



**SUPPORTED RESIDENTIAL
FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

JANE CHAPMAN
PRESIDING MEMBER

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Hon Zoe Bettison MP
Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion
GPO Box 2832
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Minister

I am writing on behalf of Supported Residential Facilities Advisory Committee (the committee) which was established under the *Supported Residential Facilities Act 1992* (the Act), to provide advice and information to the Minister for the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI), local government, the supported residential facilities (SRF) sector and residents, their families and advocates.

We understand the Premier, Hon. Jay Weatherill MP, has announced his intention to abolish all boards and committees unless it can be demonstrated the body has an essential purpose that cannot be met by other means. As Minister with responsibility for the SRF sector and the Act, we appreciate that this will result in a difficult and necessary process which will impact on this committee. Members met on 29 July 2014, to discuss the announcement and agreed to suspend activities during this review process.

Since its inception under the Act, the committee has provided non-binding, but informed guidance to the Minister of the day and has served as an ally to government in the quest for effective sector governance. In its role it has endeavored to act as a link to the sector and provided leadership in maintaining standards in this sector.

The committee brought to the attention of previous Ministers that the current legislative framework was outdated and required review as it no longer met the needs of residents and proprietors. This will become more evident as the sector moves forward into the competitive and commercial environment that will accompany the National Disability Insurance Scheme and other welfare reforms.

The sector comprises for-profit, not-for-profit accommodation providers and local governments in their role as licensing authorities, residents and officers in your department. Over time, the committee has developed an excellent understanding of the interface between these stakeholders, which members believe provides a solid foundation to support you building robust and relevant future engagement strategies / advisory options.

Committee members have a depth of knowledge and expertise and are well acquainted not only with SRF accommodation, but other accommodation settings where vulnerable people live. The committee therefore supports the review of boards and committees legislation and views this as an important opportunity to build engagement and advisory models which:

- improve SRF accommodation and care standards
- develop mechanisms that ensure SRF residents have a 'voice'.
- meet the broader requirements of the currently, unregulated accommodation sector.

The committee looks forward to ongoing involvement in whatever advisory capacity you deem relevant during and after the review process.

Should you require clarification regard this response, or have further queries please contact Michael Griffiths, Manager, Disability SA, DCSI, telephone: 841 54276 or email: Michael.griffiths@dcsi.sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Jane Chapman
Presiding Member
Supported Residential Facilities Advisory Committee

5/8/2014