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Better mental health support for people with intellectual disability



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Better mental health support for people with intellectual disability

Evaluation of the Residual Functions Program

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| **Contents** | **Page** |
| About this report | 3 |
| About the program | 4 |
| About the evaluation | 5 |
| How we did the evaluation | 6 |
| What the program did well for people with intellectual disability and their families | 7 |
| What the program did well for service providers | 8 |
| What government and providers can do next | 9 |
| More information | 10 |

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| Report by Christiane Purcal and Rosie Pether | | | | |
| A picture containing text, tableware, plate, dishware  Description automatically generatedPhotosymbols Credit 1 | | | | |
| **About this report** | | | | | |
|  | | This report is about a program that was for people with both intellectual disability and mental health problems. | | | |
|  | | The program was called the Residual Functions Program.  We will say **program** for short.  The program tried to improve support for people.  For example, it helped people to manage feelings or find the right medicine. | | | |
|  | | This report talks about what the Program did well.  It also talks about what could be better.  This is called an **evaluation.** | | | |
| **About the program** | | | | | |
| Social work 4 | | | The program helped people with intellectual disability get better mental health support. | | |
|  | | | The program also trained service providers to give better support to people.  The **service providers** were doctors, support workers and others who help people with intellectual disability. | | |
|  | | | The program worked in most areas of NSW. | | |
|  | | | The NSW Government paid for the program. | | |
| **About the evaluation** | | | | | |
|  | | | Researchers from the Social Policy Research Centre did the evaluation of the program.  The Social Policy Research Centre is called **SPRC** for short.  **Researchers** are people who find things out by talking to people, looking at numbers or reading about other research. | | |
|  | | | The SPRC researchers worked with people from the Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry.  It is called **3DN** for short. | | |
| Arrow Down with solid fill | | | The evaluation started in 2019.  It finished in 2021. | | |
| **How we did the evaluation** | | | | | |
|  | We talked to people with intellectual disability who used the program. | | | | |
|  | We also talked to their families and carers. | | | | |
| Group 33 | And we talked to mental health services in hospitals and in clinics. | | | | |
|  | We looked at information about the people who used the program. | | | | |
|  | We looked at how much money the program cost. | | | | |
| **What the program did well for people with intellectual disability and their families** | | | | | |
|  | | | | We found that the program helped people with intellectual disability and their families feel better. | |
| Community life | | | | People and their families found it easier to get mental health support in the community. | |
| Share Information 1 | | | | Some people got different medicines and different help that made them feel better. | |
|  | | | | People felt that they had more choice in how they were supported. | |
| **What the program did well for service providers** | | | | | |
| **Support** | The program helped service providers give better support to people. | | | | |
| Teacher 2 | Staff training and education was better. | | | | |
| Handshake 11 | It got easier for service providers to work together. | | | | |
| Inspector Thinking 2 | Service providers could choose to offer the services that were best for each person. | | | | |
|  | The program was useful. It was worth spending the money on it. | | | | |

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| **What government and providers can do next** | |
|  | There are some things that government and providers can do next. |
| Checkmark with solid fill | They can make sure that services like this are available everywhere in NSW. |
|  | They can make sure people with intellectual disability and mental health problems feel comfortable to use the services. |
|  | They can make sure that more people and families know about supports for them. |

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| **More information** | |
| A computer with a logo on the screen  Description automatically generated with low confidence | If you want more information about the evaluation, click on the website link [here](https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/our-research/research-centres-institutes/social-policy-research-centre/our-projects/idmh-ndis-program-evaluation). |