



# More supported accommodation for people with disability

**Julia Gillard and Labor**  
Let's move Australia forward



## **BUILDING MORE SUPPORTED ACCOMODATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY**

The Gillard Labor Government will deliver more supported accommodation and respite for people with disability.

For the first time Federal Labor will be giving community organisations the opportunity to apply for direct capital funding from the Federal Government for supported accommodation and respite facilities, with the first capital grants provided in 2011.

Community organisations are uniquely placed to develop accommodation and respite options that capitalise on local support and resources, and meet the needs of people with disability and their carers in an inventive way.

Projects could include a modern renovation of an existing home so it can be used for supported accommodation, pooled resources to build a contemporary facility close to local community and health services to provide overnight respite, or expanding an established facility to provide more places.

Up to 150 additional places are expected to be delivered through the \$60 million investment that will be provided under this initiative.

### **Why we need supported accommodation**

The Gillard Labor Government believes people with disability should be supported to live full and enriched lives. Federal Labor also believes family members caring for a loved one with disability should be able to access the services and support they need, especially older carers who have often dedicated their life to caring for a son or daughter with disability.

Supported accommodation allows people with disability to live independently in the community with appropriate support and care. Supported accommodation also provides a sense of security and confidence that loved ones are being cared for in an appropriate environment. Overnight respite can provide a vital short term break for full time carers to recharge their batteries, spend time with other children or to spend some time on themselves.

Long waiting lists for accommodation support are common for people with severe or profound disability and there is significant unmet demand for places.<sup>1</sup> The number of people in Australia with severe or profound disability continues to grow at a significant rate and there are high numbers of people with disability who are being cared for in the family home and whose parents are ageing.<sup>2</sup>

The supply of affordable and appropriate housing and appropriate respite options is critical to ensure people with severe or profound disability do not experience institutionalisation or neglect. It also ensures people with disability are cared for in accommodation that is appropriate for their age. Federal Labor has already made significant increases in funding for disability services and affordable housing, including delivering more supported accommodation.

The Gillard Labor Government understands that more must be done and is committed to delivering more supported accommodation and respite facilities, especially for people with disability who have older parent carers.

### **What will this mean for people with disability and their families?**

This initiative will encourage community organisations to develop innovative models for delivering supported accommodation and respite to people with disability.

Community based organisations will be able to leverage local support and build off existing investments to develop proposals requiring capital investment. Providing capital investment direct to community-led projects will help locally driven projects get off the ground.

The \$60 million investment is expected to deliver up to 150 additional supported accommodation places.

These places will particularly benefit people who are currently on waiting lists for accommodation support and those who have older parent carers.

The supported accommodation places will allow people with disability to live independently from their family, in a safe and supported environment.

Additional respite facilities will allow more carers to have a break with confidence that their loved one is being cared for in a high quality and suitable environment.

The new supported accommodation places will provide families and carers, particularly ageing parent carers, peace of mind, knowing that their loved one will be cared for in an appropriate environment when they are no longer able to care for them. Carers will also have more opportunities to participate in social, economic and community life.

### **Federal Labor's record**

In direct response to the concerns of older carers, in 2008 Federal Labor provided \$100 million in capital funds to the States and Territories to build more than 300 new supported

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<sup>1</sup> AIHW, June 2007

