

Tabled by:  
Hon. D. Penkinson MLC  
21/6/11



## Response to Petition

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### Title of Petition: Support for Eskleigh Home

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To the Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Citizens of Tasmania presented by Greg Hall MLC, Member for Western Tiers.

Who demonstrate their support for Eskleigh Home in providing accommodation for clients with disabilities and have recently been denied a portion of their funding, call on the Minister for Human Services to re-evaluate their funding application with a view to meeting their full funding request.

The undersigned Petitioners request that the Legislative Council will use its influence to urge the Government to ensure Eskleigh Home base funding be increased to an amount agreed between Eskleigh and the Department of Health and Human Services (the Agency) and that this base funding be increased annually by a level at least equivalent to health indexation.

### Government's Position:

- I have met with representatives from Eskleigh to discuss their funding and any impact this may have on service delivery.
- In 2008-2009, the Agency conducted a comprehensive financial review of Eskleigh, which analysed expenditure on a line-by-line basis and concluded that there was little scope for cost reduction.
- In 2009-2010, Eskleigh was offered a one-off grant of \$185 000 to assist with their 2008-2009 deficit, which became recurrent in their 2009-2010 Funding Agreement.
- In November 2010, Eskleigh informed the Agency that their Large Residential Home in Perth, had an operating deficit of \$576 000 for the 2009-2010 financial year.
- A financial assessment by the Agency in January 2011, estimated that the home would have a deficit of \$384 032 for 2010-2011.
- Financial figures provided by Eskleigh in January 2011 indicate an expected surplus in other Agency funded services across the Eskleigh Foundation of approximately \$123 000.
- Eskleigh was offered a one-off payment of \$261 014, which combined with the Eskleigh foundation surplus in other services, would cover the cost of the expected shortfall for the 2010-2011 financial year.

- In early May 2011, Eskleigh accepted this one off payment and filled one of three vacancies taking their resident numbers at the home to 40, with a further bed to be filled in the next few months.
- In May 2011, Eskleigh presented a report entitled "*Eskleigh Home: Residential Care Costing Analysis*" to the Department. The report commissioned by Eskleigh indicated that they require an additional \$664 329 for the 2011-2012 financial year to operate at full capacity (42 beds), increasing their annual funding for the home to \$3 766 109.
- The current fiscal position of the Government does not allow me to assign additional funding to Eskleigh. Disability Services funding is fully committed across 87 organisations that deliver disability services, including 23 accommodation support services.
- The Government will consider the funding request from Eskleigh along with the many other funding requests it receives as part of the budget process. I have asked the Agency to continue to work with Eskleigh to resolve the service delivery issues.



Cassy O'Connor MP  
**Minister for Human Services**

Date: 15/6/2011