



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Biggest opportunity yet for South Australians living with disability to be in control**

The Julia Farr Association welcomes the South Australian Government's announcement today that Individualised Funding will become the cornerstone of the disability services system.

"When people get to choose how their disability funding is spent, great things can happen, particularly when people exercise the right to live an ordinary valued life," Robbi Williams, CEO of Julia Farr Association said.

Giving the government's response to the *Strong Voices* report prepared by the Social Inclusion Board, Minister for Disability Ian Hunter announced a focus on an initial cohort of recommendations, including the introduction of Individualised Funding. Mr Williams says this is a very promising step.

"Individualised Funding has been a cornerstone of the Julia Farr Association's research and policy submissions for the last few years, and we are delighted that the Minister is taking leadership on this important issue," he said.

Mr Williams, who is also National Convenor of In Control Australia, said there was very good evidence in Australia and overseas of how Individualised Funding can have a very positive impact on the lives of people living with disability.

The Julia Farr Association has identified a number of considerations critical to successful design and implementation. These considerations include:

- How best to ensure that people have control over decisions about how their funding is spent.
- How best to ensure there is sufficient flexibility in how the funding may be used, so that each person can build a genuinely personalised solution.
- How people can access assistance to plan for a life of active citizenship rather than a life of service reciprocity.
- How people can be helped to access mainstream community opportunities on the same basis as nondisabled people, so that their Individualised Funding goes further.
- How best to ensure that there are funded opportunities for innovation in the disability sector.
- How best to support service agencies to transform their current services into new genuinely person-centred arrangements.
- How best to ensure that the voice of people living with disability is heard at all levels of the new arrangements, in line with the principle of co-design.

Mr Williams said that the Julia Farr Association looks forward to providing whatever assistance it can to government on the above and other matters, recognising that the new arrangements will have the greatest chance of success if there is a collaborative approach.

"A good idea is at its most vulnerable during implementation. We want to offer whatever help we can to help make this important idea a reality in people's lives."



For comment please call:

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