



# A Real Choice

## Public Disability Services



Over the next few years the NSW Government is planning to hand over all responsibility for supporting people with disabilities and home care needs to private providers. The Government wants to close Ageing Disability and Home Care (ADHC) by 2018.

More than 25,000 people have signed a petition to Parliament to say ADHC should *not* be wholly privatised.

### 10 reasons to say **NO** to privatisation

**NO SAFETY NET** - with the NSW Government refusing to provide any direct services there will be no back-up plan if a private service provider refuses or cancels services.

**NO CASEWORKERS** - the changes do not provide for a caseworker to help coordinate services. Any caseworker needs to be organised and funded by the client or these responsibilities will fall to family or friends.

**NO SPECIALISED SERVICES FOR OVER 65s** - Privatised NSW disability services under the NDIS will provide no specialised services or funding for older people with disabilities. Clients will only receive the basic pension.

**NO EMERGENCY RESPONSE** - if you suddenly become homeless or if your carer suddenly falls ill there is as yet no provision for emergency care.

**NO TO GIVING AWAY STATE ASSETS** - \$800 million worth of public assets, such as houses owned by ADHC, may be given away to private service providers, possibly with additional financial incentives.

**NO DETAILS** - the launch of the scheme in the Hunter leading to the total privatisation of NSW disability and home care services was announced in July 2013, yet very few specifics are available. There are many details *no-one* knows. Only very general information is available.

**NO TO POOR WAGES** - private sector wages are on average 30% lower than in Ageing Disability and Home Care. Lower wages will result in poorer services as highly skilled and qualified staff are forced to leave the sector in search of a living wage.

**NO HEALTH SUPPORT** - privatised NSW disability services do not provide support to attend doctors' appointments, specialist appointments or anything "health" related. People in the NDIS launch sites have already lost services they were receiving.

**NO REAL CHOICE WITH ACCOMMODATION** - if you currently live in an ADHC home you will have no choice about which private provider will run the house. If you choose a different provider you will have no choice but to move house.

**NO REAL CHOICE** - One thing is certain, if you currently receive services you are happy with from the NSW government through ADHC you will not be able to choose to keep them.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Pass this update on to your colleagues, parents, carers and members of the community.

Join your Local Campaign Action Group or the Parents and Carer's Network by contacting your organising team at [FACSOrganising@psa.asn.au](mailto:FACSOrganising@psa.asn.au)

Ask non-members to support the campaign by joining at [www.psa.asn.au](http://www.psa.asn.au)