

Submission to Carmody Enquiry
ARROS
Issue – Lack of Transition Plans

Case Study One

Young woman with a cognitive disability (indeterminate causation) discharged from Child Safety supported living service on eighteenth birthday only housing organised being a week's accommodation in a respite centre for aged and frail people.

This case reflects a number of issues that our service finds are common with young people with some form of disability exiting Child Safety.

Issue One – Poor transition planning. Often focus seems to be on ticking boxes which satisfies having a checklist but which in no way satisfies having developed an appropriate transition plan.

Issue Two – Need to focus on additional housing options; for young people with a developmental disability these should include some support component.

Issue Three – Young people are exited from supported living service on the day of their eighteenth birthday although there may be no appropriate housing or the timing is not appropriate e.g. exit on Easter Thursday and no support available over long weekend.

Issue Four – To meet departmental exit needs young person may be placed in accommodation with other young person on exit with whom there is a history of conflict or tension.

Case Study Two

Young person with intellectual disability is supported to move into a unit on exit from Child Safety. He is unable to manage conflictual relationships with neighbours and loses unit after a few weeks. Also loses several thousand dollars of household goods which he cannot take with him when he becomes homeless.

This case reflects the many cases where young people are supported materially to move into a unit but because of inability to handle isolation/loneliness or exploitative contact from others quickly lose housing and the household goods.

Issue One – Again shows need for additional housing options; for young people with developmental disabilities this should include support.

Issue Two – Money for household goods (which can be up to \$4,000) could be used to provide transitional supported housing in those instances where this would be appropriate.

Issue Three – In a number of cases such as this a vulnerable young person with an intellectual disability was not seen as a priority for support by DSQ. In this case however DSQ did assess the young person as requiring a number of hours support per week; however the Department of Disability failed to link young man to Disability Services due to his transience. It was particularly because of his transience and his intellectual disability that he required additional support.