



Multicap | Media Release

27 March 2017

Abuse of people with disability must never be tolerated

The Chief Executive of one of Queensland's leading disability organisations has called on other industry leaders to strengthen their commitment to bring to an end abuse against people with disability.

Multicap's Joanne Jessop said sector leaders must do everything possible to ensure customers are protected, and staff have the training and skills required to provide top-level support and care.

Ms Jessop's comments are in response to the Four Corners program airing tonight on ABC featuring a story on abuse of people with disability.

"The reported abuse of people with disability by people trusted and paid to care for them is highly distressing," she said.

"Multicap condemns the actions of those individuals who have abused people in their care through negligence and intentional abuse. Disability support workers have the great privilege and responsibility of assisting and supporting individuals to lead their best possible life, and it is completely unacceptable that anyone would take advantage of this."

"It is our responsibility," said Ms Jessop, "as industry leaders to ensure our customers are protected against abuse and neglect."

Ms Jessop believes that the disability sector must support customers and their families in fighting for their rights. "I strongly encourage people with disability and their families to continue to speak out against abuse," Ms Jessop said. "Abuse is not ok, it is not normal and it should never be tolerated. If you are worried, speak out. There are good people in this industry and we are here to support you."

One in five Australians live with disability, and these people make a significant contribution to Australia's economy and social makeup. People with disability and their families place a significant level of trust in their service providers, with an expectation that paid staff will provide a high level of care.

The quality of life of people with disability is the key focus, top priority and ultimate goal for all Multicap staff, and the organisation takes this responsibility very seriously. Multicap has a zero tolerance approach to abuse and neglect.

Multicap recruitment processes involve a rigorous selection process that includes a compulsory police check. All staff undergo continual training and professional development, including regular feedback sessions that provide opportunities to identify areas of risk for customers, themselves and their colleagues.



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Web links

Multicap: multicap.org.au

About Multicap

Multicap is a leading Queensland disability support agency, assisting more than 800 people with disability and their families throughout Queensland and Northern New South Wales. We provide accommodation, respite, assisted employment and training, specialist services, activities and classes, and social support. Our aim is to enhance the quality of life of people with disability and their families.

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