



Increasing policy impact of disability inclusive evaluation – using an inclusive citizenship lens

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Inclusive citizenship and evaluation impact

How do inclusive evaluations enable a voice in policy making that challenges exclusions to citizenship?

Case study evaluation of government closure of disability institutions

Implications for

- Inclusive evaluation methods
- Evaluation policy impact
- Inclusive citizenship

Inclusive citizenship

Four values of inclusive citizenship

- **Justice** – when is it fair to treat people the same (equality) and when is it fair to treat them differently (equity)
- **Recognition** – of the intrinsic worth of everyone and respect for their differences
- **Self-determination** – to have control over their lives
- **Solidarity** – to identify and act in unity for their claims

Post implementation review

Project Performance Analysis

- Achieved objectives?
- Stakeholder satisfaction?
- Lessons for future closure

Quality of Life study

- Achieved and sustained a better life?

Mixed methods

- Policy review, Site observations, Interviews, Secondary data, Quality of life

Context of the evaluation

- Policy change in a high profile social problem – closing institutions
- Evaluation team – evaluators expert in disability inclusive evaluation and service practices and one who had lived experience
- Focus – how to better close institutions for the 2200 people who still lived in 53 institutions in Australia
- Human rights framework to change the language

Inclusive methods for policy impact

Involved people who lived in institutions

- Evaluation team
- Evaluation advice
- Accessible interviews and observations
- Before, during and after the project

Involved people who needed to change

- weekly meetings with the government
- Information to the public during and after the project
- Public discussions after the project – government, public, disability community, participants, media

Findings for inclusive policy to close institutions

- Person centred approach to accommodation support
- Closure is a transformative opportunity for community living
- Identify individual choices through informed supported decision making and communication
- Sophisticated change management with families, staff and unions
- Learn from good experience
 - use resources, expertise and successful closure experience
 - from disability community members
 - inform the process and opportunities of accommodation support

Implications for inclusive policy evaluation

To achieve high impact in intellectual disability policy evaluation

- Ask people with lived experience and people who need to change
- Ask them what do they think the project should do
- Ask them before, during and after the project
- Ask them what to do next

High impact for policy

Changed government processes

- Government workshop for managers responsible for closing institutions to change their practice
- Required practitioners to use the inclusive Quality of Life to close institutions
- NSW Ombudsman Consultation Group to close institutions, used the framework to inform accountability
- Shift away from capital works program, towards rights

Evidence for public and advocacy

- Public report, despite its criticism, now widely used
- Academic journal article for international evidence impact

Implications for inclusive citizenship

Values of inclusive citizenship

- **Justice** – evaluation team roles fit to lived experience expertise and preferences – not visiting institutions
- **Recognition** – of worth in the evaluation team and views of people living in institutions – inclusive methods during and after
- **Self-determination** – to control the focus of the evaluation outputs – future oriented
- **Solidarity** – contribution to generating evidence for their claims

Resources

Disability policy projects and publications

www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/research/areas/disability/

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