

A photograph of three people standing on a balcony or rooftop at sunset. They are seen from behind, with their arms raised in the air. The person on the left is wearing a striped shirt, the middle person is wearing a denim jacket, and the person on the right is wearing a blue sweater. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue, with the sun low on the horizon. The overall mood is celebratory and hopeful.

Implementation of Toolkit for Planning and Supporting New Living Arrangements

idea
services

ASID 2023: Valuing different
perspectives

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Why was the Toolkit created?

- Improving safety
- Improving Quality of Life
- Step towards self determination

Barriers to self-determined flatmate selection – Wiltz (2007)

- Waitlists for access to residential services
- Urgent referrals leading to time pressure
- Limited vacancies with service providers
- Lack of information on potential flatmates
- Financial constraints
- Parents/Caregiver reluctance to allow the person to make such an important decision

Barriers to self-determined flatmate selection – NZ context

- Process led by Service Managers following referral from NASC
- Waitlists and limited vacancies
- Urgent referrals leading to time pressure
- Funding constraints

How the Toolkit was developed

- Literature review
- Initial document “Flatmate Compatibility Tool” was drafted and piloted
- Feedback from pilot was collated and additional supporting documents introduced creating the “Toolkit for Planning and Supporting New Living Arrangements”
- Toolkit was finalised and rolled out nationwide

What is the Toolkit

- An internal process used within IDEA Services
- A series of resources which together create the “Toolkit for planning and supporting new living arrangements”
- Including:
 - Research informed resource to assess flatmate compatibility “The Flatmate Compatibility Tool”
 - Additional supporting documents

The Flatmate Compatibility Tool



- Step One: Description of Vacancy
- Step Two: Potential Flatmate Self Report
- Step Three: Assessing compatibility
- Step Four: Problem Solving
- Step Five: Final Choice

Supporting Documents

- Flatmate Compatibility Tool Report
- Interviewing a potential flatmate template
- Vacancy advertisement template
- Planning for a successful move resource
- Flatmate Friendship Scale

A case study - YJ

“YJ is doing really well”

“He has participated in multiple activities in Kingswood”

“He seems to open up a bit more with a young male Korean staff”

Two Year Review



62

was the average score of how helpful respondents found the Toolkit (0-100)

66

the average score of how confident respondents were in using Toolkit (0-100)

67%

of respondent thought that additional training in how to use the Toolkit would be helpful

Future Steps

- Adjustments to formatting of documents following two-year review feedback
- Development on online modules to provide additional training to Service Manager on how to use the Toolkit
- Develop a 'transition plan' template
- Continue to utilise resource to support compatibility between flatmates under current residential services model and as disability support services transformation occurs (EGL model)

References

- Wiltz, J. (2007) Self Determined Roommate Selection for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities: Barriers and New Directions, *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*, 4 (1) pg 60-65
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