

My response to the Guardian ship Consultation Paper.

Submission No. 8

Your Problems are enormous. Most parents of Adult Children with an Intellectual Disability ( in future— ACID) ABSOLUTELY REFUSE to accept that they are not AUTOMATICALLY the person to make decisions for their ACID, whether the person lives with the parent or in supported accommodation, whether they have been to VCAT or not.

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That is why only 2% have been to VCAT.

Parents feel that parents are parents and Carers are professional paid staff who have some dealings with the ACID. The terms are NOT INTERCHANGEABLE. Parents are not Carers, and Carers are not parents.

Now to the Questions. I will only give my opinion on Questions I feel I have enough knowledge to answer.

- Q.2 It seems to cover only people who have a degree of decision making ability, however small. What about the profoundly disabled?
- Q.3 "All adults are entitled to live in safety etc.... Yes, but so do the parents and siblings.
- Q. 6 As an ex nurse, I know that most treatment is decided by Medical staff.
- Q. 10, 11, and 12. Refer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph in my opening.
- Q.13 Make it Mandatory reporting by staff of any form of abuse, by anybody.
- Q.13 and 15 No to both. Shouldn't parents be automatically the decision maker unless proved to be unreliable or unsuitable?
- Q. 20 Keep the State Trustees out of our ACID lives. They are miserly, too strict and have no heart. Our children don't have the discernment necessary to make decisions about what to spend their money on.
- Q.22 Mandatory reporting of any type of abuse, from abuse to over-protection.
- Q.24 and 25. Yes and yes.
- Q.27 Yes.
- Q. 50 . Yes.
- Q.51 . Option B
- Q. 52. Option b.
- q. 55. Option B
- Q. 57 I don't trust either VCAT or the State Trustees to care for my child with TLC
- Q. 62 An Administrator should be able to make a Will for their ACID.
- Q. 63 Yes
- Q. 65. They've got too much power now.
- Q. 66. Parent
- Q. 67 Yes

- Q. 68 Yes
- Q. 69. Yes
- Q. 73. Mandatory reporting by Doctors, Nurses, and DHS staff
- Q. 74 Option C People with an Intellectual disability are being placed in Boarding Houses and Aged Care facilities due to a shortage of appropriate accommodation.
- Q. 79. Option B
- Q. 82 Option B
- Q. 85 No Medical Research whatever.
- Q. 88. Many ACID are "over-protected" and not allowed to take any risks whatsoever e.g. camps, Holidays, shopping trips, independent travel.
- Q. 89. Yes
- Q. 92. Yes
- Q. 93 Ofcourse.
- Q. 94. Yes
- Q. 96. Hospital Medical Superintendents used to be able to get a Court Order so treatment could be decided by an Ethics Committee , e.g. blood transfusions. Is this still so?
- Q. 99 Emphatically NO.. State Trustees are harsh, unfeeling people with no understanding of normal family life. The audit forms are intimidating and stressful.
- Q. 102 Yes
- Q. 105.. It's not the parents who have been to court voluntarily who need to be audited. It's the parents (98%) who don't put the hands up, and who absorb the ACID's money into family general funds and go gambling or buy big cars and houses.
- Q. 111, Option A
- Q. 116. Parents don't trust VCAT. We need someone we know who we feel we can trust, who knows us and our child e.g. the Exec. Officer of the child's organization
- Q' 118 Yes
- Q. 119 Yes'
- Q. 120 Yes
- Q. 121 Yes
- Q. 122, Yes, but also against parents who have never been to VCAT at all.
- Q. 125 Yes
- Q. 133 Yes

Q. 137 Villamanta does a good job.

Q. 144 Option B.

Q. 150 Option B. And your Reference committee should have at least 1 parent of ACIDQ. 151. Better in the last few years, but terrifying in years gone past, when the person wouldn't have known a disabled person if she fell over one!

My final comment.

If your aim is to improve the lives of Adult Children with an Intellectual Disability, you should make Guardianship and Administration COMPULSORY. This will find the inadequate parents, the ignorant, the downright cruel, the abusive, and also the over-protective. Withhold Centrelink payments until they attend G and A Court.

Protect the people with a disability.

