

# PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY DESERVE BETTER TODAY & INTO THE FUTURE

## An open letter to Premier Mike Baird,

Today is International Day of People with Disability which should be a celebration of life and achievement for tens of thousands of people in our community.

Instead, it is another step closer to a bleak uncertain future with the privatisation of the disability sector in this state.

By June 2018, your Government will have totally dismantled all public disability services in NSW, completely removing choice and control for people with disability and their families.

You are washing your hands of all responsibility and walking away.

NSW will be the *only* state in Australia with no Government safety net, throwing the care of people with disability into free fall.

Many will land heavily in the state's hospitals, mental health facilities and even the criminal justice system, areas lacking expertise in specialist disability care.

All existing access to group homes, respite, large residential units, therapy services, case management and behavioural intervention through the public sector will be gone.

This appalling situation is being rammed through by your Government, sidelining horrified specialist public disability staff who can clearly see a social disaster looming.

These carers often become virtual family for many clients, intimately involved throughout their lives.

The privatisation of public disability services will tear away these long-term attachments while pushing experienced staff out of the sector entirely.

In their place will be staff employed on a temporary or casual basis resulting in reduced quality of care.

People with disability and the staff who have supported them so selflessly for almost three decades deserve so much better.

The provision of a public disability provider is not a political whim but a moral and ethical requirement of Government.

Isn't that worth serious consideration today of all days Mr Baird?



**Stewart Little**  
**General Secretary**  
**Public Service Association of NSW**  
**on behalf of thousands of public disability workers**



***For further information go to [www.publicdisabilityservices.org.au](http://www.publicdisabilityservices.org.au)***