

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Into the community

Dr Gabrielle Drake from the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, together with UnitingCare Disability and People with Disability Australia have been awarded a UWS Research Partnership grant to explore the processes, supports and outcomes for people who have transitioned from a licensed boarding house to alternative accommodation.

'This research comes at a significant time of reform to the licensed boarding house sector in New South Wales including legislative and policy review,' explains Dr Drake. 'The announcement of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and its implementation over the next seven years will mean that people with disability have access to additional funding to purchase services, including greater choice about how, where and with whom they live. People living in licensed boarding houses will be eligible to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme and may choose to transition to alternative accommodation. This research will be vital to inform that process.'

The research team will use an inclusive research methodology, which gives people with disability agency over the research process. Two people who have lived experience of transitioning from a licensed boarding house have been recruited as co-researchers. Interviews will be undertaken with people who have left a licensed boarding house within the past five years. These participants will be recruited from Sydney metropolitan areas, Greater Western Sydney and Regional NSW. In addition, interviews will be held with other relevant stakeholders who have supported the person transition such as their partner, family, friend, carer, advocate, and caseworker. A maximum of two relevant stakeholders will be interviewed for each participant who has transitioned from a licensed boarding house.



The findings of this project will inform policy surrounding the future of boarding houses and their closure. It will provide vital insights into the processes and support provided to people transitioning to alternative accommodation. The innovative methodological approach used in this project will give residents of licensed boarding houses, people previously disenfranchised, agency in the decision making processes around their future and welfare.

Project Title: Into the community: Leaving a licensed boarding house

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