

New Zealand Productivity Commission  
PO Box 8036  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6143

29 June 2015

RE: More Effective Social Services

My name is Gretchen Galloway

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

I am the mother of four boys. Triplets aged 7 and an 8 year old. Two of the 7year olds are IP funding recipients. One boy is paraplegic the other hemiplegic. (the other two boys are all good – thankfully!)

IF has made a HUGE difference to their lives. The boys have always been on IF, the alternative choice of unskilled (although i am sure very lovely) people just did not seem like it would be useful for us and provide the type of help that was actually going to benefit our children and help us. We were delighted to be told that IF was an option and have used enthusiastically it ever since. IF funding has meant we have full control over the people who are spending time assisting the children with their cares. Because a recruitment company is not taking a cut of their funding we are able to have more skilled staff assisting. Resulting in an outstanding level of care which has brought great benefit to our boys, peace of mind and so so much help for my husband and myself.

We have tried various options for support people and now have an awesome system where we are able to have young enthusiastic physio students provide cares for our children. These students have a term in their final year where they work on a research paper and have time to also do some part time work. So each term we have a different physio student. They enjoy helping the boys, it relates to what they are studying, we take them to relevant appointments so they see the perspective of a family – and they get some flexible work for a term. It is life changing for us to be able to do this. (On a side – so many other families could benefit from this system!!! ) The boys get the support they need when they need it from people who value and respect they and the goals they have.

Without IP funding we could not have achieved this.

Kind Regards,

Gretchen Galloway, mother of two IF users.