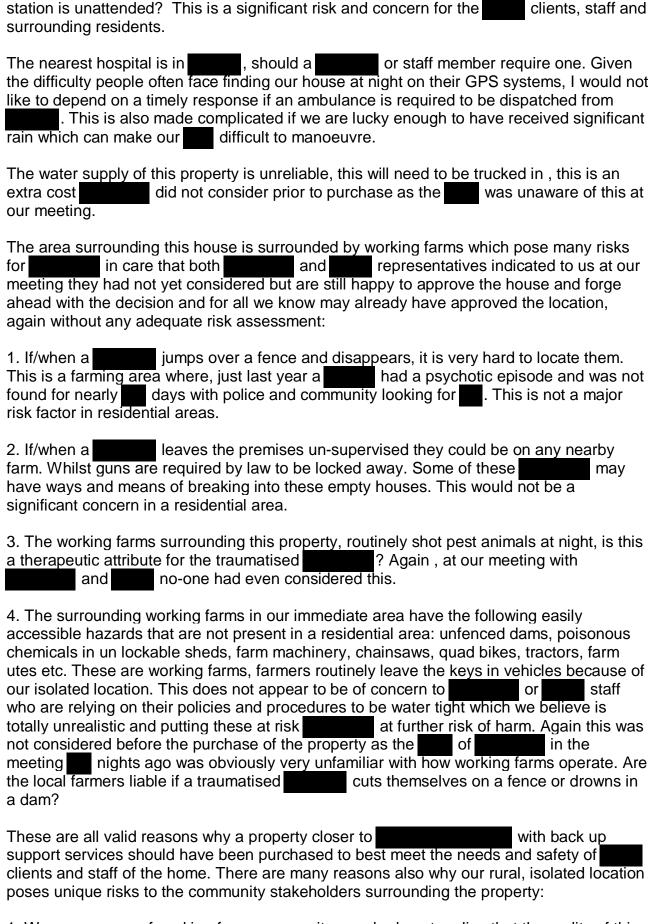
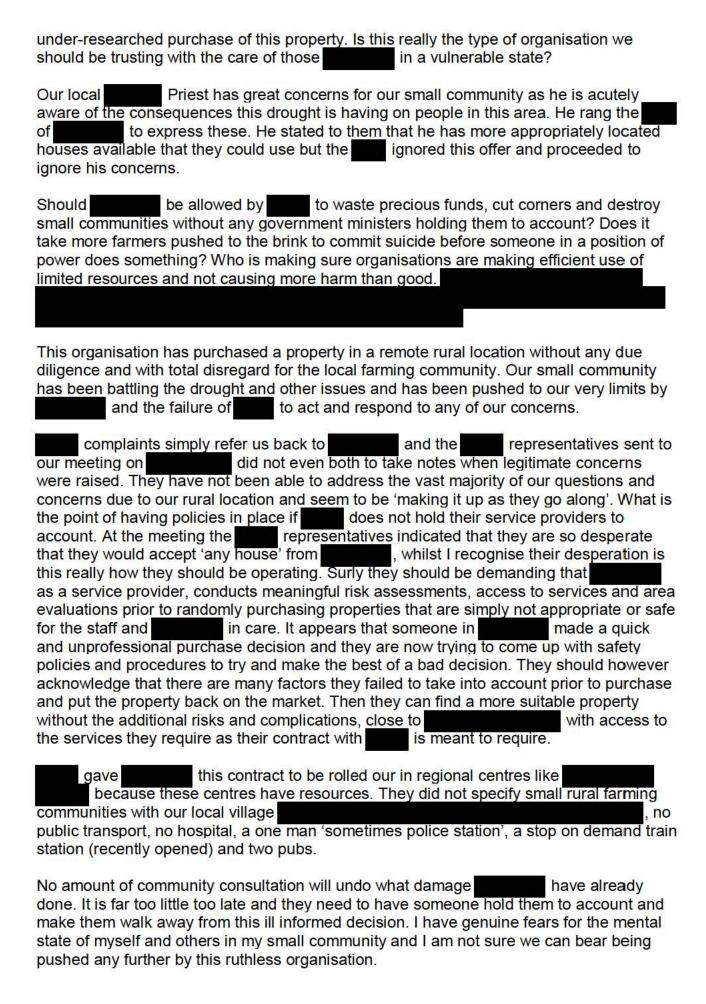
Submission to Productivity Commission for Mental Health, 29 March

