

Facts about Just Invisible

About the report

This report details the extensive and systemic problems that people who are homebound and/or bedridden have with accessing the medical healthcare system, including access to GPs, medical professionals, hospital systems and allied health. In short, the entire medical system has been designed and based around physical attendance - if you don't turn up you are assumed not to need or want the service. If you are homebound/bedridden and you live in the community, then the healthcare system treats you as if you do not exist.

The report was written by Ricky Buchanan from her bed during March-May 2018. Ricky had felt for years that such a report was necessary, but that it should be written by an organisation with funding and government backing. Eventually it became clear to her that this was never going to happen, and this report was what eventuated.

Ricky emphasises that she is lucky - unlike many people who are homebound/bedridden, her conditions do not seriously impair her thinking or communication, and she has been bedridden for decades now, so feels that she is excellently placed to document these failures of the medical system.

About the author

Ricky Buchanan is a middle aged woman who's been disabled since her teenaged years and bedridden since her early twenties. She can walk just barely enough to get to the toilet and back, but can't sit up or walk apart from that - not even enough to use a reclining wheelchair.

Ricky says, "I lie flat on my back all day - there's a hospital bed in my living room with a computer system set up so I can use it lying flat, and a waterbed in my bedroom for sleeping. I can listen to audiobooks and podcasts and the radio, watch small amounts of TV or videos on the computer, use my computer to read and draw and stay connected via Facebook and Twitter, and write articles and blog posts if I'm careful to "save up" the typing until I have a patch of the day with some energy."

When Ricky is not trying to change the world, she designs new bits of assistive technology for herself, uses her computer to draw, listens to endless hours of audiobooks, creates websites, and takes photos of her cat.

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