

**Subject:** Newsletter - Living with Disability Research Centre - Spring

**Date:** Tuesday, 3 December 2019 at 10:48:14 am Australian Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Living with Disability Research Centre

**To:** David Henderson



**LA TROBE**  
UNIVERSITY

LIVING WITH DISABILITY  
RESEARCH CENTRE



## Newsletter - Spring 2019

**Dear David,**

As 2019 draws to a close, our final newsletter of the year announces the release of a new online learning resource, a summary report on embedding Active Support and more new research from our staff at the Living with Disability Research Centre. It has been a busy and fruitful year. We would like to thank you for your support during the year and wish you a happy holiday.

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**Professor Christine Bigby**

Director - Living with Disability Research Centre

## Support for Decision Making

## The La Trobe Support for Decision Making Practice Framework

To coincide with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) on 3 December 2019, the Living with Disability Research Centre launches its latest evidence-based training resource for frontline disability workers and practitioners



**The La Trobe Support for Decision Making Practice Framework** is an online learning resource that has been developed to guide supporters of people with cognitive disabilities – intellectual disability or acquired brain injury – through the process of supporting them to make decisions. Decision making is a fundamental human right and people with cognitive disabilities are likely to need ongoing support with making some decisions.

Given that promoting the participation of people with disabilities is the 2019 IDPD theme, we could not have thought of a more apt day to announce the launch of the Framework. The La Trobe Support for Decision Making Practice Framework is practical and evidence-based Framework that helps to build the capacity of supporters to enable people with cognitive disabilities to exercise choice and control in their own lives.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

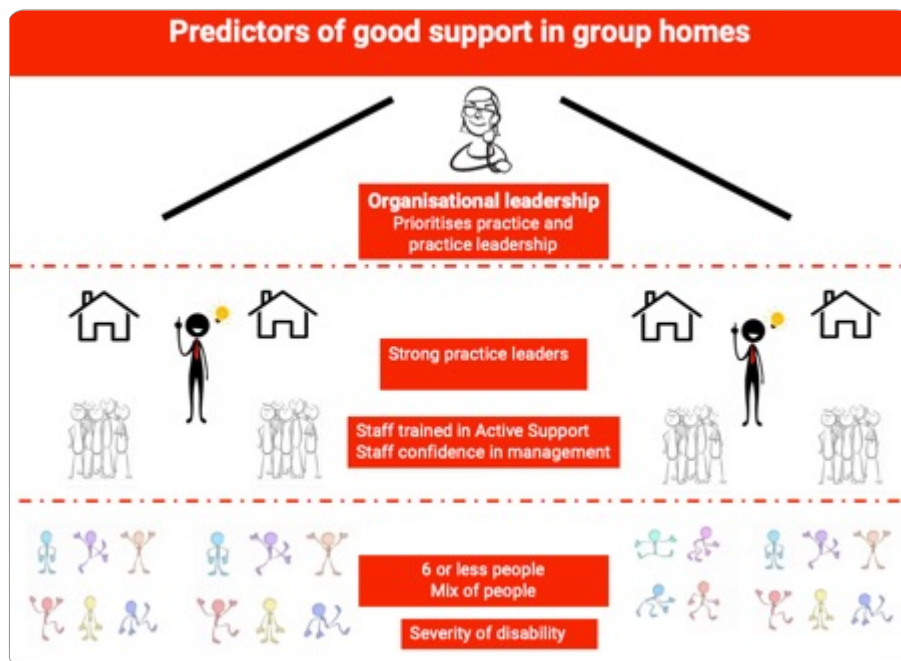
## Embedding Active Support

We have released a summary report, *Enabling Engagement and Inclusion: Organisational Factors that Embed Active Support in Accommodation Services for People with Intellectual Disability*. The report outlines findings from the largest study of Active Support in Australia which has been in progress since 2009.

The study provides the first rigorous evidence about the factors that predict delivery of good Active Support. It provides a blueprint of the design features that disability service organisations should incorporate in order to provide good quality support to people with intellectual disabilities. These findings also provide a guide to families and people with disability about what to look for in good services, to the NDIA about what should be funded to ensure good quality

support, and to the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission about what it should be monitoring.

The key features are represented in the diagram below:



Active Support is an evidence-based practice whereby staff provide sufficient facilitative assistance to enable service users to take part in meaningful activities and relationships, irrespective of the degree of intellectual disability or presence of additional problems. Unequivocally, front-line staff practice based on Active Support leads to better quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities. Our online training program about Active Support is free and available here: [\*\*EVERY MOMENT HAS POTENTIAL.\*\*](#)

The *Enabling Engagement and Inclusion* summary report highlights the significance of practice leadership to the quality of Active Support and identifies the importance of key organisational factors associated with the values and actions of senior leaders and the structuring of practice leadership. These factors are pivotal to delivering good Active Support to address poor and variable quality support and therefore improving the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities in services.

