



Submission No. 2

Consultation Summary response.

Page 9 says "A Focus on new laws!"

One way of doing this is to encourage substitute decision makers to make the decision the person themselves would have made. It is under the existing Act incumbent upon the Guardian/plenary guardian to make all decisions as if the person themselves were making the decision and that the decision is what they would want.

Their decisions could also be monitored and reviewed consistently!!!! How would this be possible as decisions are made every day by decision makers and de facto decision makers who provide services. It is not possible without astronomical expense. It is ludicrous to suggest it.

How much damage can a parent do when they are stuck on a carer's pension, with a measly disability pension. We are not speaking of a fortune. They are providing 24 hour care and support and these proposed changes will push them over the edge and they will say they have had enough and refuse to provide further support.

Page 11. Modern Principles. Already the guardian has to make decisions the person with the disability would have made themselves!

I won't comment any further. I am wasting my time.

This is a push to empower the guardianship and Administration Board and the Public Advocate who have been lacking, who have huge caseloads and can't give individual attention. They are authoritarian and in my sister's case made decisions that contributed almost to her death in 1996.

That this is not a review of the existing Guardianship and administration board act it is a push to have greater control through powers of attorney being included in the act to widen the scope of government interference and to wind down informal arrangements which work perfectly well in the majority of cases.

Power of attorney is not mentioned in the Guardianship and administration Board Act. It has never ever been anything to do with this Act.

So it is not a review of the Act but an addition to the Act. Many people will feel disillusioned and it is big brother watching us. Big brother does not have the money or resources to do this and most of us have solicitors.

As for keeping a register of powers of attorney it is an invasion of privacy and it is unacceptable. It is also too costly to do and maintain. People themselves can keep their power of attorney forms. They know what they want when they have capacity prior to losing it.

The statement of purposes should include after capacity "and their carers." and after dignity "and the dignity of their carers."

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