



Andrew Constance MP
Shadow Minister for Disability Services
Shadow Minister for Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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**KENEALLY AND ROOZENDAAL
DENY FUNDING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE**

The 2010/11 State Budget has provided no certainty for the continued funding of Stronger Together, the NSW 10 year plan for disability services, Shadow Minister for Disability Services said today.

“This week’s budget delivered no new monies for Disability Services as there has been no new allocation since 2006,” Mr Constance said.

“Kristina Keneally and Eric Roozendaal have denied people with disability, their carers and families funding certainty, despite efforts by the disability sector to attain firm financial commitments for the second five years of Stronger Together through the forward estimates,” he said.

“The plan remains unfunded for the years 2011 – 2016.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals have always demonstrated a clear commitment to the Stronger Together Plan in a bipartisan way, given the enormous benefits this plan derives for people with disability, their carers and families.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals are disappointed the future funding of disability services in NSW has been put in jeopardy by the heartless Keneally Labor Government.

“Not only will the Keneally Labor Government’s decision have enormous emotional repercussions on people with disability and their families, it will leave the entire sector without the certainty it needs to plan for future service provision.

“After intense nationwide and very public lobbying in the media from groups such as NCOSS, Carers Alliance and Australians Mad as Hell about the broken and dysfunctional disability system, this funding letdown is a slap in the face for people with disability and carers.

“Kristina Keneally has failed the test of ensuring people with disability would be at the heart of her Labor Government – in fact this is a clear demonstration that she is unable to hold sway over one of Labor’s infamous factional players; Eric Roozendaal.

“The Keneally Labor Government has failed to provide a five year funding arrangement for a 10 year disability services plan that has been in place since 2006.

“The Keneally Labor Government’s priorities are all wrong.

“The belated 13 community consultations on this issue ahead of an Australian Services Union's (ASU) Pay Equity Claim to be heard in October is a token gesture from the Keneally Labor Government, who is only interested in ticking boxes and keeping up appearances.

“If you want to change NSW, you need to change the State Government in March 2011,” Mr Constance said.

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