For more information about the summary report, or to access the four open access articles that set out the results of the study, please click on the links below:

**Articles:**

Bigby, C., Bould, E., Iacono, T., & Beadle-Brown, J. (2019) Quality of practice in supported accommodation services for people with intellectual disabilities: What matters at the organisational level,

*Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability.*

[doi.org/10.3109/13668250.2019.1671965](https://doi.org/10.3109/13668250.2019.1671965)

Bigby, C., Bould, E., Iacono, T., & Beadle-Brown, J. (2019) Predicting good Active Support for people with intellectual disabilities in supported accommodation services: Key messages for providers, consumers and regulators, *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability.*

[doi.org/10.3109/13668250.2019.1685479](https://doi.org/10.3109/13668250.2019.1685479)

Bigby, C., Bould, E., Iacono, T., Kavanagh, S., & Beadle-Brown, J. (2019) Factors that predict good Active Support in services for people with intellectual disabilities: A multilevel model. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities.*

[doi.org/10.1111/jar.12675](https://doi.org/10.1111/jar.12675)

Bould, E., Bigby, C., Iacono, T., & Beadle-Brown, J. (2019) Factors associated with increases over time in the quality of Active Support in supported accommodation services for people with intellectual disabilities: A multi-level model. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 49.

[doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2019.103477](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2019.103477)

## Report:

# Summary Report

## Enabling Engagement and Inclusion:

Organisational Factors That Embed Active Support in Accommodation Services for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Professor Christine Bigby | Dr Emma Bould | Professor Teresa Iacono | Professor Julie Beadle-Brown

## Making Claims that Matter

In November, Professor Jennifer Clegg (UK) delivered a wonderful, one-day workshop: Making Claims that Matter: Non-behavioural Approaches to Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities. The workshop, co-hosted by the Living with Disability Research Centre and ASID, was a great success. More than forty people from various professions attended the workshop and delved into the latest research and practice around attachment and Trauma Informed care.

Professor Clegg designed and taught the *Understanding Complex and Challenging Needs* online module in the La Trobe University Graduate Certificate of Disability Practice last year. Her course explored some of the material that she covered in the Making Claims that Matter workshop. Professor Clegg will be returning to offer the same subject again in Semester 2, 2020. And like all of our Disability Practice subjects, Clegg's course will be available for single subject enrolment and can be taken by practitioners seeking

to pursue professional development opportunities.

## Disability Practice Courses - Enrol 2020

It is not too late to enrol in one of our [online degrees in Disability Practice](#) for 2020. Next year, we will be offering subjects such as the *Contemporary Disability Landscape*, *Enhancing Social Inclusion*, *Support Planning for People with Disabilities*, and *Translating Evidence into Disability Practice*. All subjects will be available as single subjects. Our postgraduate courses can lead to a satisfying career in improving the lives of people with disabilities and their communities. All courses and subjects have been designed by expert staff involved with the [Living with Disability Research Centre](#) at La Trobe University.

If you are interested in enrolling in one of our online degrees in Disability Practice in 2020, please contact our course coordinator, Dr Sian Anderson, with any queries.

Email: [Sian.Anderson@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:Sian.Anderson@latrobe.edu.au)

Telephone: 9479 5495

## Rural Solutions - NDIS Allied Health Workforce

On 19 February 2020, the La Trobe Rural Health School and the Living with Disability Centre will host a forum, **Local Rural Solutions to Strengthening the NDIS Allied Health Workforce**, at Latrobe University (Bendigo). The forum is aimed at meeting the growing regional allied health workforce demands of the NDIS. It offers attendees the chance to join representatives from NDIS providers, tertiary training organisations and others concerned with meeting the growing allied health workforce demands posed by the rollout of the NDIS. The focus of this forum will be growing and supporting allied health student placements and mentoring graduates working with people with disability across rural and regional Victoria. The forum is free. The guest speakers for the forum will be Cathryn Blight, General Manager Regional Services, Novita, and Laura Hogan, Leader Health & Clinical Practice, Centre for Disability Studies.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## PhD Completions - 2019

We are pleased to announce a further three PhD completions for 2019. Kathleen Fitt, Margaret Pozzebon, and Margaret Mealings all recently received the welcome news that their PhDs had been conferred. Dr Fitt and Dr Pozzebon will graduate in December this year and Dr Mealings will graduate in early 2020. We offer our congratulations to all three and wish them all the best as they embark on the next phase of their careers.

## ASID Conference

The Living with Disability Research Centre was well represented at this year's Conference of the Australian Society for Intellectual Disability in Adelaide. Over three days, our team presented papers on a wide range of topics that all touched on our Centre's core concern, which is to improve the social inclusion and participation of people with cognitive disability through research, education and knowledge transfer.

It was a busy week for the Director of our Research Centre, Professor Christine Bigby, who stayed in Adelaide for the Australian Association of Social Workers Conference to deliver two more presentations. To view any of these presentations, please click on the button below.

### **Presentations:**

Dr Sian Anderson - *Writing the script. The overt and hidden contradictions of supporters work in independent self-advocacy groups.*

Dr Tal Araten- Bergman – *Models for forming and supporting circles of support for people with intellectual disability*

Professor Christine Bigby - *Enabling hospitals to be more Inclusive and responsive to people with intellectual disabilities*

Professor Christine Bigby - *Developing an evidence-based practice framework to guide support for decision making*

Adjunct Professor Jennifer Clegg **keynote** – *Helping damaged people manage their chaotic emotions*

Dr William Crisp - *Strategies for supporting people with intellectual disability to have choice and control over their lives?*

Ms Jade McEwan - *What is good service quality? Frontline day service staff's perspectives on what it is and how it should be measured*

Ms Jenna McNabb - *Article 12 and the NSW guardianship framework: A case study highlighting barriers for people with intellectual disability regarding legal capacity and autonomy of decision-making.*

Ms Gail Ritchie - *Sexual abuse of people with an intellectual disability - A perpetrator case study*

Adjunct Associate Professor Stacy Clifford Simpican **keynote** - *Critiquing approaches to community participation of people with intellectual disabilities*

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS



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