



DISABILITY AND OLDER PEOPLE: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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BACKGROUND

- ❖ Dramatic improvements in life expectancy have led to a large cohorts of people with and without an intellectual disability who are ageing.
- ❖ There is a significant social welfare context emerging in ageing of people with intellectual disability who **may** face the double jeopardy of getting older and facing further discrimination.
- ❖ Premature move to nursing home by people with intellectual disabilities is leading to re-institutionalization for some.

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- ❖ High level aged care facilities (nursing homes) generally cater for people at end of life stage
- ❖ People with lifelong disabilities may require aged care support for longer periods
- ❖ Dementia support is common to both populations
- ❖ In the general population people who are ageing acquire disabilities later in life

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- ❖ People with lifelong intellectual disabilities **may** age earlier and **may** have earlier onset of complex health needs, and thus may require aged care support for longer periods
- ❖ Retirement **may** come earlier for people with life- long disabilities
- ❖ People with life-long disabilities have often had a different life trajectory, including seldom acquiring substantial assets such as superannuation

RECOMMENDATIONS

Australia now has a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which became operational in July 2018. It also has numerous updates to its Aged Care policies.

- ❖ Commence planning for ageing early in a person's life
- ❖ Prepare wills and financial security plans for adult child with a disability
- ❖ Involve siblings in ageing plans
- ❖ Wherever possible, develop semi-independent living skills

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- ❖ As care and support for older people with disabilities is extremely fragmented, the Disability, Health and Aged Care sectors need to work in partnership rather than in existing silos.
- ❖ This acts as an impediment to improving health and Quality of Life of older people with disabilities and their peers without life-long disabilities.
- ❖ The disability and aged care systems should be redesigned to ensure they are: Flexible, Streamlined and Aligned to ensure support for older people with disabilities and their peers without life-long disabilities, to allow successful ageing in the community.

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❖ Develop a seamless support system across
the total life span of a person with a disability.

THANK YOU

For further details of this project please contact me at:

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