Illustrations by Alice Müller

Now, it is our opportunity to actively stand together and to never underestimate the care. Are we prepared to actively challenge stigmatising attitudes to ensure no-one fails prepared to go the extra mile, to accompany the person in need of care to the source of help.

The reactions to Jesus’ response from the various representatives in the crowd differ from Matthew 12:9-13. What is particularly poignant (vs 5) is that Jesus reacted when he saw the faith of the lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man...

“Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralysed man was resting on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man: “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

The Scriptural story described in Matthew, Mark and Luke is very poignant. It is an encounter in the Synagogue between Jesus and a man ‘with a withered hand.’ Having a disability rendered the man an outcast in the society of that day. His social standing, of one’s employment, the loss of the support and love of one’s family, loss of dignity and control and ultimately one’s life. Some may feel as though their whole life has become irrelevant. They equate health seeking behaviour with weakness, unmanliness and beneath them.