

**Submission IPART: A Fair and Transparent Fee Structure for the NSW Trustee and Guardian**

I am a Private Manager and parent for a severely disabled male adult. I have Guardianship Orders which cover all aspects of his life.

My son receives no other income apart from a Disability Support Pension. He is Government funded for Community Participation Placement and lives in a NSW FACS group home which has 75% payment directly from his Disability Support pension.

In order for my son to access Private Health Insurance or any funds for social activities or to have basic possessions he relies on my income to meet his needs. My household is single wage income.

Guardianship is a time and financially demanding role. I am managing someone who does not have the financial resources to contribute to these roles.

It would be not fair or reasonable for Financial Managers to pay fees above what the NSW Trustee & Guardian currently charges for reviewing the account of a client in the financial category of my son. I already find it difficult to pay the current fee annually.

I asked for the Guardianship of my son's financial affairs because financial systems and health systems make it difficult to do the most ordinary transactions without Tribunal Orders. An example of this is the simple act of making a claim to a private health fund. My son cannot read, write and has no speech. After my son became a legal adult being the Person Responsible was not sufficient for basic management needs. Ironically because I had to become a Financial Manager to resolve system problems it disadvantaged me financially.

I did note in the IPART Issues Paper that nowhere does it grasp that so many people work extremely hard to manage the lives of the disabled to provide them with a quality of life the community expects. These willing Private Managers do so without a break of any kind and at no cost. This saves the State of NSW quite a considerable sum of money.

Therefore any funding short fall for the review of privately managed clients only on a Centrelink should be met by the NSW Government. Part of the equation which must be understood when setting fees for reviewing of financial accounts has to be the private manager's capacity to pay given the additional costs they are already meeting for the client they are managing. The capacity to pay financial management fees will also be affected by retired private managers on modest superannuation or old age pension incomes.

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[REDACTED] 9 June 2014

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