

Department of Human Services, Victoria

Community Inclusion/Engagement/Developmental v B&L Cost Hike

Community Visitor Report – 2010 to 2011 ([Link](#)):

For PRS residents there are difficulties in achieving their right to adequate community access. In a few houses this is being overcome by administrators approving the spending of pensioners' personal monies to employ one-on-one carers to take them to chosen activities. While these residents clearly enjoy new opportunities, current standards and legislation require that people are supported by their service provider to have community access and should not depend on the individual's limited means.

Staff culture: Long drives to 'nowhere' for a house group and picking up takeaway food via a drive-through service to eat on the bus does not promote individuality. This is an on-going issue for some people.

Lack of planning to find local events for residents such as fetes, festivals or sporting events.

Community Visitor Report – 2011 to 2012 ([Link](#)):

Residents carry a greater financial burden than that of other members of the community for outings and socialising. On occasions, residents have had to pay for staff support so they can attend social activities.

As community inclusion is a key element of the State Disability Plan, 2002-12 Community Visitors believe service providers should give greater consideration to reducing the financial burden for residents to ensure better outcomes.

LISA Inc. Comment:

Observations over many years, in many DHS group homes, especially in the N&WMR, shows a culture amongst many direct care staff of little more than minder-care – “*We don't do all that PCAS, PRS, interaction and developmental activity rubbish here!*” Therefore, quality of life for the residents can necessitate families/administrators approving the spending of residents' personal monies to employ one-on-one carers to provide interactive and developmental activities within the group home.

LIFESTYLE IN SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION (LISA) INC.

Tel: 03-9434-3810: **Email:** info@lisainc.com.au or vk3qq@optusnet.com.au

Web: www.lisainc.com.au : www.lisa-aus.blogspot.com

NOTE: We are always interested in feedback and information; general, specific, good or bad.

If you wish anonymously: Our mail address is, 73 Nepean Street, Watsonia, 3087