17 February 2009

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Right Hon John Key
Prime Minister
Freepost Parliament
Private Bag 18 888, Parliament Buildings
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Dear Prime Minister

IHC asks the Prime Minister to take the lead for the one-in-six New Zealanders living with disability.

IHC's vision for people with an intellectual disability is to live satisfying lives in the community. This means participating in and contributing to the community and realising their full rights and responsibilities as New Zealanders.

Essential to achieving this vision is:

1. **Action** – there has been 10 years of working parties, discussions, reviews and an inquiry. We now need action for sustainable disability support services that enable people with intellectual disabilities to reach their full potential.

2. **Leadership and coordination** – the single most important issue identified by the Parliamentary Select Committee disability inquiry.

3. **Partnership with the disability sector** – the essential leadership, planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring must be cross-sector and cross-government to be successful.

After almost a decade of good intentions and reviews, the new Government now has the opportunity to make a real difference in the everyday lives of people with intellectual and other disabilities. Review after review show the same systemic issues, which the previous government did not address effectively.

IHC welcomes the opportunity to work with the incoming Government. IHC was formed as a membership based, advocacy organisation in 1949 by parents who wanted better lives in the community for their children. To this day IHC provides strong advocacy for the now 50,000 people in New Zealand with an intellectual disability and their families. We support the independent voice of people with an intellectual disability through the Self Advocacy movement and representation in our governance structure. IHC also works in partnership with disabled people's organisations such as People First.

IHC has a wholly owned subsidiary IDEA Services Ltd that provides $195 million of government contracted disability support services to 6350 people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

IHC believes that the current economic climate should not be the justification for stalling, or decreasing investment in support for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Maintaining and building on current investment is the best way to ensure that people with intellectual disabilities and their families can contribute, in the same way as other citizens, to New Zealand's social and economic success.

IHC looks forward to working with you over the next three years to progress the rights and interests of people with an intellectual disability.

Yours sincerely

Trish Grant
Director of Advocacy