

## **Transitioning management of accommodation services to non-government providers**

### **Update for families – January 2015**

Firstly, I would like to thank those of you who I have met in recent months for sharing your experiences and insights with me. This has been a valuable resource for me to ensure that we improve upon our processes and communications. It has become more than evident that there is a degree of misinformation which exists and I am keen to work with you to ensure that channels of communication are as open and transparent as possible. The Transition Team work tirelessly to ensure that this is the case and where concerns exist regarding the transition process I would urge you to contact them directly.

#### **A quick update**

Following the successful transition of a home in Doubleview in October of this year, a second home in Nollamara has now been transitioned over to a new provider, with Commission staff remaining in the home over the Christmas period. I was fortunate enough to meet with individuals, family members and staff from both the Commission and the new provider in the last week of the handover and was informed by all that the final handover had gone smoothly and that people were comfortable with the transition.

Families and decision-makers at the remaining houses in Transition Group 1, and one house in Transition Group 2, have chosen their preferred provider, planning continues and transitions are expected to be completed in 2015.

The majority of families and decision-makers of individuals in Transition Group 3 have had initial meetings with the Transition Team. Some groups have already met to discuss exploring potential preferred providers, most are scheduled to meet in the New Year, once the holiday season and festivities are over.

#### **Information sessions for families in 2015**

A number of information sessions for families have been scheduled for the first half of 2015. These follow on from seven sessions that were held across the Perth metropolitan area in 2014, and are aimed at those who are yet to engage with a Transition Team member, but would like further information about the process or have specific questions. Please see the enclosed schedule for further information and instructions on how to register.

#### **Disability Services Expo**

Planning is also underway for a Disability Services Expo to be held in early 2015. Exhibitors will include organisations that provide services in the areas of accommodation, advocacy, recreation and day-time support, respite, specialist equipment and therapy services. It is hoped that this will provide people with disability, their families and carers with an opportunity to learn more about the types of services that they can purchase with their funding. The expo is expected to be held in late February/March, however detailed information will be provided to you in the coming weeks.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a great start to 2015. I look forward to meeting with many more of you throughout this year.

Jon Peach  
Executive Director Services  
Disability Services Commission

5 January 2015

Caring About Residents with Disabilities (CARD) is a support network of parents, family members and advocates formed in 2014. One of the group's main objectives is to provide an independent source of support to the family, friends and advocates of people with a disability who are currently or may in future be involved in the transition to non-government providers. Into the future, CARD aims to be an information exchange, support network and an aid to understanding different supports and services available to people with disability.

For further information about CARD, please contact Jo on 0419 951 582 or [whyfixit14@gmail.com](mailto:whyfixit14@gmail.com).