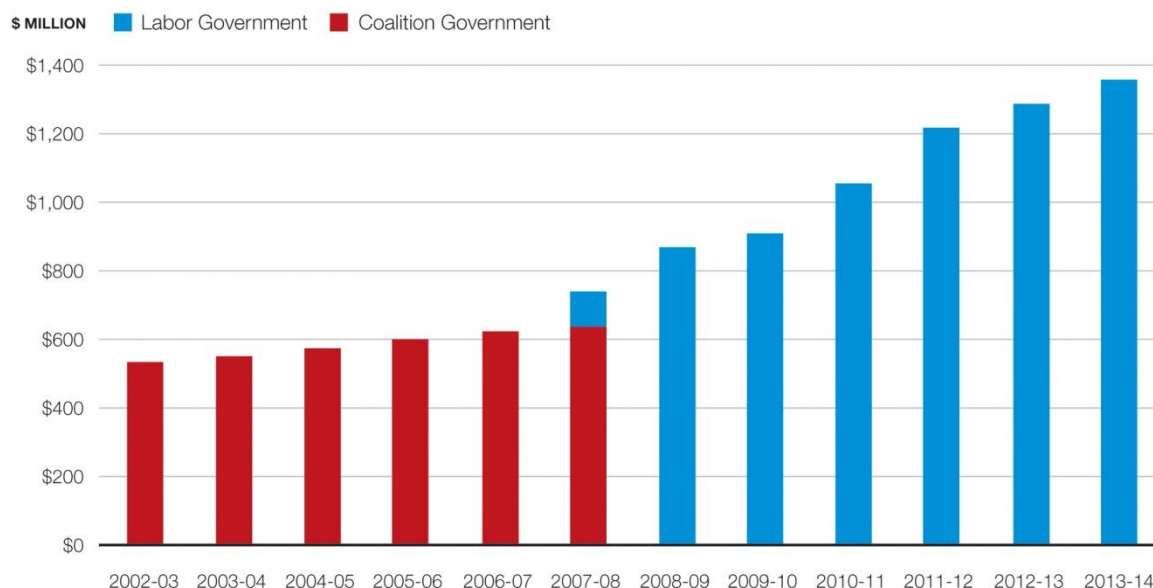
<sup>2</sup> AIHW, June 2007

accommodation places nationally by 2012. Already 93 places have been delivered and are supporting people with disability, the rest are on track for completion by 2012.

The Gillard Labor Government is also providing more than \$6 billion to the States and Territories over five years for more and improved specialist disability services under the National Disability Agreement. This investment includes providing care and support through 2,376 new supported accommodation places, 2,284 new in-home support places and 9,964 new respite places.

By 2012, the Gillard Labor Government will have doubled the Commonwealth's contribution to disability services under the National Disability Agreement compared to the former Coalition Government.

## Commonwealth funding under National Disability Agreement



### How will the supported accommodation be delivered?

The \$60 million investment will deliver capital funding for the construction of new innovative, community-based supported accommodation.

Funding will be allocated via an open tender process. Community organisations, non-government organisations, State and Territory disability authorities and Governments will be encouraged to apply.

The fund will provide capital investment for projects that deliver value for money and those that have:

- Been developed in partnership with community and disability organisations.
- An ability to deliver supported accommodation or respite services.
- Secured recurrent funding to meet ongoing care costs - through philanthropy, ancillary business activities, or State Government funding for example.

- Innovative supported accommodation and/or respite delivery that adheres to best practice service standards and reflects the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability.

Projects could include a modern renovation of an existing home so it can be used for supported accommodation, pooled resources to build a contemporary facility close to community and health services, or expanding an established facility.

The dwelling sizes will vary depending on need and may include functional fit out and appropriate assistive technologies, such as hoists.

#### Case Study

Alison is 70 years old and lives in regional Queensland with her adult son James, aged 45 years, who has a severe form of autism. James currently receives 15 hours of in-home care per week and also goes to a local day service where he is supported with daily living tasks and engages in recreational activities. Alison also receives occasional respite support. Alison and James get support from a local community-based group, Tropical Care, where they spend time with other families in similar circumstances.

James has been on a waiting list for supported accommodation for 10 years. As Alison is getting older, she is starting to worry about what will happen to James in the future.

Through Tropical Care, Alison and other parents have developed a proposal for an innovative supported accommodation facility close to health services.

The facility has the support of the local council and Tropical Care has revenue to sustain ongoing care and support costs. Tropical Care is successful in an application for \$1.3 million to fund capital works on a four bed facility.

James is provided with a place in the facility, providing him secure and independent accommodation amongst peers while still being close to Alison. Alison no longer has to bear a full time care load and is less worried about James' long term care.

#### Financial Implications (\$m, underlying cash balance)

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
	-8.0	-26.0	-26.0	-60.0

Funding for this program will be fully offset over the forward estimates, consistent with the Gillard Labor Government's commitment to return the budget to surplus in three years.

## THE COALITION'S RECORD

In government, the Coalition ignored disability.

As a Cabinet Minister in the former Coalition Government, Tony Abbott and the Coalition:

- ✘ Allowed funding for disability services to stagnate under the failed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA).
- ✘ Oversaw Commonwealth contributions to disability funding under the CSTDA grow at a measly 1.8 per cent a year, less than the rate of inflation, which effectively saw the Australian Government's investment go backwards.
- ✘ Provided just \$620 million in 2006-07 to the States and Territories for disability services compared with the more than \$1 billion the Gillard Labor Government will spend in 2010-11.
- ✘ Ignored the recommendations of the Senate Inquiry into the CSTDA to provide increased funding for disability services after initially voting down the bi-partisan inquiry to try and stop it proceeding at all.
- ✘ Sat on their hands while demand in the disability service system increased and the capacity for an ageing population to provide informal care diminished.

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