Letter to the Editor Northern District Times published 21/4/2010:

Thank you very much for again highlighting the needs of people with intellectual disability and their carers – and RASAID in particular – on the front page of this week's NDT. However I would like to clarify a couple of points that were, unfortunately, misconstrued.

We are very happy that the Prime Minister is bringing his cabinet to the Bennelong electorate so that Australia's elected representatives are able to (hopefully) understand the needs of the people they are representing.

The quote "To say we are disappointed in (him) would be an understatement to say the least" was taken out of political context. We are disappointed in the lack of services, which are the responsibility of the State Government. The previously allocated $100 million federal funding promised by Mr Rudd for supported accommodation has been delivered to the states and territories, but no one has been able to establish where this money has been used, or if it has been used for the purpose for which it was intended. The state government needs to be held accountable for this money because it was given to fund projects to help older people with intellectual disability move out of the family home into supported accommodation.

Another quote that the Prime Minister "promised so much but delivered so little" should have read in full: "I believe the Prime Minister is planning for the long term, and we have yet to see the results of those plans". For example we strongly support the Federal Government's initiative of introducing a no-fault funding scheme for disability services. This was first suggested at the Rudd government's 20/20 Summit.

And a small typographical error – my son, David, is 27 years old, not 22 as quoted in the article.

Mr Rudd and his cabinet will be welcomed as potential saviours of a very broken disability service system in NSW. We look forward to the opportunity to articulate our thoughts.

 Best Regards

Jenny Rollo - President, RASAID Inc.

RASAID: Ryde Area Supported Accommodation for Intellectually Disabled.   www.rasaid.org.au