

Decision Making

In NSW CID's Able to Decide forum one of the issues that came out was about relationships. Supportive relationships include families and individuals and they need help and support.

I have discovered that community also comes under supportive relationships and these relationships are under pressure.

If we mean what we say about helping people on the fringes then we need to help these families as well.

- Single parents

Single parents who are supporting their son or daughter with a disability. I can't imagine how tough this is being single and coping the best you can. Support here would go a long way. What happens if they don't have both parents in their lives?

Being single is one thing, supporting their son or daughter is another and coping as well. What would happen if there is a crisis like a mother going into hospital? When it all gets too much where would their son or daughter go in the interim?

- Parents with Intellectual disability

These parents may have difficulty trying to help their son or daughter make decisions in order to get a support package, let alone who would manage theirs. Worse still they could be denied support. Could we help here by prioritising a public statement on behalf of parents with intellectual disability?

Support will be needed for these families and their needs will be different for different types of families as well as those in rural and remote areas.

- Families who are in a minority

For example gay and lesbian families and those from multicultural communities where people have an intellectual disability. This can also include race, cultural and diverse backgrounds as well. These parents may need support of a different kind when trying to help their son or daughter.

Disability is what all these groups have in common as well as the need to be well supported.

Happy family = happy family member

Can people living with disability make decisions? Yes they can!

All of us have limitations and abilities. It is through our abilities that we can make decisions for ourselves. Some of us may need help, some may not. It is our ability that is the key. **We need to promote Ability through decision making.** We need to spread this awareness in every area of our lives.

It doesn't just stop with the NDIS.

This is why the NDIS should be called the investment scheme not insurance for this very reason.

We need to get to the main crust of the NDIS and what issues will Ability Links and the NDIS pick up?

Ability Links is through St Vincent de Paul Society. Will they pick up these issues for people who are homeless? For single parents? Or families who are in crisis and need help or make the streets their home? If not then who?

I understand that this is a huge question but one that needs to be answered if we are to move forward with the NDIS being an investment scheme.

How can we put a price on people's lives?

Makes us stop and think doesn't it? I guess Phil Collins had it right, it's just another day in paradise. Listen to the words for these words are so true.

Thank you

Michael Sullivan