

Petition responses

- Annette S. We are all affected by disability and we all need practical and respectful
- Anne K. caring for a sibling does not end when childhood ends
- Jennifer F. Siblings Australia has saved the sanity of many of us with siblings with special needs. This organisation saves the government money by offering a specialised service not available anywhere else. Please support the efforts of Siblings Australia. Every cent is worth it. It helps us support our siblings over a lifetime. We're the only ones that do.
- Fiona W. Limbs 4 Life supports child and adult amputees. Siblings play a critical role in supporting their brother/sister with this type of physical disability and need support to fulfil the role they play in the life of their sibling. Siblings Australia is an outstanding organisation with the expertise to support to siblings with disability and illnesses. Please support Siblings Australia to continue as the peak body for siblings and organisations across Australia.
- Carol W. siblings are often overlooked because of the focus on the person with a chronic illness or disability.
- Brian M. In a long career working with people with disabilities and their families I often experienced siblings having difficulties and did what I could but without resources and the necessary focus on the person with a disability this was difficult. Clearly, specific funding needs to be directed toward sibling services.
- Jane B. Siblings need extra support and extra attention. They need this even more when the parents/carers of the child with a disability are as busy/emotional caring for their child. The work that Kate has done has definitely been so useful and is a cause that I absolutely believe in. I would love to see more siblings and their families benefit from ongoing and increasing work in this area.
- Melisa M. As a sibling of a person with a disability and someone who has worked with both children and adults who are siblings of people with disabilities I have to say I am very frustrated that there are not universal support services available for this group. Yes, I developed resilience, empathy and I love my sibling very much - BUT I also learned my needs were less important. It's tough to move beyond, and sibs voices are the silenced ones within the entire disability framework.
- Andrew B. I signed because I have heard siblings tell their stories from on radio. People with disabilities and chronic illness and their immediate family need support.
- vivian b. the impact for siblings of a child with a disability is often not considered. They need support and the opportunity to meet with a talk with others in a safe understanding environment so their needs are met too.
- cheryl b. Our siblings take so much on their shoulders. It is so painful to watch my siblings being alienated from their brother, through violence and aggression. Their mental health should be just as important as anyone else's. They have a lot to cope with, at such a young age, and for the rest of their lives. This is a serious oversight in funding!
- Jacqui W. 5 of my 7 children have a genetic disorder. Some affected more than others - Siblings would have been a great benefit to the ones who helped (and are still helping) even into their late teens / early twenties.
- cecilia x. Siblings Australia is a great org.
- Ruvee. As a sibling myself and having mentored child siblings, I have experienced firsthand the challenges of caring for a special needs sibling. More support is needed to help siblings cope with the challenges that arise from their unique circumstances. I love my sister, and it would be wonderful to be able to focus on being the best sister I can without having constant anxiety about the future. By giving siblings a voice you can help them feel confident that appropriate support will be available.
- Leza. I have twin boys, 1 who is disabled, siblings would definitely benefit my son, it is something I have been looking into.
- Una. My son and his friend have siblings with disability. They were supported by Bluecare in a siblings group for some years in the early 2000's and went on to support other siblings

later. I believe it made a difference. They will be supporting their siblings for life and are the hidden carers of the future.

- Karen M. Please sign to help get funding for siblings. They miss out on so much with a lot of money and time going into the siblings with disabilities.
- Leonie B. I know the benefits my boys have had from SIBS activities and programs
- leanne p. I have a sib child myself
- Jessica B. Siblings can be overlooked when we deal with people with disability. It is time we prioritise their efforts and support them.
- Marianne J. I was watching Love, Actually with my daughter the other day, and after the segment where a woman gives up a chance to be with the man she loves in order to support her brother with a mental illness, my daughter turned to me and asked, "is that going to be me?" She has a sibling with a disability and I want her to be able to cope with that and Siblings Australia may provide much-needed support and guidance.
- Rivkah. As a mother who has a 2 kids, one with Autism, I see first hand how my young daughter has to cope without any real help. At a tender age of 5 she started helping her brother to navigate simple tasks and helping him out in the community. She is a young carer, but under the current system, she doesn't have anyone other than me to talk to about her feelings and the issues of being a SN sibling.
- Erin F. This is an extremely important and overlooked issue that Siblings Australia has been tirelessly campaigning for, for over 15 years. To see this work lost would be heartbreaking and a real loss to the community of siblings that benefit and could benefit from the work of this organisation.
- Janet V. There is significant impact on families, expectations for support of a relative, but particularly siblings who often get "left out" because of the challenges involved in the care and support of their sibling with a disability. Family/Disability need to work collaboratively.
- dianne f. I have 4 adult daughters, the youngest of whom has a severe intellectual disability. One of my other daughters has suffered from anxiety & depression from the age of 12 (she is now 38) as a result of her sister's disability. It makes sound economical sense to secure funding for Siblings Australia to mitigate the risk of losing all the valuable ground they have moved since their inception.
- Jane C. Siblings of children with a disability are so often the ones to wait, who miss out, who feel less important and many other feelings. However, those same children frequently develop skills and understanding far greater than peers of their age. Please provide adequate recognition and support as these individuals make such steadfast and responsible citizens of the future. Prevention of mental & physical health problems is better & cheaper than treating them. Please listen to this request!
- Andrea S. I was a carer for my mum (with MS), I now realise the pressure I was under as a teenager - making meals, taking her shopping, spending time with her that others spent on their homework or with friends - I still feel the guilt of not being there now and angry that I never received any support. My daughter's brother has ASD and is the butt of his meltdowns, how will she feel mentally and emotionally in 20 years' time?
- Debra J. So many siblings are overlooked and they provide a vital ongoing support within a family.
- Judith G. siblings are a vital support and need to have their needs recognised and valued
- Melinda R. because my sister is currently being really loud and screaming :-)
- Chelsea H. to raise awareness of the plight of siblings of people with disability.
- George H. I saw the impact of having a brother with a disability on my Son.
- David I. Everyone in a family should have access to support if they need it.
- Kathleen R. I signed because I have 3 children one who has down syndrome and always felt that the older 2 were asked to help way too much and cope alone
- David P. I signed because everyone deserves equality, those who are unfortunate will always need the support of family.

