

Public Service Association of New South Wales  
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In reply please quote: *TP:ljm: A14/0421*

The Hon. Ray Williams, MP  
Minister for Disability Services  
Minister for Multiculturalism  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister,

I write to you on behalf of the Public Service Association of NSW (PSA) and refer to a recent *Four Corners* investigation into alleged violence, abuse and neglect of disabled people in privately operated residential care facilities, and the systemic failure to investigate or properly report allegations of abuse.

You would be aware that the PSA has for some time raised concerns relating to the difficulty associated with ensuring adequate oversight and regulation of non-government residential care.

Our concern stems from a fear that the further responsibility for disability care is taken from government, the more difficult it becomes to regulate and oversee standards of care, and investigate complaints of abuse or neglect. We have, for this and other reasons, called on the NSW Government to retain a direct presence in provision of supported residential and respite care.

We note that these concerns are also echoed by the NSW Ombudsman, who has called for the establishment of an independent oversight body with statutory powers to investigate and hold inquiries into complaints of abuse and quality of care in the disability sector.

In light of the recent *Four Corners* program we seek an urgent meeting with you to discuss the Government's plans to address these issues and ensure that best practice safe guards are in place to protect disabled people in care, and a strong, independent regulatory body exists to ensure private (and public) operators are held to account.

I can be contacted on 9220-0970 in order to arrange a convenient time to meet.

Yours faithfully,

Troy Wright  
**Assistant General Secretary**

13 April 2017