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**From:** Julieann Conway [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 February 2022 11:55 AM  
**To:** Mental Health Select Committee  
**Subject:** Submission to Mental Health Select Committee

To Committee Secretary,  
Mental Health Select Committee,  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld. 4000.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My Name: Julieann Conway

Email Address: [REDACTED] Telephone number: [REDACTED]

I wish to submit for Committee Discussion an item concerning the Qld Public Trust Office and the effect of their actions on the severely Mentally ill people who are on a Disability Support Pension and have their pension going into the office of the Qld Public Trust.

I speak from experience as having had Enduring Power of Attorney for my Sister, now deceased. She was severely Mentally Ill from July 1978 until her death from Breast Cancer in February 2015, so I am not betraying her confidentiality.

I have been nursing since 1971. A RN trained at PAH 1974-1977. A Registered Psychiatric Nurse from 1989 to Retirement in July 2019.

I do not have a lived experience of mental illness however, apart from my work, I dealt with many issues on behalf of my sister, Shelley Conway.

When not in hospital, she lived in a house in Ipswich and next door to her house was a place called a "half-way house " for persons on parole or discharged from jail.

The man living there soon realised how very vulnerable my sister was and he began to systematically extract money from my sister using many schemes, that covered his thefts. I went to the Police a number of times to report this matter in the hope of something being done to stop his thieving of her money, car, items from her house and worse. At this time, there was no Community Mental Health that I could report this to.

The Police did nothing at all and kept telling me that he was a "User" , " Not an Abuser".

She was facing destitution so she agreed with me to have her Money matters placed in the care of the Qld Public Trust Office.

That decision caused more problems. The Public Trust would not explain her fee payments nor where her money was going. My Sister became even more disturbed and constantly asked the Public Trust where her money was going. Even with my Enduring Power of Attorney, the Public Trust would not explain why she was losing so much money when she was only on a Disability Support Pension.

My memories of that time were revived recently in an article in the newspaper :

The Senior News, dated Thursday December 02, 2021, in an article titled:

"Overseeing Public Trustee," by Eileen Wood, about the Queensland Public Trustee, 'following a critical report into the organisation's practices, fees and charges.'

My sister's mental illness was exacerbated by the person stealing from her, and her illness only worsened when I wrongly assumed that her money would be safe with the Qld Public Trustee.

I hope that this submission will be able to be included in the Committee Inquiry.

Regards,  
Julieann Conway.