

National Disability Strategy

launched in Melbourne by Jan McLucas, Dr Rhonda Galbally, Mr Simon McKeon and Professor Ron McCallum.

The National Disability Strategy was officially launched in Melbourne on Friday 18 March, 2011, by Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Jan McLucas, together with Dr Rhonda Galbally, Chair of the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council, Mr Simon McKeon, Australian of the Year and Professor Ron McCallum AO, Senior Australian of the Year.

‘This is the first time in Australia’s history that the Commonwealth, State and Territory, and Local Government have agreed to a unified, national approach to improve the lives of people with disability,’ Parliamentary Secretary McLucas said.

‘We will continue to work with people with disability, their families and carers, and the disability services sector, to deliver changes that will improve people's lives. The strategy provides \$11 million in new funding for accessibility packages to improve access to cinemas, local communities and library materials as well as liveable housing design, leadership development and the new ABC Ramp Up website.’

The long term strategy is supported by six key areas which aim to remove barriers and expand opportunities for people with disability and their carers through the support of:

- inclusive and accessible communities
- rights, protection, justice and legislation
- economic security
- personal and community support
- learning and skills
- health and wellbeing.

For more information or to access a copy of the National Disability Strategy, including accessible formats, visit www.fahcsia.gov.au

LISA Comment: This is similar philosophy to the care policies, standards and values of the Department of Human Services, Disability Service, Victoria, for supported accommodation group homes, where the major problem is converting theory into meaningful practice.

At present (2011), consumers have little or no choice of service provider. Service providers, especially DHS direct service provision, do not have to please consumers to retain them.

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