



News Release

For Immediate Release

December 9, 2014

Outdated Funding Model for Residential Services Not Focusing on Needs of People with Developmental Disabilities, Auditor General Says

(TORONTO) Funding to agencies providing residential services is based on what the agencies received in previous years rather than on the actual needs of the people being served, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk says in her *2014 Annual Report*.

“In addition, people with the highest-priority needs are not usually placed first because residential services placements go to people who are the best fit for the spaces that become available,” Lysyk said. “The Ministry should assess what the mix of residential service types should be to meet current and future waitlist needs.”

The Ministry of Community and Social Services funds residential support services for people with developmental disabilities to help them live as independently as possible in the community. The Ministry estimated that there were about 62,000 adults in Ontario with developmental disabilities in 2012. About half of them needed residential services.

Other significant findings included the following:

- The number of people waiting for services in Ontario as of March 31, 2014 was 14,300 adults, almost as many as the 17,400 adults who had received services in the previous 12 months.
- From 2009/10 to 2013/14, the number of people waiting for adult residential services increased 50% while the number served increased only 1%. At that rate, the Auditor General calculated that it would take 22 years to place everyone who is currently waiting for residential services.
- The cost of residential services for people with developmental disabilities has risen 14% over the last four years, while the number of Ontarians served has grown only 1%.
- Program costs are rising much faster than the number of people served. Funding was increased in part so that 1,000 more people could be served between 2009/10 and 2013/14, but only 240 more people received services.
- There are wide variations in the cost per bed or per person across the system. In 2012/13, the cost per bed for adult group homes ranged from \$21,400 to \$310,000.
- About 45% of adult residences have not been inspected since 2010.
- Ontario has few standards for the care of residents, and they are general in nature and open to interpretation.
- Confusion exists over which ministry has overall accountability for residential services for children with developmental disabilities.

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