

Bonuses Paid while Disabled Suffer

The Age Farrah Tomazin, 17 September 2010, Victoria

Disabled and mentally ill Victorians have received sub-standard care - and in some cases had their lives placed at risk - while executives from the departments overseeing them have been paid lucrative bonuses in the past year.

In a damning report tabled in Parliament yesterday, the Office of the Public Advocate has warned that some of the most vulnerable Victorians are not getting the care or accommodation they require because of under-funding, under-qualified staff and a lack of long-term planning.

In one case, an elderly resident with dementia was restrained in a chair for 11 hours a day, but staff had not been trained on how to use the restraint or aware that there could be adverse effects. In another case, a gravely ill woman, who took more than five weeks and three trips to hospital before she was diagnosed, did not get 24-hour nursing care when she returned to her residential home. And in one residential home, a disabled person who suffered epileptic seizures at night was found soaked in urine most mornings" because there were no night staff to attend to his needs.

To read the full article, visit <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/bonuses-paid-while-disabled-suffer-20100916-15eob.html>

Disabilities 'forgotten': Opposition

AAP, 15 September 2010

Disabilities are a forgotten area of social policy, the new opposition spokesman says.

Liberal senator Mitch Fifield was appointed shadow disabilities, carers and voluntary sector minister on Tuesday.

Senator Fifield criticised Labor for ditching its parliamentary secretary for disabilities role - formerly occupied by Bill Shorten - following the party's portfolio reshuffle last week.

To read full article, visit <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/disabilities-forgotten-opposition-20100915-15bat.html>

