

Disability Reform Group

Press Release

Disability Reform Group - Media Release 26 September 2002

On this long awaited day, the Disability Reform Group is pleased to support the majority of the Government's responses to the Inquiry into Disability Services.

Since last February the DRG has worked tirelessly with Disability ACT, to address the issues that Justice Gallop identified in his report together with the other areas identified by the community as in need of reform.

The reforms announced today will see Canberrans with disability have more choice in their lives to assist them to truly become full and contributing members of the ACT community. The intent of the reforms is to create a system which is responsive to and respectful of the needs and aspirations of people with disabilities.

Significant change of this kind requires commitment on the part of government and service providers. It also requires people with disabilities and their families to continue to believe in and pursue their hopes and dreams.

The cornerstone of reform is the recognition that people with disabilities are full citizens of the ACT and as such deserve choices to assist them to lead full and worthwhile lives.

To achieve these reforms the partnership between Government and community must continue.

The DRG believe that to make this partnership effective and a productive one, people with disabilities must be key players in the decision making processes along side government, service providers and family members.

We are currently working on mechanisms that will see this happen more effectively.

Today the Government announced its responses to Justice Gallop's recommendations. Out of the fifty recommendations made by Gallop, there are only a handful where the DRG and the Government differed in their responses. Both parties have announced their intention to strive to meet the interests people with disabilities, their families and allies in these areas of difference.

In short, today is the day when the reform process moves into top gear and practices and processes are begun which will provide people with disabilities with greater choice and the opportunity to join more fully into ACT community life.

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