

Sessional Paper P-2

P-2. Petition relating to the needs of children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities and mental illness. (Sessional Paper P-2) Mr. McDonnell. (Tabled March 25, 2013).

Response:

We are working towards a modernized developmental services system that is fairer, more consistent and financially sustainable for the long-term.

Previously, there were two programs that offered direct funding for adults with a developmental disability. In 2011, we announced that direct funding for adults would be provided through one program, Passport, and that Special Services at Home (SSAH) would remain as a program for children.

One goal of a single direct funding program for adults is consistency and fairness across the province. Introducing provincially consistent eligibility criteria and providing for a standard assessment as an individual enters the adult system is an important part of this process. It helps to make sure that everyone applying to our programs, whether they're transitioning from childhood support or applying for the first time as adults, is treated fairly and equitably. At the same time, by establishing two, distinct programs we are making sure that funding remains available for families with young children in need.

The changes that will come into effect April 1st reflect two years of communication with families and a full year of transition support.

We have increased annual funding for services to adults with a developmental disability by \$575 million, or 58 per cent, since 2003. While we have made significant investments, demand for services continues to increase. With limited resources, we work to ensure that services for persons with a developmental disability are made available to those with the greatest needs.

Our government is working to modernize the developmental services system so that it can work better for the people it serves. As we move forward we will continue to look to our agency partners for their advice, and to individuals and families for their input.

I believe that all members of the legislature have a common goal when it comes to developmental services, and that's to ensure the system is there for those who need it most. Regardless of the format of the conversation, I can assure you the government welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with all MPPs to improve developmental services in Ontario.



Ted McMeekin, MPP
Minister