

# *The Personalised Residential Supports Project*

# PROJECT PURPOSES

- **Overall: to explore the nature, purposes and outcomes of personalised residential supports (PRS)**
- **Specifically, to identify:**
  - **defining characteristics**
  - **strengths and limitations**
  - **barriers and facilitators**
  - **outcomes for the person with a disability**
  - **issues of quality**
- **Over 30 months to June 2009**
- **Partners: DDC, NDS, Parents, DSC CLP, Researchers, Lotterywest**

# METHODOLOGIES

- Literature review
- Scoping exercise
- Selection of six ‘case studies’: interviews, analysis, themes
- Survey of stakeholders (people with disabilities, family members, service providers, policy makers, authorities): written survey and focus group, analysis, themes
- Member check: range 4.5-4.9

# Theme 1: MY HOME – 4.7

- *Living in and owning one's own home is the ideal and a personal stake in your home can result in a sense of ownership, responsibility and empowerment. By living in a 'home' and not merely 'accommodation', the person with a disability is involved in choices concerning their homes and are responsible for home forming practices such as domestic duties, privacy and routines.*

## Theme 2: Leadership – 4.6

- *At least one person with a clear vision or strong ideas is needed. This leadership may come from professionals or family members advocating on behalf of the person with a disability. It may also come from the person with a disability. A lack of leadership was considered a barrier to successful implementation of a PRS arrangement.*

## Theme 3: ONE PERSON AT A TIME – 4.6

- *PRS means an intentional avoidance of grouping of people with disabilities. It fosters unique arrangements focusing on each person with a disability with his/her ‘voice’ being central. The arrangements are person-centred, are based on personal knowledge of the person with a disability and are guided by those who know the person well.*

## Theme 4: THRIVING – 4.5

- *PRS facilitates growth and development through opportunities with an increased likelihood of an enhanced lifestyle and general well-being. There are opportunities in PRS for personal growth in the areas of independence, self-determination and competencies and fostering valued roles in the home and in the community.*

## Theme 5: CONTINUITY – 4.8

- *Continuity means stability in relationships, where and with whom a person lives, and the lifestyle each person prefers. There is a sense of stability in the arrangements with continuity of support workers. There are enduring relationships with family, friends and neighbours.*



## Theme 6: SAFEGUARDING – 4.7

- *PRS includes awareness and identification of risks and the planning and implementation of safeguards. Some risks associated with PRS include instability of arrangements including funding and support, demands on primary carers, tenancy issues, and loneliness and vulnerability if living alone. Many of the characteristics of PRS, such as continuity of relationships constitute safeguards in themselves.*

# Theme 7: RELATIONSHIPS – 4.9\*

- *The person has, or is supported to achieve, a rich social network, including family, friends, acquaintances, and support workers. There are some relationships that are very close and enduring.*

## **Theme 8: QUALITY & CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PRS ARRANGEMENT – 4.5**

- *Some qualities that make PRS unique are flexibility, informality and personalised support. Successful arrangements are monitored by agencies that are creative, responsive to possibilities and open to change.*

## Theme 9: SUPPORT – 4.6

- *Support to people in PRS arrangements comes from many different informal and formal sources including family, friends, neighbours, advocates, and paid workers through organisations. There is a conscious balance between informal and formal supports. Support is flexible and responsive to changing needs.*

# Theme 10: CONTROL – 4.7

- *People who are the primary concern of a PRS arrangement and the others who are close to them, particularly family members, have considerable influence in the arrangement. This may include direct governance by the person or the family as appropriate. This influence occurs through all stages of the planning, development, and implementation of a PRS arrangement.*

# Theme 11: ASSUMPTIONS – 4.9\*

*Some key assumptions that underpin PRS arrangements include:*

- *It is not necessary for people with a disability to live together;*
- *PRS can occur without a person having to live independently or alone;*
- *People with complex and high support needs can live in their own home;*
- *PRS are associated with increased expectations for people with a disability.*

## Theme 12: PLANNING – 4.7

- *Timely planning is integral to PRS and requires a long term outlook and investment of time and effort. Planning is based on the person's uniqueness, strengths and individual needs. People close to the person are involved in the planning process.*

# Theme 13: SOCIAL INCLUSION

## – 4.7

- *PRS arrangements involve building wider community acceptance by avoiding congregation and segregation of the person with the disability. There is an outcome of reduced isolation and there is a focus on participation and engagement resulting in social inclusion.*



# Theme 14: SELF DETERMINATION – 4.5

- *PRS arrangements enable people to exercise choice and decision-making and be more independent.*

# NEXT STEPS

- Use multi attribute utility (MAU) methodology to:
  - Develop clusters of themes (attributes)
  - Prioritise and weight attributes & clusters
- Operationalise themes into a rating scale.
- Pilot the instrument.