
National Federation of Parents, Families and Carers

FEDERAL ELECTION PLATFORM 2007

10 Big Changes for Parents, Families and Carers

The National Federation of Parents, Families and Carers is calling for:

Leadership

1. A *Royal Commission of Enquiry* into the form and extent of system failure and unmet need in the human services for children and adults with complex issues and conditions across the fields of early childhood development; education; disability; mental illness; learning, developmental and behavioural challenges; chronic and acute illness; and aged care.
2. A declaration of "*National Emergency*" in relation to the crisis in families with ageing carers.
3. A major audit by the Productivity Commission of the financial cost of duplication, inefficiency and waste in government departments in the human services due to federal-state divisions, silo-centred delivery systems, and professional disciplinary demarcations.

Choice and Accountability

4. Establishment of a national network of *One-Stop-Shop Information Services*, independent of governments and service providers, to provide access information, comparative service quality information, and comparative price data to families on support services, health services, schools, child care, accommodation services, respite services, and practitioners.

Family Accounts

5. Establishment of an *Office of Family Accounts* in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to introduce mechanisms for consolidating money from various funding streams and programs in *Family Accounts* held on behalf of families to purchase personalised services for their family members.
6. A requirement that all federally funded services introduce a "per person" unit cost for their services so that eligible families may draw down their "per person" allocations and consolidate them in their *Family Account*.

Consolidated Child Care Payment

7. An overhaul of funding arrangements in early childhood services, child care, primary school education, and before and after-school care, to consolidate resources in a single payment attached to each child (adjusted with a needs-based rating), allocated directly to parents through their *Family Account*.

Person-Centred Information Record

8. Major investment in an IT-based *Person-Centred Information Record* for children and adults with complex issues and conditions, with legislative recognition of parents as the authorised gatekeepers of this information record for children, whose consent is required by providers and practitioners to access it.

Respite

9. Introduction of a *Respite Entitlement* assigned directly to families through their *Family Account*, adjusted with a difficulty-in-caring rating, giving 6 weeks of respite per year to families with a family member with complex issues and conditions. The *Respite Entitlement* would be used to purchase in-home respite or facility-based respite according to the preference of the family.

Supported Accommodation and Independent Living Authority

10. Establishment of a federal *Supported Accommodation and Independent Living Authority* to fast track a rapid development of innovative housing and accommodation options for people with complex issues and conditions and those requiring significant support.
-