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MEDIA RELEASE

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LACK OF EMPATHY IS A MOST SERIOUS POLITICAL DISABILITY

While South Australian families struggle to care for their disabled children the Rann Government finds yet another way to fleece Aussie Battlers.

The Disability Minister Jay Weatherill announced \$30,000 in funding for a website for the disabled "What I'd Like You to Know About Me". The purpose of the website is to provide background information to carers on issues such as:-

- Likes and dislikes
- Medication
- Special equipment
- Treatment background
- Social relationships.

The purpose of the website was supposedly to assist carers to meet the needs of disabled individuals in their care and also provide vital information to service providers or respite carers to improve continuity of care.

What the Minister did not mention was that the \$30,000 provided by the government did not even cover establishment fees. The non-government organization responsible for the website is now forced to charge a fee for the already marginalized sector to ensure sustainability.

The disabled must pay for access to website after advocacy and support funding is pulled.

The announcement for the website came after the Rann government took \$750,000 away from the disability sector as a "cost saving initiative". Parents of disabled children have contacted Ms Bressington's office complaining that to access the website they must pay a membership fee:

- \$25.00 for an individual
- \$50.00 for a family
- \$50.00 for organizations who provide care and support to the disabled sector.

"I have had social workers tell me that they are paid approximately \$40,000 per annum just to tell people they cannot have what they need in the way of services and equipment," Ms Bressington said.

"One mother was told she would be entitled to \$110,000 to care for her 16 year old daughter, but there was no money so she would just have to make do."

"We now have families that were previously struggling to provide for their loved ones who have had advocacy and support services de-funded and who now have to pay to access a website. This is an outrageous situation that further 'disables the disabled'".