

Welcome

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It is exciting to welcome you here to this In Control function which has been oversubscribed. It is exciting to see so many people eager to learn more about self directed support ...

What and who is In Control Australia?

In Control Australia is a group of individuals and organisations who aim to bring about systemic policy change in Australia to enable individuals with disability and their families to self manage their support.

In Control Australia is something new in the disability sector. We are not a service provider or an advocacy group. We are not a peak body or a representative group of only one part of the sector. We are a movement, a collective, a portal for information, a facilitator of dialogue and critique.

Our members are people living with disability, family members, service providers, government workers and other interested citizens. As our membership and role evolve so will we.

Today

Today we will hear about the transformation taking place in the Victorian service system. That transformation is providing opportunities and assistance for people with disability and their families to direct their own support.

Why is the Victorian system being transformed?

Why did the UK government commit to transforming their system of support for people with disability?

This seminar hopes to draw implications about what it might mean for NSW?

To use the words of the UK document "*The case for change*", society is going through huge change. People are living longer than ever before and the proportion of older people in our society is growing. We have different social values and we expect more choice and control over all areas of our lives, including public services.

And too often, the existing system does not live up to the expectations of those who depend upon it.

We have an ageing population. Simultaneously advances in medical knowledge and practice mean that people with disability can live longer and healthier lives. The total number of people in need of support is set to rise substantially.

A radical rethink of the care and support system is needed to address these challenges. Otherwise it is likely that families, including dependent children within the family, will be under pressure to provide inappropriate levels of support, and in some cases people will go without support.

If we fail to come to grips with these long term challenges we will fail to provide quality of life for potentially large groups of people.

Note – the UK government is talking about a radical rethink – a paradigm shift in the way it provides support. Tinkering around the edges won't make a difference.

The language of transformation used in Victoria hints that the Victorian govt similarly thinks that tinkering around the edge is not sufficient.

The UK government went on to develop a landmark protocol “Putting People First” that underpinned a unique collaborative approach to system transformation.

This transformation is described as the first public service reform program that is co-produced, co-developed, co-evaluated.

The UK Government recognizes that real change will only be achieved through the participation of users and carers at every stage.

It recognizes that sustainable and meaningful change depends significantly on our capacity to empower people who use services and to win the hearts and minds of all stakeholders, especially front line staff.

NSW has taken some important first steps on the path to reform – and we will hear from Judy Harwood this afternoon. But we need more than tinkering around the edges.

In Control Australia sets a challenge to the NSW govt.

We hope that into the future, the NSW Premier can be applauded to have led the first NSW public service reform that is co-produced, co-developed and co-evaluated by Government, services, people with disability and families.