

# HOW CONTEMPORARY DISABILITY POLICY ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO HAVE MORE SAY ABOUT THEIR SUPPORTS & SERVICES

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**Person Centred. Individualised. Self-Directed.**

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# Disability rights & reform

**The march towards the inclusion of people with disability in their society and economy has a long history ...**

**In the nineteenth century, ... divisive segregated training and sheltered workshops traded in outdated, manual skills and associated impairment with poorly paid, low-status work . . . social citizenship was an empty promise for the many disabled people who were not properly integrated into the labour market'**

*(Anne Borsay, Disability and Social Policy in Britain Since 1750. pp138-139).*

# The long push towards disability reform

'Pins and Needles', by Genni and Kim Batterham:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yplSXqMumHM>

The rise of disability rights movements in the UK and the USA during the 1960s, and later in other countries such as Australia and New Zealand during the 1970s, prompted a wave of new thinking about services for people with disability (Berger 2013, Oliver & Barnes 2012).

Genni Batterham was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1978. In 1980, she visited a sheltered workshop where other people with disabilities engaged in various craft activities.



1.50min Excerpt from Pins and Needles (Kim Batterham, Australia 1980). See: [access@nfsa.gov.au](mailto:access@nfsa.gov.au) for more details

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# Personalised approaches & self-direction

- Rapid developments in personalised approaches with more flexibility and greater choice and control for service users in the last decade (Sims & Cabrita Gulyurtlu 2014).
- This is reflected in recent legislation across a variety of developed countries including the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act (2013) in Australia, the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013, and the National Health Service (Direct Payments) Regulations 2013 in the United Kingdom.

# The promise of the NDIS ...

- Support the independence, and social & economic participation and inclusion of Australians with disability
- Universal Scheme: principle of equity
- Enable people to pursue their goals and aspirations:
  - Individualised approach
  - Choice and control
  - Provide reasonable and necessary support

**Panel Discussion: Contemporary disability policy encourages people to have more say in their supports and services.**

**Key challenge for DES and others:**

Words are powerful. They can also be blunt instruments, masking deep meaning, beguiling us into casual assumptions.

With this in mind, to what extent – if at all – is it possible to have ‘**individualised**’ services without committing to ‘**person-centred**’ services and supports?

## Panel discussion themes (suggestions)

Evidence of successful approaches to person-centred, individualised, or self-directed services across Australia and in other countries.

The supports young people particularly need to enable them to self-direct their funding and services.

Evidence or examples of how people make reasonable decisions appropriate to their funding supports to find and secure satisfying work.

How service providers plan to adapt and change their services so they align to person-centred principles.



**For reflection: Our stories of personal and professional experiences can influence policy-making ...**

“To every action there is a story.”

Take Charm’s story, for instance. It’s yours. Do with it what you will. Tell it to friends. Turn it into a television movie. Forget it. But don’t say in the years to come that you would have lived your life differently if only you had heard this story.

**You’ve heard it now.** From Thomas King, *The Truth About Stories*: