



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



2,173 DISABLED PEOPLE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA ARE NOT GETTING HELP

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FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has expressed shock at audit data he has received via Freedom of Information request that shows that as at 21 November 2008, 2,173 disability services clients were rated as having “unmet needs”.

In the supported housing area, the 1,884 clients with unmet needs is **58% more** than what the Government had anticipated, with 1,100 predicted in a briefing report that was provided by the Department of Families and Communities’ Research and Analysis Unit.

Alarming, Category 1 (serious danger imminent) needs for supported accommodation or personal support at home were 438.

(FAMILY FIRST notes that Category 1 criteria is defined by the Department as being either “a situation that is causing IMMEDIATE harm OR Carer or consumer in immediate danger due to abuse/violence OR Death of carer or life threatening illness”)

From the total 2,173 people whose needs are not being met by disability services, 853 (39%) of them were in need of supported accommodation and a further 1031 (47%) needed personal support at home – meaning 1,884 of 2,173 (86%) of those with “unmet needs” were needing some form of accommodation support.

The 2,173 people span four categories: Accommodation Support (see above), Community Support (512 people), Community Access (400), and Respite (418). Due to many of those people needing help from more than 1 service, there was a total of 2,993 instances of people not getting help across the 4 areas.

“Disability services are stretched to the limit and rely upon the love and long suffering of family carers, or the generosity of other carers in going way beyond the call of duty because they care”, Mr Brokenshere said, “It concerns me that the Government is so out of touch with the needs here that they were miles out in assessing the accommodation needs alone”

“The Category 1 situation is **disgraceful!** How can we accept forgetting about disabled people - who are at a social disadvantage already - but who in 438 cases are also at **immediate** risk of serious harm. This Government has to realise there’s no spin that can fix this, its action and its urgent”

Further Comment: **David Holst 8373 1991**, former President of Dignity for the Disabled