

Experiences of Restrictive Practices: A view from people with disabilities and family carers

Key Themes

Power

Achieving rights:

The need for advocacy Equality of arms Not sacrificing rights 'fundamental rights' for the greater good Recognising infringements human rights and freedoms and neglect Recognition of the under reporting of restrictive practices

Safety:

Of personal possessions Recognition of where people have to sacrifice rights and choices for the behaviour of the few Allowing choice that promotes safety Recognising seclusion must be about safety and active engagement and support

Visibility:

Being more visible
Services and interactions open to scrutiny
Open door policy for families and advocates

Being informed:

All people being aware, informed and educated about rights Staff awareness of affects of their decisionmaking

At the level of interaction:

Inverting power relations between staff and people for whom they support with their circle of support Recognising staff interaction as a potential 'behaviour of concern' Recognising power in communal groups Trust and respect

Positive approaches:

Choices, hopes and aspirations reflected in support to accomplish these Choice of support and services

Services and Service System Issues

Social justice:

Equal access to services for all No withdrawal reduction/change of service without consultation Services that cater for diversity

Individualised Planning and Interaction:

Individualised plans as part of BSP decision making mechanism
Positive views of the person and their goals
Positive support always

Fundamental Values Required:

Honesty especially about hard to serve clients
Working on principles of human rights
Recognition that there is no right to do something that is wrong
Hearing the voice of people with disabilities and family carers
Working with families and people with disabilities collaboratively and co-operatively
Recognising the rights of access and scrutiny of family carers and advocates
Recording systemic issues leading to organisationally restrictive practice
Avoiding re-badging of restrictive interventions
Policy compliance auditing
Review of Incident Report mechanisms at DHS level

Recognising Legitimate Causes of behaviour

Change the setting not the person.

Recognising environments of concern and characteristics of such environments.

Recognising when informal restrictions are a product of environment or the culture (30)
Recognition of the effects congregate and communal groups have in producing behaviour
Understanding the relative comfort produced in different environments
Solutions that produce honest behaviour
Changing behaviour is not sufficient grounds for a restrictive intervention.

Copies of the report are available from www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/osp
http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/354720/osp_experience_restrictive_practices.pdf