Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support Program

Responding to Behaviour Support Needs in a Disability Services Future Roundtable

Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability Conference Pushing the Boundaries

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Background to the issue

- Adoption of UN CRPD (2017) => NDS 2010-2020 => NDIS

- Concerns for people with disability and behaviour support needs in NDIS

- UNSW examined future policy and practice implications by:
    - Reviewing national and international literature
    - Reviewing Australian policy
    - Conducting interviews with family members & BS practitioners

- Behaviour support needs are diverse:
    - No 'typical' person

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Practitioner interviews

- 15 interviews across 4 states ((NSW–7, WA–5, SA–2, VIC–1);

- Reflections on BS: professional practice, models used, strengths and challenges, teamwork, quality assurance, registration, provision of services;

- Key themes: collaboration, communication, transparency, responding in a timely and consistent way.

*Everyone needs a shared understanding of the person's needs…*
We need to listen to the lived experience of the family, of the people providing support, of the people in the person's life… need the opportunity to grow and learn as part of a team so that people receive a service that is right for them.

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Family interviews

- 23 interviews across 4 states ((NSW–9, WA–9, Qld–3, SA–2);

- Four people received NDIS package; rest accessed BS services via block funding;

- General lack of knowledge on service types; some limited service availability;

- Key themes: long periods of time on waiting lists, abrupt end to services, over prescription of medication, lack of holistic view, limited responses to needs

… it is really about noticing that the whole family is affected by her disability and that the solution to making the whole family function better is to look at each member and all the permutations of all the relationships.

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Figure 1 National Framework for PBS
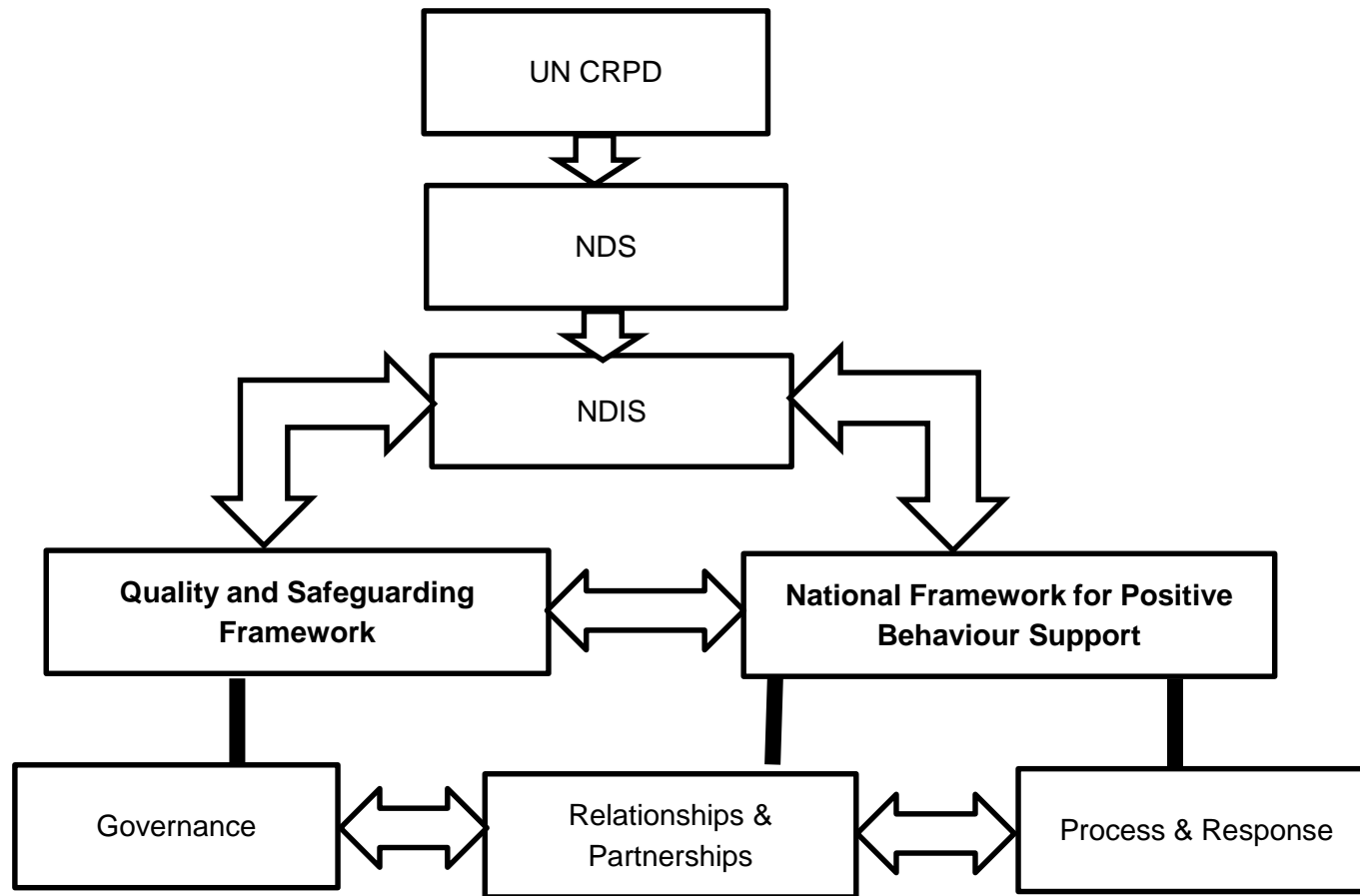
1. Governance

