



COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Bob Buckley
A4 Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia
cnvr@a4.org.au

By email

14 November 2011

Dear Mr Buckley,

Inquiry into Commonwealth funding and administration of mental health services

I am writing to you with reference to your submission to the community affairs committee's recent inquiry into Commonwealth funding and administration of mental health services. The committee has now concluded consideration of the material and has decided not to accept it as a submission. Nevertheless the committee has accepted it as correspondence (which is confidential to the committee) and notes the issues you raise.

The committee concluded that the document contained numerous instances of adverse comment about both individuals and organisations. It did not believe that those adverse comments were relevant to its terms of reference and it did not therefore wish to seek responses from the parties involved. In these circumstances, it concluded that the material was best received as correspondence.

Your contribution is covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of it is not. I draw your attention to Senate rules related to the unauthorised disclosure of evidence. They state that a person shall not, without the authority of the Senate or a committee, publish or disclose:

...a document that has been prepared for the purpose of submission, and submitted, to the Senate or a committee and has been directed by the Senate or a committee to be treated as evidence taken in private session or as a document confidential to the Senate or the committee.

Should you wish to discuss the Committee's decision please contact me on the number below.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ian Holland
Secretary