

Issue #25, March 2010

This Issue

1. [What is Self-Directed Support?](#)
2. [About the Grampians Self-Directed Approaches Project](#)
3. [Policies that reflect self-directed approaches and the Quality Framework for Disability Services](#)

What is Self-Directed Support?

“Self-directed approaches enable people with a disability to identify, design and oversee the support and resources they require ... The important aspect of self-directed approaches is that the focus remains on the person themselves and that support is designed to meet their needs” (DHS 2008 p.4). It encompasses three critical elements:

- Self directed planning
- Self directed support
- Self directed funding

Self-determination and **choice** are two of the principles underpinning the self-directed approach and strive to enable people with a disability, their family and support networks to actively participate in making decisions that affect their lives, and are encouraged to express their views and preferences about decisions that are made in meeting their goals, lifestyle choices and aspirations.

Another is **inclusion**: people with a disability, their family and support networks are embraced as belonging, sharing responsibility, contributing to and adding value.

Within a self-directed approach, resources are allocated to people with a disability, or their family and support networks where appropriate, based on the individual's needs, goals and aspirations in a fair and open way. This ensures **transparency**.

Information, policies and processes should be **accessible** (i.e. clear and understandable) to maximise the person and their family and support networks' ability to take control of their own support.

Lastly, a self-directed approach emphasizes **citizenship**: that is, people with a disability, as members of the community, exercise their equal rights and responsibilities (source: DHS 2008 p.10).

"The research reflects the early experiences of people using self-directed

supports indicating improved health and well being, improved contribution to their communities with increased participation in community activities, more choice and control over their lives providing increased personal dignity" (DHS 2008 p.9).

About the Grampians Self-Directed Approaches Project

LDC Group is currently working with 12 disability support providers assisting them to transition to self-directed approaches. The project, through organisational and business development, is establishing systems and processes that will support and guide the members of the consortium to undertake organisational and business management changes in order to enhance their capacity to deliver self-directed support services.

One objective of the project is the building knowledge and trialing of systems and processes that can be applied by the consortium members in order to identify benchmarks for best practice.

Another objective is the establishment of collegial mentoring and other information sharing processes to enhance organisational capability and competence.

LDC Group is currently exploring sustainable service delivery models that support self-directed approaches and ensure quality standards are fulfilled. LDC Group will also develop transition planning and examine workforce requirements, recruitment and professional development.

The approach that is being used to achieve these objectives involves establishing a Community of Practice environment for representatives of all the consortium organisations through a series of workshops and information exchange activities. The approach also involves providing support to individual organisations by visiting them and spending time with management and staff to address specific areas of improvement in the provision of self-directed support.

Policies that reflect self-directed approaches and the Quality Framework for Disability Services

LDC Group is currently developing a resource to assist disability support organisations to review and improve their organisational policies in order to better reflect self-directed approaches and the Quality Framework for Disability Services.

The resource will be available in May 2010 and information about how to obtain the resource will be posted on the LDC Group website home page.

References

Department of Human Services (2008). Support Your Way: a self-directed approach for Victorians with a disability.



Notice Board



Association for Qualitative
Research

Seminar Monday 3rd May 2010
Venue to be confirmed in the CBD

***Ethnocinema: Representation and
Intercultural Collaboration***

**Presenters: Anne Harris and Nyadol
Nyuon**

This seminar presents and interrogates a series of short films made collaboratively by the researcher and 16 Sudanese Australian young women from refugee backgrounds during 2008-2009, a qualitative doctoral research project entitled *Cross-Marked: Sudanese Australian Young Women Talk Education*. The films examine the prevailing social conditions for connectedness/disconnectedness in the context of sometimes-hostile educational contexts. The films utilise the emerging practice of

ethnocinema as an arts-based methodology, performative ethnography (Denzin, 2003) which disrupts conventional stories of the pedagogies of belonging and becoming. The films draw upon the co-creators' social practices of self to trouble gendered, classed and racialised narratives of identity and they offer a territory of possibility for travelling along disorienting *lines of flight* (Deleuze & Guattari, 1987).

About the presenters

Anne Harris is a Lecturer in Creativity and the Arts in Victoria University's School of Education. She is also a writer, videographer and Artistic Associate of Pumphouse Theatre (Melbourne). Nyadol Nyuon is a community development worker and activist and has been instrumental in the Lost Boys Association of Australia since arriving in Melbourne in 2005.

If you are interested in attending this seminar please email admin@ldc.net.au and we will notify you of where the seminar will be held once the venue is confirmed.

LDC QUARTERLY

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