Disability Housing Support Research Framework

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Outline

- Disability housing support options in Australia

- Research framework and methods

- Effectiveness – participant outcomes

- Appropriateness and sustainability

- Research and policy implications

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Trials until 2018, national implementation 2019

- Assessment and allocation of individual package managed by person, intermediary or service provider

- Estimated to apply to 10% of disabled people

- Supplement with mainstream and informal support

- Other disabled people mainstream support – health, home care, education, housing

Disability housing support options

Option type	Evaluated options
Individual packages	1. Supported Living Fund
	2. Individual Accommodation Support Packages
Drop-in support	3. Independent Living Drop-in Support
	4. Independent Living Skills Initiative
Group housing	5. Lifestyle Planning Policy - in government group homes and institutions
Other	6. Private group housing
	7. Intentional community
	8 & 9. Parent governance options

Program logic

Participant outcomes

Live with increased independence – self determination, personal development

Live the way you want to – rights, autonomy

Live in the home of your choosing – material wellbeing

Social inclusion and participation in the community – relationships

Healthy and fulfilling lifestyles – physical and emotional wellbeing

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housing support provided in options

Arranging or providing a preferred place to live – home, location, co-tenants

Arranging or providing support as needed to live there

- Practical support
- Skills development
- Building and maintaining relationships
- Referral, linkage, brokerage and funds management
- Decision making support – to participant and family

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Option characteristics

Participants have choice, flexibility and control over housing support – funding, supports, place

Person centred – primary determiners, supported decision making and planning

Strengths and partnership based –

- capabilities and goals, shared commitment

Integrated and collaborative practice –

- family, friends, community, specialist and mainstream organisations

Responsive to Indigenous people; and cultural, linguistic and religious diversity

Age and life stage appropriate

Quality assurance – continuous improvement, regular review, sustainable support and funding arrangements, staff development

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Participant characteristics

disabled people with housing support needs, their family and support networks

Rights and choice

When I first opened up the door, I knew that this was it, was freedom ... these days I've got a smile on my face, got my own food and can come and go as I please … I'm just loving it.   *Person with disability, Drop-in support*

She is beginning to forge new links, particularly gaining confidence shopping for herself and finding regular places, for example cafes, where she is becoming known.   *Family member, Individual package*

My ability to develop and implement skills training has increased immensely, as have my observation skills. Being able to meet and look at the 'big picture', working alongside the participants and their family has allowed me to provide the training required to suit both the individual and the family environment.
                    Support worker, Drop-in support

Research questions

- **Effectiveness**

  - Does the supported housing option provide the intended services and change outcomes for people with a disability?

- **Appropriateness**

  - Does the service reach the target group and meet their housing support needs?

- **Integrity and sustainability**

  - Are the options implemented as planned and responsive to identified gaps in design to maximise effectiveness within the option, with other options and with mainstream services?

Mixed methods

- Review of government program data

- Surveys to disabled people, family members and service managers

- Qualitative inclusive interviews with disabled people, family and service managers

- Focus groups with support workers

- Case studies

- Observations

Samples and methods

Name of SAEF option	Total places	Program data	Interviews					Surveys[1]		
			Disabled people	Case studies	Families	Mana-gers	Direct worker focus group	Disabled people	Families	Mana-gers
Individual packages	275	276	17	2	11	4	1	62	53	5
Drop-in support	163	100	15	2	4	3	1	42	26	5
Group accommodation	1705	1704	37	2	6	4	1	13	41	32
Other	60	52	21	-	16	-	-	16	11	0
Total	2193	2132	90	6	37	11	3	133	131	42

Source: ADHC 2013; SAEF stage 1 data collection 2013
Notes: 1. Surveys distributed to all people with disability in each option, their family, one manager from all service providers with an active package allocated

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Findings – effectiveness

Intended services and change outcomes for disabled people?

- Most people achieved some outcomes, especially self-determination in individualised options

- Less change in relationships and material wellbeing

- Depended on capacity and responsiveness of formal and informal support

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Findings – appropriateness

Reach target groups and meet their housing support needs?

- Men and younger people had greatest access to support options

- Depended on the quality of the provider and staff, not the option characteristics

Findings – integrity and sustainability

Implemented as planned, responsive to gaps in design, maximise effectiveness?

- Facilitators – capacity of informal supporters, support worker skills, provider responsiveness

- Challenges – information, decision making support, cultural barriers, implementation, allocation of funding

- Strengths – flexible funding, choice, preferences, informal support, housing location

- Weaknesses – inflexibility, affordability, culture, quality mechanisms

Policy implications – design

- Information about housing scope, control and flexibility

- Flexibility of funding to tailor to needs of the person, family and community

- Size and change in funding per person for support in transition and changes

- Housing support design compatible with

  - CRPD and NDIS implementation

  - funding, finances, planning, review and accountability

- Group housing – plan for people who want to move out

- Other group (private, intentional, parent group) – clarify government responsibility in establishment and operation

Policy implications – implementation

- Information and decision making support for disabled people and families

  - comparative information about choices

  - advice about risk management and conflict resolution

  - application process and goals

  - arranging support, review and monitoring

  - informed by the experiences of disabled people

- Recruitment and decision making support to socio-demographic groups that are under-represented

- Service providers
  - performance monitoring against the Disability Service Standards, state policy and goals
  - train and support workers to meet quality expectations
  - ensure dispute resolution mechanisms and support

Policy implications – interagency collaboration

- Address the shortage of affordable housing for disabled people to live in

- Encourage service providers to collaborate with

    - employment support

    - specialist and mainstream services

    - community development

    - local self-advocacy organisations

    - organisations for referral, training and quality improvement

How government will use the research

- Supported Housing Evaluation Guide, a resource that can be used by disability service providers to evaluate their own services

- The Guide provides direction to providers who wish to evaluate the housing support services that they provide to disabled people

- A Summary Report provides detail around how the evaluation was completed

- To be published soon

Resources

Long-term care and disability policy projects and publications
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