

Guardian authorities accused of abuses:

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Saturday, 19 Jun 1999:

From section: News and Features Publication: Sydney Morning Herald

Two more story features showing the uncontrolled victimization by authorities in this country under the guise of assisting those who can't help themselves.

These people are crooks, (one was jailed for 5 years for embezzling 'client's' funds) criminals, and a menace to society who should be eradicated.

Read on... you'll be horrified to think that these things can be happening in a 'civilized' country.

A victim's rights organization is calling for a parliamentary inquiry into what it claims are abuses, lack of accountability and financial mismanagement by the NSW guardianship authorities.

Ms. Paddy Costa, founder of Carers of Protected Persons Association (COPPA), has given the President of the Legislative Council, Ms. Meredith Burgmann, a dossier detailing some of the complaints from 800 families.

More than 11,000 people are subject to orders by the Guardianship Tribunal because they are deemed incapable of handling their own affairs. Two State Government guardianship agencies have absolute power over their welfare and finances.

Among the cases Ms. Costa has investigated:

* A girl of 16 who was awarded \$3 million in damages from a car accident which left her mildly intellectually disabled. While under guardianship she was encouraged to leave home and live in refuges, was raped, stabbed, began using drugs and put on 60 kilograms before her mother won joint custody;

* A 77-year-old woman whose husband was placed in guardianship and sent to a nursing home. The guardianship authorities applied for a Family Court property settlement and placed a caveat over her house - she believes only her husband's death forestalled her eviction and the sale of the property.

Four years ago when he was Minister for Community Services, Mr. Ron Dyer acknowledged that the guardianship authorities were "capable of making mistakes" and said he would establish a complaints commission.

Nothing happened.