



“Innovation and Flexibility”

And the research to support will follow?

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SA continues to embrace the need for change in delivery of disability services.

The government is supporting its words with actions. Disability Minister Jennifer Rankine should be applauded for driving a culture of consumer driven choice in exploring alternative and new models of service for people with a disability.

Last week the Minister officially opened the new Kardinya centre in Blackwood.

While some in the sector still wish to force their perception, often based on tired research, on to others of how services should be delivered SA has adopted a culture of choice being at the centre of service planning.

Minister Rankine made that point very strongly in her official opening address

The Kardinya pilot program ticks lots of key boxes including:

- clients have elected to live in this environment
- a working partnership between clients, families, leading service provider Minda, the SA Government and Flinders University has been developed
- a integral focus on person centred planning underpins the concept
- innovative and cost effective benefits with substantial savings on traditional cost structures
- high levels of community involvement, interaction and participation

The subsequent evaluation by Flinders University will make for interesting reading. It is expected that with enhanced community and family management being fundamental to this project that the outcomes will be positive and exciting.

Congratulations to all parties involved. We should all remember.

"Today's best practise is tomorrow's fish and chip wrapper and the best practise for disability service delivery in 5-10 years time has yet to be invented".

We should all look forward to a brighter future and hope state and federal governments nationally adopt the same innovative approach SA is showing with Kardinya and encourage people with disabilities, their families, carers and service providers to focus on developing new, flexible and cost effective service models rather than recycling philosophies that are often not supported by consumers and have proven questionable in their outcomes.

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