

New Zealand Productivity Commission  
PO Box 8036  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6143

25 June 2015

RE: More Effective Social Services

My name is Christine Veltman (on behalf of Herman Veltman)

I would like to make a submission in response to Chapter 11: Client choice and empowerment.

I am the wife of a stroke survivor (a severe stroke making him hemiplegic) and I use Individualised Funding (IF) to manage his support.

I have had my current support people/person for almost 2 years. What a difference it has made. He gets the support he needs when he needs it from people who value and respect my husband. This allows me to continue being his wife and not just a carer.

I like to know we can employ the person who fits with my husband and make him happy. Also there can be give and take when things go wrong. My husband spent much of last year in and out of hospital.

On average employees tend to get a higher rate of pay and better working conditions under IF. I certainly pay my staff as well as I can as they are my lifeline.

We are only 50 and this stroke has changed our whole life and the life we planned to have.

We know how we want to live and what we want his life to look like, so we are the persons best placed to make decisions about how to achieve this.

I would urge the government to look into IF and see what an amazing difference it is making to people's lives.

Imagine what he could achieve if he had full flexibility with his disability supports and if he was truly able to choose the life he wants to lead, just like other non-disabled New Zealanders.

Kind Regards,

Christine Veltman  
On behalf of Herman Veltman