

Transition to Work programs:

These programs will be available for a maximum to 2 years only. After that, it is expected that people will move to:

- Commonwealth funded employment services;
- unsupported work;
- lower levels of funding.

Community and advocacy agencies do not believe that the new program will achieve work outcomes.

The NSW Government slashes PSO & ATLAS funding to school leavers and young adults with disability.

The NSW State Government has announced sweeping changes to the support provided to young adults with disability wanting opportunities for adult training, learning and support.

- All 1419 people currently receiving PSO funding will have their funds cut by between 31% and 54%.

The changes are overwhelmingly negative for individuals and their families. The savings to Government are at least \$18 million per year.

- All 1635 people currently receiving ATLAS funding will have their funds cut by between 14% and 42%.

The only winner is the NSW Treasury.

Family Advocacy, along with other organizations, is calling for the Government to change its decision.

- From 2004, most students leaving school will receive significantly less funding than school leavers in previous years.

(based on PSO avg \$19,600, ATLAS avg \$15,699)

What you can do!

Get more information:

Family Advocacy has a detailed response to the decision. Call or email Family Advocacy to receive a copy.

Visit, email or phone your local State Member of Parliament.

Write to the Premier, Bob Carr, the Treasurer, Michael Egan, and the Minister for Disability Services, Carmel Tebbutt.

Write to the Opposition Leader, John Brogden, and the Opposition Spokesperson, John Ryan.

Call

family
ADVOCACY
(02) 9869 0866 or 1800 620 588
to get details
about any of the above.

Keep in touch – put your name on the mailing list

CALL FAMILY ADVOCACY TO FIND OUT HOW.

family
ADVOCACY

will be holding meetings in Coffs Harbour, Lismore, Tweed Heads and Port Macquarie in September.

Come along and let us know how this decision will affect you and others you know.

For more details call 1800 620 588

or

email to lobbying@family-advocacy.com

ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA OR ORGANISE ONE.

Look out for info in your local paper or contact your service provider and seek their help.

Complete and tear off. Send to Family Advocacy, PO Box 502 Epping NSW 1710

I/we

of

Tel: email

agree that the decision to cut PSO & ATLAS funds to school leavers and young adults with disability is unjust.

I/we demand that the decision is immediately changed and appropriate levels of funding allocated.

Signature(s)

This is a regressive decision and it is crucial that it is changed. We need to join together to do this.

Ideas on what you can do are in this flier.

family
ADVOCACY

PO Box 502 Epping NSW 1710

Tel: (02) 9869 0866

Fax: (02) 9869 0722

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Email: familyadvocacy@family-advocacy.com



THE GOVERNMENT SAYS "BE GRATEFUL"!!

WHAT COMMUNITY AND ADVOCACY GROUPS SAY ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION

The Government is forcing people with disability and families to accept a huge cut in PSO and ATLAS funding to secure a guarantee of future ongoing funding at smaller amounts of money. The changes will result in less hours of service and poorer quality from 2005 onwards.

The Government is slashing support to over 3000 people with disability, many of whom have received ongoing funding since 1994. It is asking individuals and families to accept a return to the dark ages of day care and be grateful!

At least \$18 million per year is to be cut from people with disability!

The Government is long overdue in allocating appropriate levels of recurrent funding which meet the needs of school leavers and young adults with disability.

Many services say that current hours will have to be reduced or people will be forced into low quality, day care arrangements.

**If hours of service are reduced, parents will have to fill the gaps.
If quality is reduced, people with disability will lose out.
The only winner here is the NSW Treasury.**

This decision reverses the enormous policy and funding gains achieved by people with disability and families in the 1990s.

How will the Government decision affect people with disability and families?

Changed funding:

There will be three levels of funding:

- All people currently on PSO funding get an average of **\$19,600** pa. From 1 July 2005 they will get either **\$13,500 or \$9,000 pa** depending on assessment.
- All people currently on ATLAS funding get an average of **\$15,699** pa. From 1 January 2005 they will get either **\$13,500 or \$9,000 pa.** depending on assessment. A small number who remain in a Transition to Work program for a maximum of 2 years will receive \$15,699.
- All 2004 school leavers and beyond will receive either \$15,699 for a 2-year Transition to Work program or will be placed in a Community Participation program at lower levels of funding and no opportunity for education, training or employment.

For more information on the suggested Transition to Work program, please turn over.

A move from individualised to block funding

Funding will no longer be provided on an individualised basis to the person with disability. Instead, service providers will be block-funded according to the number of people in their service. This is a decision driven by the needs of service providers not individuals. It takes NSW back in time.

People will lose their capacity to:

- choose between different services in their area;
- move to another service in their area;
- take their funding with them if they move within NSW.

Families who wish to move to another area of NSW will have to place their son or daughter on a waiting list.

To register your opposition to these changes, please sign tear-off slip over page and post immediately.