- Victoria L. The sibling relationship is one of the longest in a lifetime. No one knows another person like a sibling
- Alison H. I have 2 older siblings to a son with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy who have watched him go from a walking brother to someone who relies on others to do things for him
- Estelle S. Support the supporters
- Chris M. I've been engaged in my sister Helen's welfare for all of my 51 years. I continue to advocate for her giving meaning to 'person-centred care' which otherwise might reduce to mere box-ticking. My commitment has personal costs ranging across all aspects of my life. Kate book Siblings, pulls together common themes of siblings' special challenges. It's not about funding co-dependency, but rather both harm minimisation and in many cases, leveraging maximum bang for the disability sector buck.
- Rachel R. Siblings play such an important role in many people with disability's lives, and are under-recognised, and poorly supported. They deserve better.
- Jenny R. A really important cause!
- Jane D. This petition is about a personal passion of mine. The support of siblings when there is a disabled sibling is vital. Despite all the love and positive impacts we have also seen first-hand the negative impact living with our disabled son has had on our daughter. Siblings need their own support services and acknowledgement of the additional stresses they experience.
- Susan A. My sister is now 58 years old with my mother in her 80's...My other siblings and I will be the next generation of care for her when the need arises!!!
- Aimi J. Siblings often share the longest lasting relationships in life. I believe that Siblings Australia plays a vital role connecting, educating, empowering and supporting siblings, providing them with a voice. This is a vital service that has been overlooked for too long.
- Skye P. Son has special needs.
- Helena K. I signed because I believe siblings have needs too.
- Kath A. My younger brother has multiple disabilities, and has always lived at home. The time will come when our parents can no longer care for him. I and my sister would greatly appreciate a support service to help us manage the transition to caring for both an adult sibling and aging parents. Both of us work full time, and we will need guidance in terms of accessing the best services and resources to allow our family members to maintain their independence and dignity.
- Deneille S. With a daughter struggling with her brother's disability and trying to find support for her I think Siblings Australia is a service that is desperately needed in Australia.
- Alison L. Because siblings need just as much support as the person in a family with a disability.
- Christine M. Thank you Kate for this. A much needed service. Think all the money govt will be saving on future services for siblings who don't get the support they need in their younger years. Siblings really do suffer so much extra pressure and responsibility and miss out on a lot - which can lead to many issues later in life.
- Simonn S. As a 50 year old sibling of an extremely violent sibling I cannot stress how little support there is in the community for the stress, the trauma and mental health issues that comes from a lifetime of forced care. Properly funded programs now for young siblings may prevent issues later in life for them. Trust us on this.
- Jackie M. This one is a no-brainer. Siblings of the disabled face poorer mental health outcomes in later life. Spending money supporting them adequately as children will save money in the future supporting them as adults by building resilience.
- Keith M. As a researcher and a clinician, I have seen the important role that siblings play in the lives of people with disability. Supporting siblings of people with disability is vital to the sustainability of the social and economic vitality of our community. Importantly, it's the decent thing to do!
- Rosemary G. Siblings do a great job

- Vanessa W. I've watched my cousin grow up caring and helping her disabled brother, I want her supported to.
- Jennifer M. I worked in Early Intervention as an Occupational Therapist and have seen first-hand the effect that having a child with a disability in a family can have on siblings. This is such a worthwhile cause.
- Jane h. As the parent of three adult children, one of whom has severe and multiple disabilities, I now understand something of the impact of this on our two daughters. If we as parents could have had access to expertise to assist them and help us recognise the stresses they were experiencing it would have been very beneficial to all of us. We signed up for this, they did not. A measure of support to them now has the potential to be invaluable to all concerned and benefit society as a whole as well
- Kira L. I've been to programs run by this group as i am a sibling and i loved having another thing to go to without my brother around and the staff are very caring and i found it helpful if others were no longer able to go to events run by this then it would be a really big shame because these programs are awesome.
- Ann M. Siblings are so very important to the wellbeing of children with special needs - we as parents won't be around when they are mature adults, but their siblings will be. They need to be supported.
- Kerry R. As a teacher, I see the impact of a disability on the siblings, and in my own family I see it. This is a very important understanding.
- Tess F. The lack of funding to this issue is both disgraceful and heartbreaking. This organisation deserves support and the copious amounts of people they help deserve it too.
- Helen F. I have extensive experience as a disability advocate since 1993 and in that time I have seen a desperate need for support for these children and adults who have their own special needs that go largely unrecognised and unsupported.