

STRUCTURAL SUPPORT

A loose term that requires definition before it can be applied:

Kind and nature of disability?

Level of disability?

Total or partial support?

Duration of support?

Is there an upper limit to the level of support?

ELEGIBILITY & ASSESMENT

Part 1

When Senator Grimes introduced the Disability Services Act, it did not differentiate between disabilities. In consequence some received "Rolls Royce" support and many received none.

See subsequent Law Reform Commission Review (Conducted by Mr. Alan Rose AO, President of the Australian Law Reform Commission, in about 1995).

Part 2

In determining eligibility for support it will be necessary to establish the nature of the disability

Recognised at birth ?

Nature of impairment: intellectual, physical, medical, other ?

Disability becomes evident later

Is the disability a result of accident ?

Multiple disabilities ?

Establish immediate support needs for each category, and subsequent baseline support needs. The baselines should be revised when the situation becomes clearer.

Part 3

Identify broad categories (preferably not more than 4 or 5).

Within each -

Determine eligibility in accord with agreed criteria to be established

Make an assessment within agreed guidelines

Take family circumstances into account

It is important to recognise that a person's circumstances may change with time (improve or deteriorate) and therefore periodic reviews may be necessary where there is evidence of change.

(Suggest guidelines be determined from experience, and after consultation with the industry i.e. those people coping with the problems).

Part 4

A national & portable assessment is highly desirable.

EMPLOYMENT OF SUPPORT STAFF

Certification from accredited institutions highly desirable.

Level of pay ought to be commensurate with demonstrated skills in the workplace (probably as difficult to determine as the rate of pay for competent teachers).

WRS:MS

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