



**RE: YOUNGER PEOPLE IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE EVALUATION
REPORT, "THE CLOSEST THING TO HOME"**

As Minister for Disabilities, I am pleased to make available the report of the local evaluation of the South Australian Younger People in Residential Aged Care program, "*The Closest Thing to Home*".

The evaluation gives voice to the participants of the program, and indicates a high level of satisfaction with the support outcomes achieved. The evaluation also identifies where some minor improvements could be made, and provides a basis for further improvements in the way we support people who have high and complex support needs.

The Weatherill Government has made a number of recent announcements that will go some way towards addressing many of the matters raised in the report. It is envisaged that the introduction of self-managed funding and individualised funding will make the biggest change to the lives of younger people living in residential aged care in decades by moving the provision of disability services to a rights-based model.

In conjunction with this reform, we will be focusing on:

- drafting a new Disability Act
- improving safeguards and protections for vulnerable people
- delivering a Disability Justice Plan
- improving the forensic disability services system
- boosting participation in vocational education and training through the Skills for All strategy, and
- auditing all government agencies for existing disability access and inclusion plans.

Attached is a synopsis of "*The Closest Thing to Home*" report, which highlights some areas of success and those that require further improvement

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Hunter'.

**IAN HUNTER MLC
MINISTER FOR DISABILITIES**

14th May 2012