

Supported Living Seminar



*Community
Connections*

If given appropriate support, can ALL disabled people live in their own home in their own community?

If not, what are the restrictions?

Supported Living Foundation Principles

- Ownership
- Inclusiveness
- Individualised and flexible support
- An emphasis on human relationships
- Choice
- Life-building

These values and principles represent a shift from the notion of “continuum of care” to the rather straight forward idea of “living with support,” something that we all need to do and is fundamental to living collectively as human beings.

(Bennie 1995)

Supported Living is...

1. A radical attempt to change the structure of services to facilitate community inclusion
2. To work with one person at a time
3. 'Living with support' rather than 'continuum of care'
e.g. Residential models

Presence ~ Participation & Relationships ~ Choice ~ Contribution ~ Valued Roles

Supported Living is also...

5. A focus on creative solutions for support rather than accepting residential support as the only alternative to the "traditional" supported living model
6. The potential to deal with uniqueness rather than standardized solutions
7. Being supported in one's own home is not the end point or the only goal. Supported living is the vehicle to a life, rather than an end itself
8. A process rather than an outcome

Presence ~ Participation & Relationships ~ Choice ~ Contribution ~ Valued Roles



"You can't call it minestrone — minestrone hasn't got newts in it."

Supported Living Approach

- That disability is a discriminatory social phenomena focused on people with impairments.
- Recognition that disabled people are systematically subjected to disablist attitudes and discrimination – and that empowerment and support are key features for creating changes within society.

Supported Living Approach

- There needs to be consideration of power relations between the disabled and non-disabled.
- The principle that disabled people should direct the support they receive and how they receive it.
- The principle that a “problem” is located not within the individual but outside the individual (disablism) therefore the locus of problem-solving or “fixing” is shifted away from the person onto the environment.

Supported Living Approach

Instead of concentrating on how to make individuals adapt to the environment, ways of adapting the environment and supports to the individual should be explored. The concept of functional support emphasizes creating a network of formal and informal supports that a person with a disability needs to meet day-to-day demands.

(Bradley, 1994)

The Four Distinct parts of Supported Living

- Person centred planning
- Individualised support
- Bridge building (community development)
- Systems change

Instead of controlling people with disabilities in order to fix (train, habilitate, rehabilitate, treat) them, supported living workers seek to cooperate with people with disabilities in order to develop the assistance they need to get on with their lives.

(O'Brien, 1994)

Supported Living Outcomes

- Self Esteem
- Expanding Personal Network
- Exercising Choice
- Developing New Skills
- Broader Community Participation
- Improved Quality of Life
- Autonomy
- "My own space"

'The promise of supported living lies in its potential to deal creatively with the complexities arising from the lives of many different individuals.'

(John O'Brien, 1994)