

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES TO ONLINE PETITION by SIBLINGS AUSTRALIA 2008

Organisation fills an important role

On behalf of Australian siblings of people with CdLS.

PLEASE HELP

Siblings are likely to have the longest lasting relationship with their brother or sister, it is essential that they receive the support they need at an early stage. Investing funds will save a lot more in the future.

No more funding cuts for families of people with disabilities we are disadvantaged enough.

support siblings!!

This current situation is appalling

If Siblings Australia does not receive recurrent funding, it will be a disgrace. People with disabilities and their families have suffered and been ignored for too long. We must treat them with respect and assist our fellow Australians in need. We must do it now. Don't turn your back, think about it, if someone in your family or a close friend had a disability, would you want to help their family members? What about their brothers and sisters? the siblings of the disabled family members? I think you would. Please, this is the right thing to do. Funding is essential. Thankyou

Siblings are often the invisible, unappreciated innocents where all family members share the burden of a severe disability. They need a little empathy too!

these special young people deserve better from the Australian Government

Support those who need supporting

better late than never, please help!

Those of you in the Federal Government how many of you have children with disabilities and other children. Come and live a day in my life and that of my children and see how hard they do it with a special needs kid in the family.

Much needed program to assist families

we are the siblings of individuals with disabilities....Siblings Australia helps us become better caregivers to our family members, and thus decreases the burden that the state/government has to shoulder. Please support us now and it will support the entire community with tangible and intangible benefits for years to come.

Siblings Australia is important, please!!

I grew up a sib and am now a parent to a sib. Having a brother or sister with a disability has a profound effect on individuals. I needed help back then and I need the support now! The government must bear witness and ACT to support these kids who are living in the shadow of their sib's disability. Siblings Australia has the capacity to provide the support that we need as sibs and parents of sibs. Please Support Siblings Australia to do that - now!

The effect on siblings is not realised or addressed. The need is real. If you defund this group what do you have in place to support siblings?

Siblings are often an "invisible" group who come to our attention through behavioural problems within the school setting when acting out & often go ignored if the behaviour presents as anxiety or withdrawn. These students are often unable to speak out or articulate their needs as the sibling with the disability requires & demands so much attention

As a sibling of a now deceased brother and having spent 25 years as a medical practitioner, please believe that this funding is crucial.

I am 47. I have loved, hated, been ashamed of & cared for my 45 year old brother for a lifetime - FOR FREE. How dare you do else but increase this funding. Game On for this battered & forgotten group of Aussies 'having a go'!

This is a vital mental health resource and service!

have a daughter with mental health issues her sibling recieved no support except from family.

Siblings Aust are imperative in sibling issues and their work must be continued in an ongoing basis.

Siblings are one of the biggest groups of non paid carers. We need to support them.

Siblings Australia provides valuable support to those in need and needs to be supported financially by our government

The sibling is usually the family member overlooked.

Any money spent on Siblings Australia projects will probably save much more money later on!

Please don't let this valuable service finish

Don't forget this group of carers!

Siblings Australia is an amazing organisation that cares about the feelings and experiences of Sibs - why take such an amazing resource away from us?

This is a unique service that offers education, training, resources and support to and for the often forgotten members of the family - siblings.

Don't allow nine years of unceasing effort to be wasted!

I have two daughters, one with special needs and one who has special demands placed on her. Both these children are equally important.

We need funding

As the parent of a disabled child, I regard the work of Siblings Australia as critically important.

An important support network

This is a critical need for siblings who have brothers and sisters with special needs. This is a critical aspect of family relationships and affects an individual their whole life. Support and education is critical to assist families and siblings to develop. AHRC in NYC has operated a sibling program for at least 25 years and it has made a difference in people's lives, including my own.

Very simply, the geriatric carers of our disabled siblings are dying; we find strength in continuing to care for our beloved sibs through this fabulous network & we mentor other sibs. This saves gov'ts \$M pa. Even when our sibs are in professional care we add value as the professional teams are understaffed. This is so very valuable & helps keep many of us from becoming mental health clients of gov't agencies. We really need this support! Pls help.

where has the help gone!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Please support this valuable service for siblings.

Please support funding for this vital effort

USA - To help siblings is to help the country. Siblings are the ones to care for the handicapped after the parents have passed on. Please help siblings help their family and their country.

