Facilitators and Barriers in Australian Disability Housing Support Policies – Using a human rights framework

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Outline

Background to research

Supported living arrangements
  - Australia
  - Internationally

Goals of supported living policy in a human rights framework

Facilitators and barriers to successful policy

Implications for disability rights and housing support policy
Background to research

Commissioned project 24-hour disability housing support

- Disability Policy and Research Working Group, National Disability Administrators

What prevents people with disabilities experiencing rights to housing support?

Methodology

- National and international literature review
- Interviews – people with disabilities; national, state and territory officials, service providers
- Six case studies – written materials, interviews, questionnaires with service managers, clients and families
Supported living arrangements Australia

Most people with disabilities live with family and friends

Trends

- Decline in large residential settings
- Growth in semi-independent living
- Individualised funding and service provision
- Minimise size of setting – structure and number of people
- Move away from new group homes – cost, inflexibility, large unmet demand for service

24-hour support – growth in disability specific and generic models of housing support
Supported living arrangements international

International trends
- Deinstitutionalisation
- Shift towards increased in-home support and community support
- Case-managed, individualised funding

Scandinavia
- Leaders in the deinstitutionalisation and individualised support

USA
- Shift toward consumer directed support

UK/Europe
- Shifts to individualised funding; reemphasis on family
Goals of supported living policy

1. Human rights
   - Equalisation of position; focus on empowerment

2. Quality of life
   - Including social participation

3. Independent living
   - Self-determination and choice

4. Cost effectiveness
   - For person using housing support
   - Effective use of limited government funding
Facilitators and barriers to disability rights

1. Legislation, agreements and regulations
2. Funding and demand management
3. Range, flexibility and choice of housing support
4. Staffing quality and support
5. Interagency coordination
6. Support with informal carers
7. Discrimination
Implications for right to disability housing support

Main facilitators

- Broader range of housing support provides more flexibility
- Training and management of staff greatest determinant of quality
- Development approach facilitates active empowerment
- Recognition, support and coordination with informal support

Main barriers

- Amount of available government support
- Informal coordination arrangements between the sectors
- Multiple discrimination – culture, language, gender, socioeconomic
Implications for disability housing support policy

Policy trends consistent with findings

- Facilitate innovative approaches to providing types of support at sufficient levels in a cost effective
- Individual approaches that integrate informal, formal and generic support
- Multiple approaches to meet the rights of people with disabilities with diverse needs
Resources

- **Effectiveness of supported living in relation to shared accommodation**, SPRC Report 18/08

- Fisher, Parker, Purcal (2009), ‘Measuring the effectiveness of new approaches to housing support policy for persons with disabilities’, *Australian Journal of Public Administration*

- Disability policy research SPRC

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