

QUALITY OF LIFE SUPPORT MONITORS

(There are few available to families!)

The basic concern of all families with a member having an intellectual or multiple disability is, or should be the quality of life care their member receives when not in the family home.

There are few “quality of life” care monitors available to families with a member living in a supported accommodation group home, especially those homes where the Department of Human Services is the service provider. Nevertheless, “Personal Expenditure” can provide quite an insight into the level and quality of care.

Residents of group homes where the department is the service provider pay three components – Rent, Housekeeping and Personal Expenditure.

Personal expenditure is mainly calculated on the cost of supporting the resident to achieve the activities contained in his or her activity plan (“IPP/PCP/etc”).

Numerous times we see personal expenditure balances climb to over \$1000, from a monthly fee of say \$140. At this point we request/suggest the excess money be returned to the “Residents Trust Fund”.

One does not need to be a rocket scientist to determine the main reason for such a surplus in the resident's personal expenditure account. It means the resident is not doing the planned/defined activities in his or her IPP/PCP..... "The resident is being minded - looking at four walls!"

Yet the department's regional management never asks why a resident's personal expenditure repeatedly grows excessively, when the monthly charge is determined by the House Supervisor setting the resident's "Financial Plan" to achieve the agreed/planned/defined activities for the resident.

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