As a sibling, I'm very aware of how important this work is. Siblings will take on more and more responsibility as parents age, and supporting them will benefit all.

As a sibling from the US, I urge the Australian Federal Government to support sibling services. Siblings of handicapped children and chronically-ill children need recognition and support in a difficult situation.

As a service provider of support to families - Siblings Australia's work is vital!

They need all the help that they can get!

Siblings Australia is an important organisation in a high need area assisting in the prevention of future mental and emotional problems. It warrants ongoing support to sustain their excellent and important work.

The work that Siblings Australia do is invaluable

Best of luck to Siblings Australia in obtaining funding to continue its important work

Sibling support needs to be expanded upon NOT disbanded due to lack of funding

Definitely a worthwhile service. Noone seems to think of the rest of the family.

Please recognise the need to help siblings of people with disabilities and allow Siblings Australia to continue their great work.

Sibling issues are very dear to my heart, as well as many other siblings that I know both professionally as a social worker and personally through my own experiences with a sister with a developmental disability. Please keep this invaluable support for people in Australia!

Siblings of people with disabilities are citizens who need support just like caregivers of children need support.

I think Siblings Australia is a vital support network for families with children that have a disability, please support them.

I have been involved in the local Sibling club on the Sunshine Coast, and very strongly believe that they are an organisation that are doing a great service to the community and fully deserve funding at a federal level

An imperative service which reduces the impact of ongoing or future problems for siblings of children with disabilities. We need more insights not less, and so do the families involved.

we live our whole lives next to our disabled sibs - to better help them, please help us.

they say it takes a village to raise a child, so don't take the village away from the families and forget the siblings... keep the funding!

Siblings Australia provide essential training and support for a large part of our community and without them there will be further pressure upon other services and people will fall through the cracks and not be able to access services

I have a daughter with special needs and feel the Siblings need all the help they can get to adjust and enjoy life.

Funding to this org is crucial. My brother tragically took his own life last October - he suffered predominantly from the mental illness of schizophrenia - but depression and social phobia also. There is so much more which needs to be done to help support people suffering from mental illness and their families too.

essential support for those intensely affected by a sibling with a disability

Please fund this organisation

Our siblings are in need,you must fund

I feel the amazing work that this organisation has undertaken in the past is of great importance to the wellbeing of our whole society and I urge the federal government to provide the necessary funding to enable the good work to continue,

Siblings Australia is a vital service for a largely hidden need. It deserves continuing government support. It provides assistance to those in need, develops their human potential and thus benefits the Australian community.

don't forget that this funding cut is aimed at denying children a short amount of time to relax and have FUN Isn't that what childhood is all about? a child needs a break too!

This is a vital service for our children, please continue funding Siblings Australia

This support is desperately needed.

This support is continually needed.

My niece suffers from autism and her elder sister greatly benefits from the support of siblings australia

i have 4 children all of whom have special needs but also they are also siblings to each other so this organisation is incredibly important to my kids.

Siblings Australia has not only provided an amazing service to the siblings, it has provided a wealth of knowledge to other siblings groups. Siblings Australia has helped my family start a much needed siblings support group for our local community. Without the extensive research they have done, we would not have known where to begin with our own support group. If that is not reason enough, I urge you to look at the reality of who will care for our much loved family members who live with a disability. It will be the siblings. Without support and knowledge given to siblings, I believe that the responsibility will fall on your shoulders. It will be you, the government who will have to provide for a large percentage of their wellbeing. You may also find that you may have to provide care for the siblings who did not receive support. They suffer a great deal too. We need to think of everyone in family, not just the one who lives with the disability. The whole family lives with it!

Kate's book and Siblings Australia have helped not only Australian siblings but also Japanese siblings.

A valuable and much needed service that should not have to continually seek funding.

This is fair dinkum Aussie group who are trying to help fair dinkum Aussie citizens, why don't you fair dinkum Aussie pollies give them some true blue help !!!!!

As a family support worker, I am aware of the valuable work of Siblings Australia.

