



ANDREW CONSTANCE MP
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services

STATEMENT

Thursday 13 September 2012

STATEMENT ON ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

In light of sexual and physical abuse allegations that have been made against disability support staff in Victoria, I have today asked the Chief Executive of Ageing, Disability and Home Care Jim Longley to review the handling of matters relating to violence against people with disability in NSW.

I have asked Mr Longley to consult with the NSW Ombudsman over the adequacy of background checks and the procedures to investigate allegations of sexual and physical abuse of people with disability by carers in NSW.

I acknowledge the comments of Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes who has called for a national approach on this issue, particularly in light of the soon to be implemented National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Whilst the vast majority of disability support staff do a terrific job in caring for some of the most vulnerable people in our community, the vile acts of a few should in no way tarnish the work that is being undertaken.

Unfortunately since becoming Minister, a small number of instances have been brought to my attention that have involved the NSW Police investigating the actions of some sector employees.

Anybody undertaking violent acts against people with disability will face the full consequences of the law.

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