

Social Inclusion is: "Learn, Work, Engage, have a Voice"
A National Compact is:
**"Governments developing 'Social Inclusion' with the
third sector - the NGOs, the NFPs, the CSOs"**

The Australian Government, as part of its social inclusion agenda, wants to develop a new and stronger relationship with the third sector in Australia.

<http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Compact/Pages/OnlineForum.aspx>

The Community Service Organisations want to see the *National Compact* include an explicit emphasis on the financial relationship between government and community service organisations.

LISA would like to see explicit emphasis on the reduction of unnecessary bureaucratic power over people with disabilities and their families, the gap between service intention and service provision significantly reduced and the gap between human rights intention and human rights provision significantly reduced. And, the establishment of a financially strong and independent parent/carer/family association to help even the playing field for families.

The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, and Parliamentary Secretary the Hon Senator Ursula Stephens are leading the governments work on generating an active, robust and creative engagement with the third sector organisations that deliver so many important services in our community.

One way to do this is through a national compact .This is an agreement between the Australian Government and the third sector which will describe how we will all work together to improve and strengthen our relationship, and our services to the community.

In other countries a national compact is used to provide a framework for building capacity in the sector to manage change and as a platform for helping to design policies and programs that help to achieve outcomes that are part of shared policy priorities. Similar agreements are already in place in some Australian states and territories.

If there is a lesson to be learnt from the first 10 years of the Compact in England, it is that policies, however admirable and widely agreed, **need support to be implemented**. A significant part of refreshing the Compact documents is to improve implementation of both the specific commitments which the documents set out as well as the broad principles on which they are based, so that the benefits of partnership working between the public sector and the third sector can be more fully realised.

LISA Comment: We quote from above: *"Policies. however admirable and widely agreed, need support to be implemented"*. This is exactly what we are saying is needed with DHS care policies, standards and values for the care of people with disabilities.

DHS HO need to actively support the implementation of the direction, intention and spirit of their care policies, standards, and values at the regional service points, to ensure quality of life care is consistent across all service points.

The wonderful glossy commitments and intentions of DHS HO, the Senior Practitioner and the Australian Centre for Human Rights Education need to be fully realised by those in our community who are so disadvantaged - those with an intellectual or multiple disability.

Tony & Heather Tregale
LIFESTYLE IN SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION (LISA) INC.
Tel: 03-9434-3810.