The information and support opportunities provided to me by Siblings Australia is helping me understand why I lacked 'normal' emotional development during the ages of 4-10 yrs old living in a home with a special needs (severely mentally retarded) younger sister. Now 51, married with my own family and as consequence of being encouraged by Siblings Australia 'Adult' support group members to air my story, I am now learning to finally stand up for myself in both my family and work life after many years of accommodating others' emotional/physical needs. In appreciation of this group's important (and seemingly largely unrecognised) supportive efforts, I ask that the government ensure recurrent funding so that Siblings Australia can continue helping siblings of special needs family members find and give strength and support to one another.

Siblings are often forgotten when there is another sick child needing all the attention

Please supply funding for this important organisation

Please give consideration to supporting this very worthwhile cause.

Please Review Funding!!!

This is not an area that personally affects me, but I can see how important it is for those involved and prevention of problems is always better than cure, so I feel this group should be supported.

go kate!!!

I wish someone in parliament would have a child with special needs then we may get somewhere as there are no hearts

More than one person is affected by a disability...how about supporting those who support the ones with disabilities!!!! Afterall it is a fulltime job and more just on its own.

With a younger sister who has multiple severe disabilities our 10yo daughter misses out on a *lot* and we rely heavily on the sibling group program run by the local disability support service. Please do not cut their funding.

With two of my three children have major disabilities, their sibling without issues misses out on so much "normal" life, it's just not fair on him.

Siblings Australia provides vital support to people who otherwise receive no support whatsoever.

Help Siblings Australia

Empower Siblings to care for siblings.

It would be of great concern to me to see such a worthy organisation cease to exist because of a change in government

Care for siblings

New Government, new policy!

Please help.

A VERY NECESSARY HELP FOR FAMILIES

Having a child with a life threatening illness we need to have this support for our other children

An excellent service to an under represented group

Where is the help!!!

Children with special needs need support

People with disabilities and their families are the most ignored minority on earth, and that needs to change. This organization provides a great way of just doing that. Keep it alive, please!

I have 5 children, one with Cerebral Palsy. The impact this has on the 4 non-disabled children is very evident - we haven't been able to take any of them on holiday for over 9 years. Depression and community isolation is the "norm". Please support any organisation that can provide help in this area. Thank you.

This service is vital, please keep it going

I support this organisation

Funding should be given priority approval for the valuable service they provide

These kids need support so they can thrive and provide healthy, loving support to their siblings when their parents are gone.

This is really important!!

All political parties no matter which need to wake and take note of the important work done by such organisations as yourself. Good Luck.

Our family doesn't have a disabled child but if we did we'd like to know that there's some support available for any siblings involved. Very important work!

Please give this extremely important initiative funding to help it to survive and provide services to families in need.

Sibling support MUST be a priority

Please review the funding available to Siblings Australia

Dear PM: INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA - a helping hand IS THE AUSTRALIAN WAY! A small cost now will ensure a brighter future for a great number of people. Without this assistance, what future do we offer these people and at what future cost to our nation. PEOPLE FIRST!!!

Siblings Australia provide a valuable service to the community and should be provided with funding to carrying out this important work.

Apart from the enormous practical and emotional support provided to siblings, their families and service providers by this organisation, which is reason enough for continued and sustained government funding, the mere fact of this assistance and support to siblings and families makes them feel less isolated and more resilient generally leading to healthier and happier siblings with an increased ability to provide long term care for their disabled/ill sibling and with less need for long term help for ongoing health and emotional problems associated with stress. Given the huge likely cost savings in the long run by contiuning the activities of siblings australia, and the immense human need for valuable support and assistance now, the decision to stop government funding to the organisation seems ludicrous to me!

Siblings Australia has become a representative voice for those who have for too long gone unrecognised, They deserve every support for the vital work they do in raising the profile of the sibling experience.

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We need Help Siblings Australia!

Great organisation.

Please support Help Siblings Australia this will help with my family on a personal level and is very important to us.

Prime Minister, you need to understand that money invested now saves our community money in the future, and the work of Siblings Australia is necessary to promote wellness among siblings and ultimately ensure that they can be thriving contributing members of the community. I have just heard you say on 7.30 Report that the govt has been plagued by short term vision in the past, well this is exactly what you do by cutting funding to this organisation.

Both the US and the UK have a national sibling support organisation to meet the needs of a very marginalised group of children and adults. Siblings Australia is needed to develop support for siblings in Australia and needs sustainable funding to do this

we need funding

siblings are important too!