I would like to bring to your attention a situation where an organisation sub-contracted by is misusing limited rural resources and ignoring local community concerns and fragility.
I am a resident of a small local farming community . Our community has faced considerable hardship as a result of the drought and some of us are in a very vulnerable mental state for a number of reasons.
, a group home provider contracted (by recently secretly bought a house recently secretly bought a house reasons I will attempt to outline below:
I am aware that the job and and have is a very difficult one and that you both perform vital roles with limited resources. This however is not a reason for either organisation to cut corners and not have adequate policies and procedures in place to ensure the best outcomes for in need and not adversely affect community stakeholders.
First and foremost, which are large regional centres. An isolated property between is NOT or in its immediate area. This area simply does not have the access to services that are required by this facility.
recently purchased a house in our quiet isolated lane without any community consultation or due diligence given it is a rural area with very different issues and concerns. They have acted in a manor that can only be described as grossly negligent for a number of reasons I will attempt to outline below. They have not previously rolled out a service in an area surrounded by working farms and after our meeting with them on night it is clear they have limited understanding of what significant issues this raises.
We are a small local farming community Our community has faced considerable hardship as a result of the drought and some of us are in a very vulnerable mental state for a number of reasons.
The of stated in our meeting on night that this house was purchased quickly, without any risk assessment for reasons I am unable to understand as it had been on the market for a considerable time frame. advised us that they look for 'quiet', 'homely' houses and was not able to give us any reason why such a house close to was not chosen. There are many available and they would not result in all the extra concerns bedroom house close to would also be a much more efficient use of limited resources such as the therapists required by this facility.
Some services required by these facilities are simply not available in our community such as a local 24 hour manned police station, a hospital, crisis support, therapists, mental health out of hours services. Our lane is difficult to locate on some GPS's these factors are exacerbated at night. What happens if a house manager needs urgent back up crisis support in the middle of the night and the local police.



1. We are an area of working farms, many city people do not realise that the reality of this is that farmers work ALL day. In practice this means primary aged school children get

not ideal and it would be wonderful if farming parents were being supported more to get through these tough times but this is the harsh reality. This however is usually an ok risk as these are sensible farm kids mostly who know how to look after themselves. They are not however equiped to deal with traumatised house. Who is there in our government who actually cares about our innocent farm kids? Should a facility such as this be on a remote rural school bus route? have communicated to us that these possible sex offence risks?
will be issued with mobile phones, which given our remote location makes us very vulnerable to and associates that are called and subsequently brought to . These risks and concerns would not be an issue for a community closer to services. We do not have a 24hour police station if anything happens out here. My house does not even have phone coverage inside the house when the unreliable internet is down. What am I meant to do to protect myself and hops over the fence? What if they call undesirable friends in? Staff at the property are given a 'panic' room, what are we given? Many neighbouring properties are old ,easily broken into farm houses.
3.Because we are a farming area, many farmers are severely stressed with the drought. They are struggling to pay enormous debts. If one troubled wanders onto their property next door and even simply leaves a gate open for stack, this can mean a whole years income is lost. Will property or pay compensation to farmers who suffer financial losses due to this operation?
4. and have shown no concern or compassion for the fact that there are childhood trauma victims directly affected by this proposal. My neighbour was the victim of a horrendous crime when a child . My own childhood left me with severe trauma that I was coping with prior to this situation causing severe impacts. I have included below for your reference my early correspondence with which they proceeded to ignore. Please bear in mind that as a result of their actions I was in a very fragile state of mind when I wrote them.
continued to hide from our local community for weeks before being coerced by our small local council into a meeting with immediate residents. In the meantime this has caused enormous stress to be placed on an already very fragile community. The last weeks have been resulted in a mental crisis for me personally do due my childhood trauma and requirements for a very specific' safe' place to live. This group home directly violates my right to feel safe and purchasing this property I was able to re-assure myself in difficult moments that I live purchasing this property I was able to re-assure myself in high where I know all my neighbours, why on earth would anyone choose which people will say are not rational. Anyone who has personally experienced severe childhood trauma knows it is not rational and that each and everyone of us finds our best way to cope with the damage we are left with. Mine is this home, this community and I am doing my absolute best to give my children the childhood I didn't have. The are fully aware of this and have communicated to my husband that it is not their job to care for the neighbours whilst the operate their business, stating that this might be 'my journey'. I am facing an enormous struggle on a day to day basis as a direct result of their inappropriate and



I really hope you are able to give this situation the proper consideration it requires. I apologise if I have rambled a bit, I am severely sleep deprived at the moment.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, yours Sincerely,