

Submission on Guardianship and Administration Act

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Wednesday, April 21st, 2010

1. We would like to hear your views about:

- **What parts of the law work well?**
- **What parts of the law don't work well and why?**
- **Your ideas to improve the law.**

It is my impression that the State Trustees system often seems to act against the interests of those with a mental illness. People don't get allowed to use money that is rightfully theirs, payments meant to be made on the consumer's behalf to utilities are not made and the system is unwieldy to access and slow to respond to complaints. A new Guardianship and Administration Act seems to need to make greater demands on accountability for the trustees. I don't have a clear idea of how legislation can do this, but there must be a way to make sure the system truly reflects consumer interests and not State Trustee worker belief systems, which often seem to be false.

I would like there to be greater incentive and action to assist people to retake control of their finances. There are allowances for people to be gradually weaned off State Trustees by taking control of some and then more of their payments of bills and so on. But this seems rarely done, while I believe it should be the rule and not the exception.