



Media statement

SA goes part way with self-management trial for people with disability

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50 people with disability and their families in South Australia will have the opportunity to directly manage the funding they get for disability services, but the state government and service providers will still be in control.

This initiative will give a small group of people their current funding package to spend on the same things they already have. People with disability want to use their funding to meet their needs in ways that give them the same opportunities to be included as everyone else. Sometimes this means being creative and flexible, like going to a gym instead of the physiotherapist, or a singing lesson instead of breathing exercises, or going on a holiday with support instead of a respite facility.

Being in control means having the opportunity to make those decisions about what is the best way to meet your needs.

Although it is a step in the right direction, the new initiative announced yesterday by the South Australian government is a trial with severe limitations that only addresses one option of self-directed funding. In Control Australia is disappointed that South Australia has not taken the opportunity to change its funding system to one where there are multiple options for management of funding and support for many different people with disabilities to be in control of their lives.

Both Victoria and Western Australia have implemented successful changes to their systems which include people directly receiving the funds as one option. They also include options for shared management of services with organisations, and using a financial intermediary or a broker to support the person and family in their management of funds.

In Control Australia urges the South Australian government to modify and extend its trial to be a true model of self-directed funding for people with disability.

For more information on self-directed funding see the principles and frequently asked questions on the In Control Australia website www.in-control.org.au .

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