This is a very important organisation and deserves funding support

As a parent of a child with a disability and also as someone who has worked in the field for many years, I am firmly convinced of the benefits of supporting siblings through programs such as those offered by Siblings Australia. Siblings often become the 'forgotton' family members and without support can experience an inability to deal with the fmaily situation and feelings of social social isolation and lack of self esteem. It is essential that they too feel supported and are given a voice in an empathic environment.

We need this to stay open it helps a lot of people out there in the world who are feeling upset and everything and this site helps people to talk to people and hear what people are going through day to day. please?

Please dont do this? This is a very helpful site!

Great site has helped me out a lot and very one out there. good job it will be a shame to see if this closes.

I havent known about this very long I have heard so many great things about this site. no one wants it to go.

The people that make the decisions to cut funding for families with children who have disabilities obviously have know idea on the needs of these families affected. A day in their shoes may make the picture clearer.

I am the 87 year old father of Kate and her sister, who has cerebral palsy. I am extremely proud of how Kate has used her own experiences as a basis for supporting families and educating professionals, both here and overseas. It is a shame that our government fails to recognise the value of this work. I thought that in this country we valued initiative and commitment. I regret that such an organisation was not available when our children were growing up. Please review your decision.

Please, please allow the valuable work to keep going!

Siblings are worth their weight in GOLD. They miss out on so much and usuallly suffer in silence while at the same time doing what needs to be done to help care for their siblings. Often they find that they are the carers of the main carer when things aren't going so smooth. Bottom line is we need funding to continue.

Siblings Australia is a valuable organisation. Please support them so they can continue their work to help siblings in need.

It is the responsibility of the Australian Federal Government to support Siblings Australia with full funding.

Keep valuable services going!!!!

Support for siblings is very important so please reconsider the funding situation

These people save the Government money

I urge the Government to provide recurrent funding to support the provision of services to this vulnerable and often forgotten group.

This is a worthwhile service that honestly does need the funding it's given. Please return it.

These families need our support

As School Counsellor, Siblings Australia has given fantastic support to our families as well as running training and information for me to help support other students. Fund them!

Funding for siblings is essential for their future well being

The organisation may 'go away', but the issues and the need will remain. Let's not allow another valuable organisation to 'go by the way side'.

The work of this organisation is invaluable, providing support for and on behalf of a group of people who otherwise miss out, putting their own and their family members' well-being and potential at risk. Helping to build capacity in siblings and families of people with special needs and all people who support them is an essential element in maintaining strong and healthy family units within communities. This is something of relevance to all community members, policy makers and funding bodies and requires committed funds on an ongoing basis to ensure continuation of the vital work Kate has facilitated to date. Please reconsider this funding decision!

Good luck. We need these organisations to continue to exist

this service is vital to support the wellbeing of siblings

I sign this as a Carer and a Parent of a young adult with multiple disabilities who has 5 siblings

Its extremely important to have services for families of people with special needs. please dont take it away.

This is not sport, this is real life.

Funding for organisations which have a is not an option for a government, it is a responsibility. The majority of Australians do not have to deal with the day to day impact of caring for and living with, and worrying about a family member who is unable to fully participate in life roles and activities. As an Occupational Therapist and lecturer in Occupational Therapy I urge the government to re-think the funding cut and listen to the people who are in a position to make comment.

The organisation is very valuable to families and strong families are important to Australia.

Siblings Australia provides a great support service for siblings of people with disabilities.

A great service we can't afford to lose

please help siblings Australia to help others

Nana of a grandson with Angelmans Syndrom IT IS NOT EASY. PLEASE FUND THIS CAUSE

silblings rocks yo!!

this is not good enough it really is a crying shame for this government shame shame shame i too was a sibling and now i am trying to raise 3 siblings i have 4 children. life is desperate a lot of the time.

families need this unique support

this is an incredibly valuable service, in particular for the prevention of mental health difficulties in young adult and adult life.

A critical service to support families.

An important service which must retain its funding

on behalf of the Mount Barker Frazzled Parents Group

this is a great resource

The organisation do great things for famlies of people with disabilities and chronic illness it needs to continue

Siblings need lots of support

It is cheaper to support siblings now than when they present with serious health problems later in life.

