

AbilityOptions™



I WANT TO ROW MY
OWN BOAT

Overview

- The current context of self managed funding in Australia & a service providers perspective.
- Cheryl Gardner – analysis of the model for families and a regional perspective.
- Lisa Ashford Potter – a focus on Brenton's package and a metropolitan experience.

Australia ...

- Perspectives by state – Fisher et al (2009).
- ACT, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA, NSW
- WA 20 years of direct funding.

Self Managed funding in NSW

- Attendant Care –
 - person care, service directed by person with a disability utilising accredited service providers.
- Community Access
 - increasing independence for people with a disability when they leave school.

Ability Options

- Families manage recruit and manage their own staff, purchase services as required through Ability Options in line with their person centred plan.
- Accounts and statements administered at AO's head office.
- Seminar Program – connecting people

Challenges

- Moving from a pilot of 20 people to 120 people in 2 years.
- Internal payroll and finance systems interfacing to produce external statements – monthly.
- How much support to self manage is feasible?
- Direct payments, experienced families.

SELF-MANAGED COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

A family perspective

SMCP MODEL

FAMILY GOVERNANCE

SOCIALLY VALUED ROLES

INCLUSIVENESS

RELATIONSHIPS

FAMILY GOVERNANCE

- Financial transparency
- Budgets
- Monthly statements.
- High levels of accountability
- Individualised approach
- Viewing families as experts
- Circles of Support

FAMILY GOVERNANCE

- Choice of recruitment
- Flexibility to create opportunities
- Life never becomes a destination but becomes a constantly evolving, dynamic life the same as the rest of society enjoy
- Education program – regular seminars provide opportunities for families to get together

SOCIALLY VALUED ROLES

person with disability

person without disability

Roles:

- Client of support service
- Group home client

Roles:

- Traveller
- Student
- Employee











SOCIALLY VALUED ROLES

Image in own eyes – self
image

- Self-confidence/self-esteem
- Autonomy & freedom

SOCIALLY VALUED ROLES

- Acceptance and belonging
- Opportunities for other socially valued roles

INCLUSIVENESS

- **Becoming known in your local community**
- **Always going where the welcome is**
- **Asking people from the community to come into the life of the person**

INCLUSIVENESS

To be successful in achieving true inclusiveness families need an understanding of

- Philosophy of inclusiveness
- People keep people safe

RELATIONSHIPS

Although a young person
might always have a
disability need they also have
a human need

RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are freely given because of;

- Genuine interest in the individual
- Share the same interests
- Invite for tea
- Take to concerts, movies, horse races etc

RELATIONSHIPS

Long term benefits of freely given relationships

- Increased feelings of independence
- Less dependence on family for support
- Genuine friendships
- Spontaneous outings

Long term benefits of self management

FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

- Self-confidence/self esteem
- Desire to communicate
- Self-respect
- Social skills
- Experiencing freely given relationships

Long term benefits of self management

FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

- Decrease in stress and behavioural issues
- More inter-dependence as an individual with a whole range of other people
- Learning new skills

Long term benefits of self management

FOR THE FAMILY

- Empowerment
- Less stress
- Improvement in family dynamics

AND THE BEST PART OF ALL!!

We firmly believe that **EVERY**
family no matter what their
background has the potential to
self-manage if they so desire!!

Self-Managed Community Participation



The Future Is In Our Hands

In The Beginning - Brenton's Final Year

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- Riding the Wave of Post School Options
- Testing the Water – Supported Employment
- Looking Within – Established Networks

Staff



- Selecting Staff from a variety of backgrounds
- Matching Staff
- Casual – fit in when and where needed
- Trained in specific area

Funding



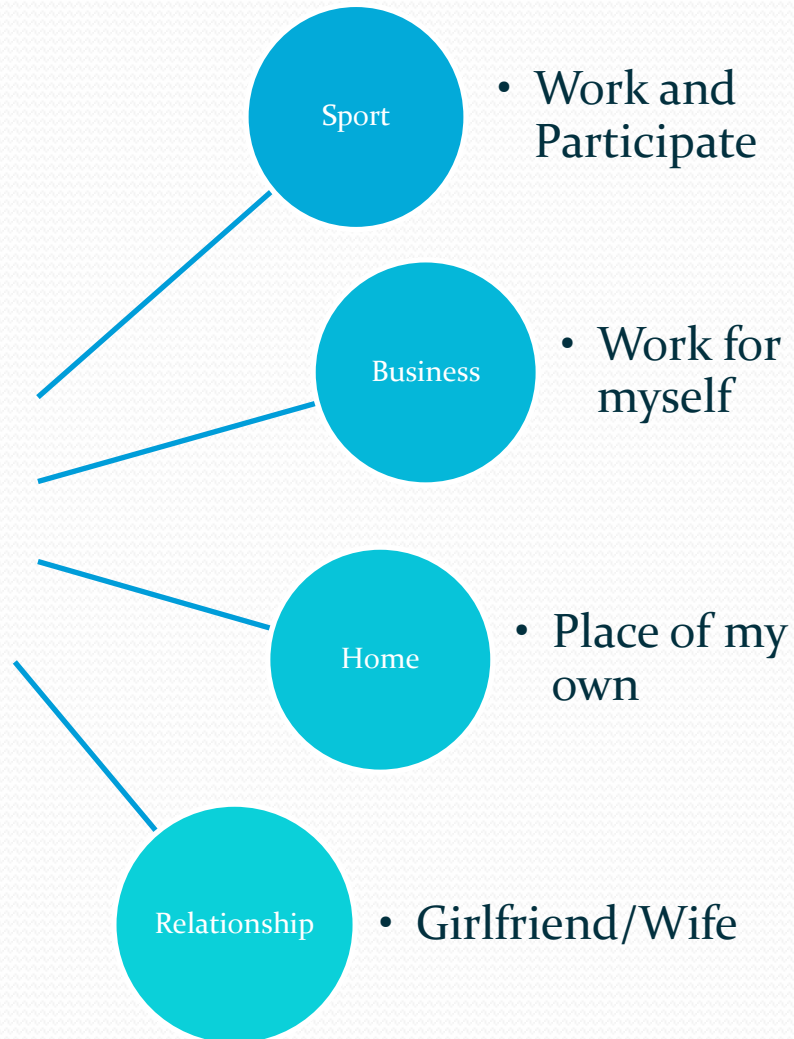
- Not Pooled
- 100% spent on Brenton's interests
- Self-determined*

* Within CP Guidelines

A Week In The Life...

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
School Term	School Term	School Term	School Term	Weekly	Seasonal
Soccer 3:30 - 5:30pm Informal White Knights	Volunteering 8:30am - 3:30pm Formal Sport & Recreation Services	Volunteering 8:30am - 3:30pm Formal Sport & Recreation Services	Rugby League 3:30 - 5:30pm Informal	Community /Life Skills 10am - 3pm Formal CI Worker	AFL Game Day 11am - 5pm Informal Northern District Tigers
School Hol	Weekly	School Hol	Weekly	Weekly	Seasonal
Alternative Formal CI Worker	Kodokan Judo 6pm - 8:30pm Formal CI Worker	Alternative Formal CI Worker	Community 10am - 2pm Formal CI Worker	Socialise 6pm - 11pm Informal Bowling Club	NBL Season 6pm - 11pm Informal Wollongong Hawks Total Weekly = 33 hours

Where to from here...



Thank You



Questions?
Questions?
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