
Telling your story - evaluation of the Community Inclusion Initiative

This report talks about the things that happened for the people who were a part of the Community Inclusion Initiative.

What was the Community Inclusion Initiative?

The Community Inclusion Initiative (CII for short) was a new way of doing planning and support. It helped services to try new ways of supporting people with disability to do what they want in the community.

It started in 2015 and it went for one year.

People in disability services in 11 cities and towns in Australia were part of it.

In every service, 3 to 5 people with disability were involved.

Altogether, 46 people with disability were a part of it.

We were asked to find out if the CII did a good job.

We visited the services and asked people:

- Did things change for them after being a part of the CII?
- What helped to make things better?

You can also watch a video about our evaluation.

Click here to see it: <http://rcypd.edu.au/projects/tys/>



Summary Evaluation

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What changed for people?

Some people did great **planning**. They talked with their services and families about their hopes and dreams. This helped them tell people new ideas about how they wanted to be more included.

Lots of people **did new things** in the community. Some people met new people and some made friends. Lots of people learnt new things.

Becoming a worker, a volunteer or a student mattered to most people. It was important to many people to **show that they added something** to their community.

A lot of people with disability said they had **more control**. They had more of a say about what they did at their service.

Some people felt that they were **happier and more confident**. They felt like they could do more.

Did the CII do a good job?

Some ways of doing things in the CII helped people most.

- Services did planning in a new way called **co-design**.
- When co-design was done well, people with disability and their families **were partners** with the services.
- They made goals together and came up with good ways for the goals to happen.
- **Good workers** found lots of new ideas with the people, told them about other services, and helped other staff do their job well. Having good workers made a big difference to how much people enjoyed what they did.

Some services that are already in the NDIS already knew about working as partners with people and families to find out what people want to do in the community.

NDS helped workers and services to learn new ways for people to do what they want in the community. They learned about planning and support with people. The bosses in the services helped the workers too.

Some things made it hard for the CII to make changes for people. These things were when:

- People were sick and couldn't come
- It took a long time for people to be ready to start doing some planning
- Workers left
- Workers didn't know how to do this new kind of planning and support
- People were in a group all the time
- There was no transport
- People had to wait a long time for the things they needed

The services tried to fix these problems. Some services did staff training to teach workers new ways of doing planning and support.

What happened at the end of the CII?

After one year, the money for the CII stopped.

The planning and a lot of the new things that people started doing is still going.

Some services were worried about how they would pay for these new things. They think the NDIS will help.

Workers have shared the new ideas with other staff so that more people and workers in the services can learn about doing planning and support together.

Things we learnt

Co-design was a good way of finding out what was important to people. People with disability, family, supporters and workers need lots of practice with this new way of planning and support.

It is not easy for people to come up with big goals. Workers and services need training so they know how to help people work out small parts of big goals.

Having a good coordinator who can help with support is important. This worker also needs to be able to help make the community a better place to be.

Learning about the NDIS will help people to be more ready for it. They need to know more about the money, control of decisions and planning. Services need to learn about how to do this work too.

People need to tell each other about projects like this one so they can learn about new ways of supporting people with disability to do what they want in the community.

Want to see more?

You can find out more by watching the short films about the CII here:

<http://rcypd.edu.au/projects/tys/>

In these films, you can see people telling their stories about what they did in the CII. There are also films about people talking about what is important to them. They talk about relationships, having an important role in their community, and about co-design.