

Transitioning management of accommodation services to non-government providers

Update for families – October 2014

A quick update

The first Commission house to undertake the transition process has now completed its transition to a non-government service provider. Individuals and their families from the Transition Group 1 house in Doubleview worked closely with the service provider and Disability Services Commission staff to facilitate a thorough transfer of information and knowledge in the weeks leading up to the handover. I would like to commend the partnership approach taken by all involved to ensure that the transition process was smooth and without issue. This provides for a good model for us to build on in coming months.

In addition, the families of people living at three other houses in Transition Group 1 have selected their preferred service provider. These houses are in Nollamara, Morley and Armadale. People in these houses, with their families and guardians, are developing individualised plans with the service provider, and the Commission and service provider are undertaking significant background work to prepare the houses for handover.

The family information sessions are almost at an end for 2014, with the last session to be held on 23 October in Cockburn. Feedback received from families who have attended so far has been overwhelmingly positive, with the majority of families saying they felt more informed and at ease with the process as a whole after speaking with someone closely involved in the project. Given this feedback, the Commission will schedule more sessions next year. Further details will be provided in the next update.

Transition Group 3, originally scheduled to commence in May 2014, was deferred to allow for extended time for families in the first two transition groups to explore their options and make their decisions. Now that Transition Groups 1 and 2 are well advanced in their planning, families and decision-makers from Group 3 will be contacted by the Transition Team this month to discuss commencing the planning process.

“How I want to live and be supported” – A new resource for families

The Independent Information Officer engaged through Therapy Focus from January through until July this year was specifically employed to be an impartial source of information for families who wanted to explore the different models of accommodation support available in the disability sector.

As part of the officer’s work, a booklet was developed that provides a range of information about disability service models. It also contains real stories of people with disability who have found a model that works for them and details their personal journey. The booklet is titled “How I want to live and be supported” and is now available for families who are interested.

This resource is available for download soon on [the Accommodation services transition page on the Commission's website](#)

(<http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/reform1/reform/accommodation-services-transition/>).
Alternatively, if you would like a printed copy, please phone Lauren Farquhar on 9426 9333 or [email: Lauren.Farquhar@dsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Lauren.Farquhar@dsc.wa.gov.au).

A word from Jon Peach



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of the Services Directorate. My arrival comes at a time of immense change in the disability sector.

I have only been with the Commission for a few short months, but I have already had the pleasure of visiting many of the houses where supports are provided by the Commission, meeting the individuals who live there and the staff that support them. Over the course of the next six to 12 months I look forward to having an opportunity to meet you, as the families and loved ones of the individuals we support.

It is of key importance to me that families have an open communication channel with my team both in general, and in particular, for transition related matters. For general enquiries I would urge you to continue to access the support of staff and managers for the respective houses. For transition related matters, as you will be aware, a dedicated transition team is in place and will do their utmost to work through and concerns you may have.

New Transition Team member and keeping in contact

Janet Wynne will join the team this month as a Transition Officer, and will begin working with families and key decision-makers in Transition Group 3. Janet brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge that has been gained throughout many years supporting people with disability and their families both within the Commission and the disability sector. More recently, Janet has worked in the Commission's Funding Directorate managing the contracts that Disability Sector Organisations work within.

If you have any questions about the transition project, please contact one of our Transition Team members. Please do note that some team members work part-time. You will find their days of work, along with contact details, enclosed.

Jon Peach
Executive Director, Services
Disability Services Commission

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