



RASAID MEDIA RELEASE

13th February 2010

The Jones family profiled in the upcoming Four Corners program, *Breaking Point* (see Four Corners media release) next Monday night, is a member of RASAID - Ryde Area Supported Accommodation for Intellectually Disabled.

They are just one of our 19 RASAID families that are at, or very close to breaking point. But RASAID has a very simple, immediate and cost effective solution for governments.

In one penstroke, Paul Lynch, NSW Minister for Ageing and Disability, can change the government's vacancy management policy that prevents our adult children from living together in suitable cluster housing in our local area.

Between us, we have more than six hundred years of experience in caring for a person with an intellectual disability. We have happily chosen to save the government more than 3.2 million man-hours of care. 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 RASAID supported accommodation plan is not just suitable, but innovative and worth aiming for.

We demand that the NSW State government immediately approves and builds RASAID's proposed cluster development for our adult children and provides recurrent funding for their ongoing care.

We are all at *Breaking Point* and we all need help. We have been ignored for too long. We can't wait for another government inquiry. We are in our 50s, 60s, 70 and 80s. Our oldest member is 87. Soon we'll be too old, too sick or too dead to care for our sons and daughters.

RASAIID parents are available for interview... not just about the obvious and widespread problem in intellectual disability service provision, but about a cost-effective solution that everyone likes and agrees will work. However the State government refuses to discuss this project any more.

Please contact Teresa Russell, RASAIID Media Liaison on 02-9807.9693 or 0400-00 23 49 to arrange interviews with RASAIID parents.

You can also visit our website at www.rasaid.org.au to find out more about the issue and sign a petition of support.

END OF RELEASE