- Australia currently lacks consistent framework;

- Requires oversight and accountability through legislation, policies, & continuous quality control and safeguarding monitoring

Governance issues include:

- international human rights treaties;

- domestic legal and policy frameworks;

- individual state and territory legislation & policies;

- collection of data;

- protocols and procedures for service provider registration;

- staff training;

- clinical guidelines (e.g., on use of restrictive practices for PBS).

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2. Relationships & partnerships

- Between individuals and their families and service providers;

- Diversity = need for person- and/or family-centred approaches & practices;

- Risk assessment to enhance quality of life, and choice and control of the individual and his or her network;

- PBS requires practitioner sensitivity & expertise;

- Effectiveness of multi-disciplinarity (e.g., WA), cross sector collaboration, & multi-sector engagement

3. Process & responses

- 'How' and 'where' BS is provided and a 'good' versus 'problematic' provision of service;

- Cyclic approach: assessment, planning, delivery, & monitoring;

- Flexible, continuous, and multi-disciplinary assessment;

- Place-based interventions that are consistent across sites;

- Include a range of products (e.g., counselling, therapy supports, assistance in living arrangements, specialised transport);

- The continuum of BS requires expertise and training necessary for those working with people with behaviour support needs.

Questions for Discussion
Small Group Activity

Question 1: Governance – what is needed to ensure that policy, monitoring and accountability is built into the NDIS in relation to PBS?

Question 2: Meeting service demand – what is needed to improve the current NDIS system for providing PBS so that multi-faceted, early intervention is provided, and long-term outcomes are achievable?

Question 3: Capacity in mainstream services – what investment is needed to build the capacity of mainstream services (e.g., health, education, justice, child protection) to support people with disability who have behaviour support needs? Who will provide this?

Question 4: Quality of life for the person with disability and their family – what is needed to build workforce capacity and develop best practice guidelines and safeguards to ensure people with disability who have behaviour support needs and their families have a good quality of life?

Questions for Discussion
Whole Group Activity

What is needed to ensure people with disability who have behaviour support needs and their families have a good quality of life?

Consider:

- building workforce capacity (both specialist and mainstream)

- developing Nationally consistent best practice guidelines;

- developing Nationally consistent safeguards, monitoring and accountability measures

- meeting service demand for multi-faceted, early intervention to ensure positive long-term outcomes.

Information and Contact

For more information on projects, publications and resources or to download a copy of the discussion paper and provide further feedback visit

the IDBS website

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/idbs

Or

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