



Count Me In

Disability Future Directions



2011 Scholarship Report



Lisa Moshovis is a Senior Speech Pathologist at The Centre for Cerebral Palsy. She works in the Independent Living Program who provide services to adults with a disability.



This year she completed a project to find out how different countries give services to people with disabilities.

She received a scholarship to travel to Canada and England.



This is a **short summary** of the information she found.

This **report** talks about:

- How Canada and England have made **supports and services** more **personalised**. This means putting you at the centre of any planning and decision making.
- How we can better **support people to safely manage any risks** associated with their care.



In Canada:

- People with disabilities receive **abuse prevention education** so they know their rights. Organisations understand people need to know how to protect themselves.
- Organisations ask **service users** to **join a council** to provide feedback about how they are doing.
- People who have **difficulty communicating** can access a **specialty trained carer** for appointments or community visits. This role is called a **Communication Facilitator**. They can help the person interact with people who don't know them well.
- If a person **wants to live independently** in the community but has not tried this before, Canada has an **apartment stay program** where the person is supported to safely experiment living in their own place. They are also assisted to develop new skills such as directing care staff.
- Service providers offer a variety of **educational groups** to **help people advocate** for themselves and **make their own choices**.
- A **person with a disability** always **participates** in a **staff member's performance appraisal**.
- A **committee** of people from the disability sector **meet monthly** to hear individual cases. They **make recommendations** and help staff to support people to **manage** any **risks** associated with their care. This helps the person to **achieve their personal goals**.

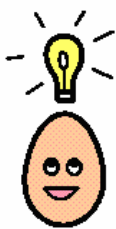


- **Organisations** employ their own **Person Centred Planning Officer** to provide in-house training and to monitor standards to ensure people are always at the centre of any planning and decision making.



In England:

- **Guidelines** available to support people to engage in **positive risk taking**. Safety measures are always put into place to minimise risk.
- **People and their families** receive **training in person centred planning** so they can better participate in any planning meetings with service providers.
- **Information** is always provided in an **easy to read version** so that everyone can stay informed. Access to information is seen as the key to empowering people.



This report recommends that **service providers** in Western Australia **look at applying these ideas** to improve services for people with disabilities.



If you would like a **full copy of the report**, please visit

The Centre's website:



www.tccp.com.au