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People Helping People Achieve



Community Learning and Living

Therapy. Independence. Empowerment



Equipment

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Physiotherapist 2008





Community Learning & Living

Who are We?

- DHS Therapy Funded Service.
- Statewide - primarily service metro Melbourne.
- Like a CHC (specialised & transdisciplinary).
- Through-put service, not fixed (180 clients per year).
- Philosophy based in Disability Rights & Person Directed Practice.
- Responsive - Positions shaped around client request for service.



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Driving Philosophy

“Community Learning and Living is a service that will work with people to identify & develop an individual’s skills, knowledge & confidence so people can explore their options and work towards their goals in life.”



Building Partnerships

Community Learning and Living is the client's:

- Ally,
- Resource buddy,
- Support network to help a client facilitate and/or problem solve to meet personal goals and participate in life-roles of choice.





Service Delivery

- Target Group people with physical and sensory disabilities, ABI, Cognitive impairment
- Age 18-65
- Referral
- Request for service
- Eligibility assessment
- Goal setting/service agreement
- Service agreement based on individualised outcomes/ Quality Framework DHS Vic 2007



Service Delivery

- Short term/orthopaedic/respiratory/pain/neurological
- Long term/health& well being/falling
- Home modifications/Outreach
- Consultancy/professionals
- Technology/assessment/prescription/funding/ training
- Training/client/significant others/staff
- Programs to enhance people participation in personal domestic and community activities(A.D.L)
- Mobility and Public Transport Training



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Staffing



6 Therapists

- 3 Occupational Therapists, 2 Physiotherapists, 1 Speech Pathologists /mostly part time
- 2 Program Support Workers /part time
- 1 Occupational Therapist/transitional living role/full time
- 1 Mobility and Public Transport Trainer/part time





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Trends in Therapy Delivery

- Clients with complex needs
- Many players in client's life/double up service
- Communication with other service providers increasingly important
- High services delivery throughput
- Low client throughput
- Wait list up



Trends in Service Delivery

- Quick response requests/pressure care/pain, falls
- Post op/injury/respiratory
- Increased cost of technology
- Fee for service/top up funding difficult to source
- O.H.S. more requests for training/Train the Trainer/equipment
- Need to identify where therapy stops/conflict



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Trends in Service Delivery

- Ageing and disability
- Medical intervention prolongs life
- Medical technology/tracheotomy/peg feed/ventilator/catheters/continence/suction



Equipment Needs

- Modifications tend to be ongoing and varying in frequency
- Wheelchairs/customised
- Tilt in space
- Recline
- Supports/head/chest/hips/thighs
- Controls/joystick
- Pressure care/seat/chest/elbows/footboard
- Tray



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Pushing the Boundaries



What next when the hands are too weak?





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Pushing the Boundaries



Using the lower lip to move joystick.



Pushing the Boundaries



Using the lower lip to operate the joystick





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Pushing the Boundaries



Client can position joystick, regulated by elevating leg mode in control box



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Creating a chest support





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Environmental Control



- Operate Computer, TV, Radio
- Operated by chin using miniature joystick



Cost of Technology

- CASE 1/25 Year old Spinal Muscular Atrophy
- Basic electric wheelchair price \$7,239
- Tilt in space \$2,761
- Flexible mount \$1,100
- Mini Joystick \$1,880
- Powered position of hardware \$2,200
- Remote switches and control \$420
- Pressure care \$685
- Total wheelchair cost \$22,721

- Top up required \$14,710



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Cost of Technology

- Case 2/28 year old man with MD
- Seat Lift \$1,725
- Power elevating leg rests \$1,800
- Ventilators tray Batteries \$1,067.60
- Total wheelchair cost \$22,408.60
- Top up funding required \$13,658



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Other Cost Examples



- Recline shower commode \$4027
- Top up funding \$2652
- Home modifications \$7,700
- Top up funding \$4.400
- Environmental control \$3000
- Top up funding \$ varies





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Funding Options

- A.E&P \$8,750 for electric wheelchair
- Client/ family contribution often limited
- Clients moving to Individualised Funding Packages may have to budget ahead
- Trust funds/limited with recent economic downturn
- Organisational discretionary fund
- Rotary/Lions/Media



Difficulties Encountered

- Therapists tend to be primary assessors/may have to compromise judgement because of high costs
- Long wait list, people with moving disabilities don't have that time
- Often have to reassess prescribed equipment/time between assessment and finished product/2years
- Therapist save \$s /tryouts/fabricate straps
- Competition for Government Health \$ is strong