



Community Living Plan

Presentation by Eddie Bartnik
Living in the West Conference
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Disability Services Commission



Purpose and Process



- Mandate from Sector Health Check : to broaden the range of community living options with emphasis on low/no cost community support and flexible innovative options as alternatives to group homes
- Focus on adults moving out into a “home” of their own in the community and having “a good life”
- Stage 1 Concept Plan (July 07- now) then Stage 2 Implementation Plan (August –Dec 08) - longer horizon/key linkages/targets
- Stage 1 had 3 deliverables: information resource on innovative examples, report on pathways and partnerships, new framework for community living
- Project staff and Reference Group
- DSC webpage, newsletters, research, presentations, public workshops, submissions, invited input, writing workshop for the framework
- Targeted and public feedback on drafts

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Project deliverable 1

A “best practice” information resource of innovative support options locally, nationally and internationally

- A web based tool for anyone with an interest in a broader range of options (located within “Community Life”)
- Principles and criteria developed for inclusion (eg evidence based, person centred, creative combinations of paid and unpaid supports, cost effective, sustainable)
- Includes project descriptions, stories, research reports, planning resources and policy documents
- Direct links to primary sources, Frequently Asked Questions, Feedback loop
- People can use themselves or with assistance (eg LACs, staff, other families)
- Feedback -shorter family resource planned

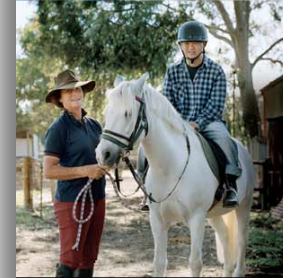


Examples

- Range of examples related to financing, planning, network development and community living arrangements
- Descriptions of various models of community living support eg visiting support, neighbour support, neighbourhood/"Keyring" network, co-housing, live-in support



Project deliverable 2



Report on Alternative Pathways and Partnerships

- Themes from public workshops re barriers and strategies
- Public submissions and invited presentations
- Analysis of strengths and limitations of WA context
- Proposed set of “Building Blocks for Community Living”





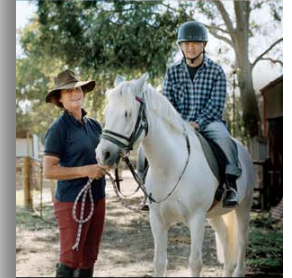
Figure 1: Community Living – The ‘Building Blocks’

My dreams and vision for “my own life, my own home, in communities where we all belong”

A network of family, friends and supporters	Clarity in and support for decision making and governance	Plan for participation, contribution and community engagement	A place to live that’s home - where to live - who I live with - how I live
Appropriate technical assistance with information and planning	Opportunities to ‘imagine better’ and explore new alternatives	A practical plan, including any resources required to support community living	Partnerships and shared responsibility
Safeguards			



Project deliverable 3



A new Framework for Community Living

- Vision statement (“All West Australians to have the same opportunity: my own life, my own home, in communities where we all belong”)
- Key principles (eg core values, person centred approach)
- Outcomes (eg wellbeing, relationships and social connection, lifestyle and home)
- Broad strategies (eg focus for community living and technical support, investment in vision and core values, strengthening family support and leadership, partnerships)
- Measures of change (individual and systems level)

Key points:

- High level of consultation and agreement achieved
- Foundation for development of Stage 2 Implementation Plan and any new funding processes
- Dissemination via a “Community Living Concept Plan Booklet”

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Some lessons for disability service practice



- There is already a substantial amount of information on innovative community living arrangements – what is required is investment in the “building blocks” and strategies
- Relationships and community supports are essential features but take more time . Need to start “creating” these earlier.
- Shared responsibility and partnerships are required (a growing theme from many families)
- The WA context has many positives but a growing culture of “waiting” for CAP – need to create a new planning pathway
- As well as helping people imagine what some of these more innovative community living arrangements might look like, also need to develop a an additional layer of expertise to develop and deliver

Next steps

- Stage 1 Community Living Concept Plan and Information Resource to be on the Commission website soon
- Stage 2 Implementation Plan process will be commencing in August
- New budget funds have been allocated for Community Living Support Options and work is underway to develop a new policy and funding framework for a new funding pathway in coming months
- A Community Living Technical Support Unit is being established to provide a clear point of focus and coordination for the various strategies
- Various sector partnerships are underway to deliver training in person centred planning and individualised service design