We all need Siblings Australia

please help

The work of Siblings Australia is too important for the Federal Govt to not support it through providing the necessary funding. The Labor Govt prides itself as a socially responsible and sensitive one, it has a chance to prove it by financially supporting Siblings Australia

This is an important organisation that MUST remain.

Siblings save the government lots of money!

Siblings of people with disabilities or chronic illness need support & understanding as it may sometimes seem that the family's love & energy & needs go towards the child with a "problem". Siblings Australia helps this issue and should be able to continue with Govt funding.

Please don't let another important service disappear due to funding cuts

Prevention is better than cure - research shows that siblings are carers in their own right and assist in the reduction of early institutionalisation of family members and sometimes to their own detriment with a high number of these individuals suffering from depression and/or mental illness themselves - a small investment now could make the world of difference in the lives of many.

Over the years I have identified and continue to identify a need for this service.

As someone with four children, one of which with special needs, I see each and every day the impact a child with special needs has on those around him. The work done to empower these siblings, to make them realise they are not alone in their mixed and at times very conflicted emotions about their brother is vital in ensuring they grow up stronger and better people from the experience.

Siblings often are not included in support to families. This is a critical valuable support and resource for siblings, individuals with disabilities and also to agencies/governments who provide support. Please consider extending support to this project.

This is an essential program; I worked with children with disabilities for 25 years. I have attended a workshop by Kate Strohm who worked very hard to set this up.

This service is crucial for the health and well being of the family and the person with a disability. I have referred siblings to this excellent service and the outcome has been to maintain the family unit and enhance the siblings relationship.

Vital service to our families

Siblings are the most enduring relationship for persons with disability and have their own special needs. They are at risk and need supports.

Please help to keep this critical organisation going. I have a 4 year old son who is going to need the support it can offer him in the future.

I think the governments at all levels aren't doing nearly enough to support the disability and mental health sector. Not nearly enough at all.

This support is of great value. Disability is a very under-resourced area of need. Many of these siblings and families are the sole carers for people with a disability, and therefore live with the disability themselves. Often children who are siblings of people with a disability have to forego many activities and parents care and attention due to the needs of their disabled brothers and sisters. And yet, these same siblings may need to be the future carers of their relatives with special requirements. We as a society should provide whatever support they need to succeed in this care.

I have a son with autism and he has 3 siblings.

This is an important and valuable service we can not afford to lose

I am a sibling

PLEASE support the siblings & people who are supporting & helping the most vulnerable in our communities.

The needs of siblings are too often overlooked. Services for siblings need to be further developed not dismantled. This is an observation made after 10 years work as a Disability case manager working with families.

Siblings do a fantastic job

This is a vital and far-reaching service please keep it going

As I work with children with disabilities I see first hand the difficulties that their siblings face, often in the form of 'it must be my fault' syndrome or lots of anger. Siblings Australia is able to deal with the cries for help, often before they become suicidal. A caring society needs to do just that.

I have a sister with an ID & work in respite for people with ID. I am disappointed, the government believes crisis intervention is better than prevention.

I have a physically disabled mother and an intellectually disabled sister. It's hard enough to find support. The government should be more willing to fund such a great org.

Siblings need support and understanding, and parents cannot do that alone.

I direct a US-based national program that is similar to Siblings Australia. Every year, I come in contact with thousands of sibs of all ages who are making significant contributions to the lives of their brothers and sisters who have disabilities. Supporting sibs benefits everyone--sibs, people with disabilities, parents, and even taxpayers. Please support Siblings Australia!

This is essential not optional.

FUND

Please dont overlook these amazing children

Much needed funding

Siblings are the family members who will have the longest relationship with the person with disability; they need understanding and support and Siblings Australia needs ongoing funding.

Funding increases not decreases

Sibling support is important to so many families.

Give them (the siblings & families) the power to help themselves.

Siblings are under a lot of pressure without adequate attention to their needs

Sibling support is vital. Government support is essential.

I have 2 special needs boys and 2 more who miss out on so much and there is not enough out there to help these wonderful supportive children, They are the forgotten part of what makes a family with special needs children function.

Siblings -the forgotten people

hope everything works out