

RASAIID

Ryde Area Supported Accommodation for Intellectually Disabled

Media Briefing Notes/ Fact Sheet – 2009

- **RASAIID** (Ryde Area Supported Accommodation for Intellectually Disabled Inc.) - a group of 20 families who banded together six years ago with the goal of achieving supported accommodation for our disabled sons and daughters.
- We (RASAIID) have an approved model designed and the prospect of available land in the Ryde district.
- RASAIID's group home model falls within guidelines developed by The NSW Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care (DADHC.) Evidence supports that our pioneering model will point the way forward in disability accommodation service provision and be emulated across the country.
- The recurrent costs will be lower than those of a traditional group home.
- We urgently call on Paul Lynch, Minister for Disability and Home Care, to approve capital and recurrent funding for RASAIID's supported accommodation. We ask that he override DADHC's *Vacancy Management Policy*, so our sons and daughters can transition as soon as possible into their new homes within Ryde - the district where they've grown up.
- RASAIID parents are mostly in our fifties, sixties and seventies, while our oldest member is 87.
- Our disabled sons and daughters range in age from 24-50 and their disabilities are across the spectrum. They have attended schools, day programs, work placements and social groups together.
- We are now getting too old and/or infirm to continue caring for our loved ones. The present crisis-driven method of allocating supported accommodation is inhumane. We want to help transition our offspring in an orderly fashion before we die. We don't want to relinquish them to the state in a crisis situation. This is currently the most common way to get supported accommodation for intellectually disabled adults. Many families in the group are at or near crisis now.
- Between us, we have more than six hundred years of experience in caring for a person with an intellectual disability. We know what is best for our sons and daughters. They want to be with their friends – people like themselves – but also near families, work placements and day programs that support them.
- We have attended 59 meetings in the last two years alone and have been assured by all stakeholders, politicians and bureaucrats that our RASAIID supported accommodation plan is not just suitable, but innovative and worth aiming for.

For more information or stories about our members, go to <http://www.rasaid.org.au>

Media Enquiries: Teresa Russell 02-9807.9693; 0400-00 23 49; trussell@aapt.net.au

ABN 87 321 781 096 DGR endorsed
Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible