

The Hon Bill Shorten, MP  
Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services.  
Parliament House  
Canberra

Dear Mr. Shorten,

Further to Mr. Tinkler's letter of 26th March I am disappointed that you were unable to scrutinize Mr. Madden's role in the unreasonable and unnecessary demolition of the Kew Cottages' facilities, as requested in my letter of 5th June 2009.

Thank you, however, for raising this matter with the Victorian Minister for Community Services, Ms. Lisa Neville.

According to Hansard, hundreds of families were stuck on the Waiting List for Respite Beds in Victoria as at 30 June 2009.

In the Eastern Region alone I understand 118 families were still waiting for Respite Beds (see attached).

It would appear, therefore, that over half (60) of these families could have been offered access to respite beds if the very high quality Kew Cottages facilities had not been suddenly decommissioned and demolished in March 2009.

Mr. Tinkler makes no mention of your receiving any advice on the Respite Care Waiting List details in his letter, our understanding, therefore, is that you must have been kept unaware of the significant shortage of Respite Beds in Victoria.

We will shortly be updating our own website ( [www.kew.org.au](http://www.kew.org.au) ) with details of these issues, including the 4 Corners ABC-TV program [Breaking Point](#) , so please let me know if there is anything else you would like us to have regard to besides the points made in Mr. Tinkler's letter.

In the meantime I would urge you to review the options available to you to undertake a more effective response to Respite Care Waiting Lists in Victoria, and particularly to the 'financial black hole' for the intellectually disabled that has been allowed to develop at Kew Cottages.

Yours sincerely,

Don Anderson  
Honorary Secretary,  
Kew Cottages Coalition.  
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enc:

## FACILITY BASED RESPITE

Source: Answers to Questions on Notice, Parliament of Victoria, Council Hansard, 11 August 2009, Questions 9219-9225  
data as at 30 June 2009

- For the one metropolitan region which does compile a waiting list, there are 118 families waiting.

We can confidently extrapolate that there are hundreds of Victorian families waiting to access a respite bed.

- As at 30 June 2009 there were 52 respite beds – more than 10 per cent of the State's capacity – taken up by people waiting for permanent accommodation

REGION	Facility Based Respite Beds	Families Using	No families on Waiting list	No Beds occupied by people requiring permanent accommodation
Eastern	71	672	118	18
NorthWest	92	1170	Not avail	28
Southern	63	767	Not avail	3
<i>Metro</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>2609</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>39</i>
BarwonSW	60	404	59	9
Gippsland	22	345	16	0
Grampians	41	125*	9*	0
Hume	56	355	0	1
LoddonMallee	25	169	13	3
<i>Rural</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>1398</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>13</i>
TOTAL	450	4007	215	52

\*Grampians only able to provide figures for Dept managed – 125 families with 9 waiting – number using and waiting for community service organization managed not available in this region