

New Zealand Productivity Commission
PO Box 8036
The Terrace
Wellington 6143

29 June 2015

RE: More Effective Social Services

My name is Claire Peters

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

I am a mother of a six year old child with Cardiofacialcutaneous Syndrome and I use Individualised Funding (IF) to manage my son's support.

IF has made a huge difference to our lives. Before my son moved onto IF, I always found it hard to ask for help as I couldn't give the people helping anything. Now by using IF I can employ people when my son needs help for support and can pay them for their help. Everyone benefits and I have expanded my son's times he gets help for example his birthday party I have a support worker helping him to enjoy and interact.

I have had my current support people/person for 1.5 years. What a difference it has made. My son now gets the support he needs when he needs it from people who value and respect him. By being flexible I can also use more hours on school holidays as we can't put him into holiday programmes etc.

Being able to hire my son's staff empowers us a family as I can hire people I trust in our home environment that also understand our family values and way of life.

On average employees tend to get a higher rate of pay and better working conditions under IF.

I know how I want my son to live and what I want his life to look like, so I am as his mother the person 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 I could achieve if I had full flexibility with my son's disability supports and if I was truly able to choose the life I want him to lead, just like other non-disabled New Zealanders.

Kind Regards,

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