**Australian Shadow Report Delegation Opening Statement**

**Sonia Hume**

Hello I’m Sonia Hume I’m a parent with intellectual disability.

We live in fear that our children will be taken away. Parents with disability are 10 times more likely to have their children removed from their care.

In Australia there is an unborn baby alert – Someone can raise a concern, most of the time, the parent doesn’t find out about this until just weeks before the birth – there isn’t time to prove they can care for a baby.

Their baby is then removed at birth or just after. No counselling is offered. Then it’s up to the parent to try to get their baby back through the courts.

Children with disability are placed in institutions because the National Disability Insurance Scheme doesn’t provide enough supports. Indigenous children are far more likely to be in out of home care.

Parents with intellectual disability **can** be capable and caring parents, I know this because I am one.