



Advocating for legal standards in boarding houses

The report, *Shared Accommodation for People with a Disability*, funded by the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care (DADHC) was recently made available for comment following the NSW Ombudsman's inquiry which revealed the government has put disabled residents of boarding houses at risk through the failure to enforce minimum standards of care.

MHCC made a second submission to The Allen Consulting Group to further support the need for effective legislation to replace the current Youth and Community Services Act of 1973. We recommended a regulatory and compliance structure be developed with appropriate legislation for licensed boarding houses to ensure the care, safety and quality of life for residents. Other recommendations included:

- The care safety and human rights of residents be recognised and their needs inform the development and implementation of appropriate legislation.
- An accreditation process and clear regulations and standards
- The ongoing funding of Homecare and the Active Linking Initiative (ALI) to continue servicing people living in boarding houses
- A screening tool which does not exclude inappropriate tenants but rather works to assess and provide alternative housing options
- An identified system to provide advocacy for people in boarding houses
- A tenancy agreement for residents of licensed boarding houses
- Transparency of client money records and the provision of spending money
- Number of beds restricted to two per room
- An improvement in the conditions for boarding house proprietors

The full MHCC submission is viewable on: www.mhcc.org.au

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View from the Peak**