

Celestine Hare
Able Australia
6th June.

Dear friend,

Recently I wrote to you about Shane. Since then there have been a couple of important developments.

As you may remember Shane is deaf and blind, the result of having had a brain tumour at a young age. He had been living in assisted accommodation but was unable to communicate with any of the staff or house mates. This has been an experience, as you can imagine, with Shane literally counting the days each week until someone from Able could visit him for a few hours and speak with him in Auslan (close to his face due to his limited vision).

With Able's support, Shane secured accommodation in Eltham where the staff were making efforts to communicate with him. For the first time in a long time he has felt that he belongs. To stay in this more expensive accommodation, Able supported Shane to write a letter to the government in the hope they could subsidise the shortfall for this accommodation (Shane's letter is enclosed.)

Sadly, Shane's request for an accommodation subsidy has to date been rejected due to the governments criteria which don't meet Shane's specific needs. Shane has been given a

one month extension at the home where he is staying to appeal this decision.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd told The Age newspaper on May 4 that a proposed funding package is a small first step and that there is a long way to go. He said it is time to start turning the corner and start providing a fairer go for these most vulnerable Australians. Unfortunately Shane cannot wait the years it may take.

Please, may I ask that you consider sending a gift now to assist Shane and the many others requiring specialist accommodation and specialised support.

Shane is one of the many people in the community who rely on Able Australia. We truly appreciate your support.

Kind regards



Celestine Hare