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June 17 2021 - 5:00AM

Man's life and finances fall victim to Tasmania's Public Trustee




[Matt Maloney](#)

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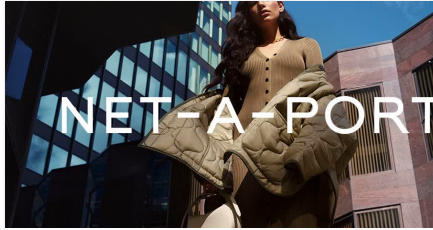
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 SHATTERED: Arthur Nash says his dog Daniel has kept him going after he lost his assets to the Public Trustee. Picture: Phillip Biggs.



 SHATTERED: Arthur Nash says his dog Daniel has kept him going after he lost his assets to the Public Trustee. Picture: Phillip Biggs.



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The elderly George Town man last year broke his ankle which required admittance to hospital.

His case became known to the state's Guardianship and Administration Board who appointed the Public Trustee to take charge of his finances.

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Mr Nash was moved into aged care and the trustee did not contact him for 10 months after his order started.

His dog Daniel was left in the care of a friend and he was not able to access his own money during his time in care.

He had no idea what had happened to many of his belongings which were left in his Housing Tasmania property.

When Advocacy Tasmania became involved, it was revealed that his vintage car and plane collections as well as family heirlooms had been sold.

The trustee had no information on what had happened to equipment stored in three sheds or the whereabouts of two of his three cars.

His advocate was eventually able to get an allowance of \$69 a week for Mr Nash so he could at least go on outings.

Mr Nash said the situation had wrecked his life and that he had only kept going for Daniel.

"I feel like I've been thrown on the human scrap heap," he said

Advocacy Tasmania chief executive Leanne Groombridge has recently been speaking out on behalf of clients who she said have had their lives ruined by the Tasmanian Guardianship and Administration system.

"Advocacy Tasmania continues to try to get answers from the Public Trustee, but have had no success to date," she said.

Ms Groombridge said if they did not receive a formal response soon, they would lodge a complaint with the state's Ombudsman on Mr Nash's behalf.

"We have so many more heartbreaking stories of Tasmanians whose lives have been ruined by our totally redundant and damaging legislation and those who administer these orders," she said.

"It is completely unacceptable for our government to fail to prioritise a complete overhaul of the legislative framework and processes.

Justice Minister Elise Archer said recent issues raised with the government and in the media had led to an announcement of an independent review into the administrative and operation practices of the Public Trustee.

"Treasury has been tasked with urgently developing terms of reference for the review to be undertaken as soon as practicable, and I intend to provide more detail in coming weeks," she said.

The Public Trustee said in a statement it was not able to comment on any individual case or circumstance.

It said the independent review would contribute to enhancing a fair, reasonable and workable system.

"The Public Trustee understands the role support groups are playing to recommend changes to the legislation to help vulnerable community members," it said.

"We understand that there can be difficult decisions and emotions involved when an administration order has been made.

"Our priority is to ensure that our client's financial wellbeing is protected while we work through varying and often complicated financial issues."

People can submit complaints to the Public Trustee through its website.

What do you think? Send us a letter to the editor: