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The views expressed in this publication do not represent any official position on the part of the Social Policy Research Centre, but the views of the individual authors

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1 Background

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) is piloting a direct funding project in conjunction with the Attendant Care Program (ACP). The direct funding pilot aims to complement the objectives of the ACP, which provides support to individuals with physical disabilities with a range of tasks and activities to allow them to live and participate in their communities. ACP is funded under the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) and administered by DADHC.

The pilot project is providing funds directly to a limited number of current ACP clients for the direct purchase of personal care services. This is intended to provide clients with greater control over the choice and management of the support they receive as well as to promote more flexible and responsive services for clients.

ACP direct funding is aimed at people with physical disabilities with high personal support needs, who have the capacity to directly manage administration of funding. Individuals in receipt of di

2 Methodology

2.1 Evaluation framework

2.2 Key Evaluation Questions

Individual clients

€# Does the direct funding pilo

€# A sample of other participants including government officials responsible for the pilot implementation, policy, service delivery; attendant carers; service providers; and informal carers and family if applicable (approximately 25). Disability support groups are being consulted through the Expert Advisory Group on Physical Disability.

In response to the budget constraint, we are conducting face to face fieldwork with the pilot participants and ten existing ACP clients in the Sydney and NSW north coast regions and telephone contact in the remainder of the state and with the other participants.

Interviews are individual and/or in groups depending on the participant type and the operation of the program. The methods are to be adapted to be effective and inclusive

3 Reports

Report on other ACP options

€# Method

€# Comparison outcomes results of clients in existing arrangements

€# Discussion

Draft and final reports

€# Summary of findings and recommendations

€# Background and method

€# Findings

- Outcomes (comparative): choice and flexibility; attendant carer reliability and retention rates; participant and attendant carer satisfaction; participant community participation and wellbeing
- Process: quality of care, accountability requirements, effective use of resources, efficiencies in administrative and overhead costs
- Economic (comparative): financial and other resources cost to government or service providers (cost analysis or cost effectiveness analysis)

€# Discussion

- Advantages and disadvantages of direct funding compared to existing arrangements (for each participant group)
- Efficiencies and disadvantages in administrative and overhead costs
- Cost variation for DADHC in measuring compliance with financial accountability and data reporting requirements

€# Implications and recommendations

- Including: client capacity; client support (financial, employment, legal, accountability); quality of care; carer employment (industrial relations, recruitment, training); cost (financial, other resources); implications for data reporting requirements, financial accountability and monitoring

4 Management

4.1 Researchers

Karen Fisher manages the project. The Disability Studies and Research Institute manages the conduct of fieldwork and contribute to project development, analysis of data and report writing.

Principle Roles of the Researchers

Responsibility	Researchers
Chief Investigator, liaison with DADHC	Karen Fisher
Data collection	Sally Robinson, Carolyn Campbell McLean
Literature review and research support	Andrew Anderson and Kristy Muir
Other analysis, report preparation and presentation	Karen Fisher, Sally Robinson

4.2 Timeframe

Task	Output	Timeframe
Meet with Project Manager		Nov 2006
Finalise evaluation design and development of measurement tools		Dec
Present project plan	Project plan	Dec
First review of direct funding participants		Feb
Review of ACP clients of other funding models		Feb 2007
Review with other providers and officials		April
Present other ACP clients report	Report on other ACP options	July
Final review of direct funding participants		Oct
First draft report to DADHC complete with data analysis and recommendations	Draft report	Nov
Meet with Project Manager to discuss draft report and options		Nov
Final report, complete with data analysis and recommendations	Final report	Dec 07

4.3 Quality

The researchers adhere to the various research management guidelines of the University, including the UNSW Code of Conduct for the Responsible Practice of Research. The Centre is also committed to principles of equal opportunity, cultural diversity and social justice.

