a decision by the Committee. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are protected by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not. The Committee encourages the lodgement of submissions in electronic form. Emailed submissions must include name, phone number and postal address. Guidelines for witnesses and the preparation of a submission are available on the Internet at <http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/> or by contacting the Secretary – **Ph: (03) 6233 2248 – Fax: (03) 6233 8103 – Email: committees@parliament.tas.gov.au**