

# Budget ignores carers plight

Cassie Maher

THE pleas of families, politicians and charities for more supported accommodation places in Boroondara fell on deaf ears in the State Government.

Treasurer John Lenders pledged \$86.9 million for disability support services across Victoria in the State Budget.

But despite a waiting list of more than 1200 Victorians needing supported accommodation - including more than 290 in the eastern suburbs - the number of available places will grow by just 10 in the next financial year.

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Rhonda, 35, has Down's syndrome and is living in temporary supported accommodation, said the 10 places was "miniscule".

Mrs Dick said she and her husband worried who would care for Rhonda as they grew older.

Opposition Community Service spokeswoman Mary Wooldridge described the budget as a "cruel joke" for those "languishing" on waiting lists.

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under incredible pressure for accommodation and there's no relief in sight," she said.

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## More cash needed for disabled

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