

GREAT POLICIES BUT NO EFFECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

More great policies from the DHS, but with little or no related infrastructure to ensure its related direction, intention and spirit is implemented at the service points!

Release of Best Practice Framework for Accommodation and Support

The Department of Human Services has released a new Best Practice Framework for Disability Accommodation and Support prepared by Professor Trevor Parmenter and Samuel Arnold. Trevor Parmenter is Director of the Sydney-based Centre for Developmental Disability Studies.

Development of this Framework is welcome given the urgent need for increased attention and funding to disability accommodation. The recent Auditor General's report highlighted the Department's lack of planning regarding accommodation. Acceptance of this Best Practice Framework will enable future policy initiatives to reflect national and international research and trends.

The Report consists of two sections. The first describes the current situation and the second develops the proposed Framework. The Report argues for a new paradigm in the way supports are assessed and provided to people with a disability to enable them to live a life of quality within the community.

The Report draws on both national and international research to ground its comments in relation to issues such as community living, the size of residences, and ways of providing planning and support. The authors argue for use of a Systems Framework and illustrate how the DEMOS 'personalisation' model can be used to conceptualise how formal and informal supports may be built around a person. They conclude that no single model stands out as the ideal model. Best practice service delivery should offer individuals a range of accommodation and support options.

The report's recommendations relate to:

findings arising from the research data, the need for person centred planning and assessment, resource allocation, and outputs and outcomes.

The report is available on the DHS website at:

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability/publications-library/disability-accommodation-and-support-framework-report>