

## Disability Support Workers

ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
18 NOVEMBER 2009, MELBOURNE

### ***30 YEARS OF PROGRESS IN AUSTRALIAN DISABILITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT (1981-2009)***

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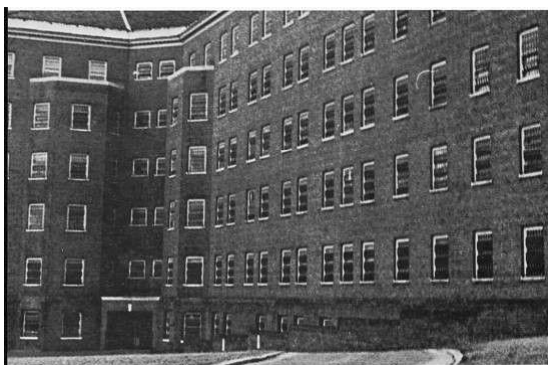


**Burton Blatt, 1927-1985**

## **Christmas in Purgatory: A photographic essay on mental retardation**

Burton Blatt & Fred Kaplan (1974)

There is a hell on earth, and in America there is a special inferno.  
We were visitors there during Christmas 1965



### **Wolf Wolfensberger**

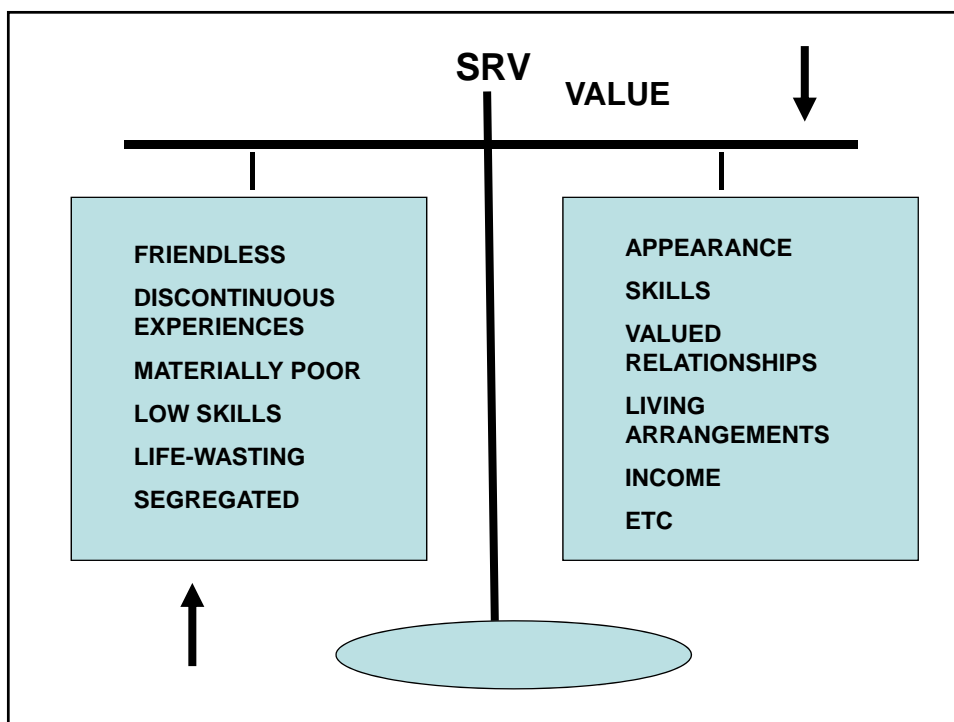


Originator of Citizen Advocacy and Social Role Valorization,  
Foremost propagator of normalization in North America.

## THE PRINCIPLE OF NORMALIZATION, 1972

The use of culturally normative means to enable persons to have & maintain life conditions that are at least as good as those of average citizens and as much as possible: enhance or support their

- BEHAVIOUR
- APPEARANCE
- EXPERIENCES
- STATUS & REPUTATION

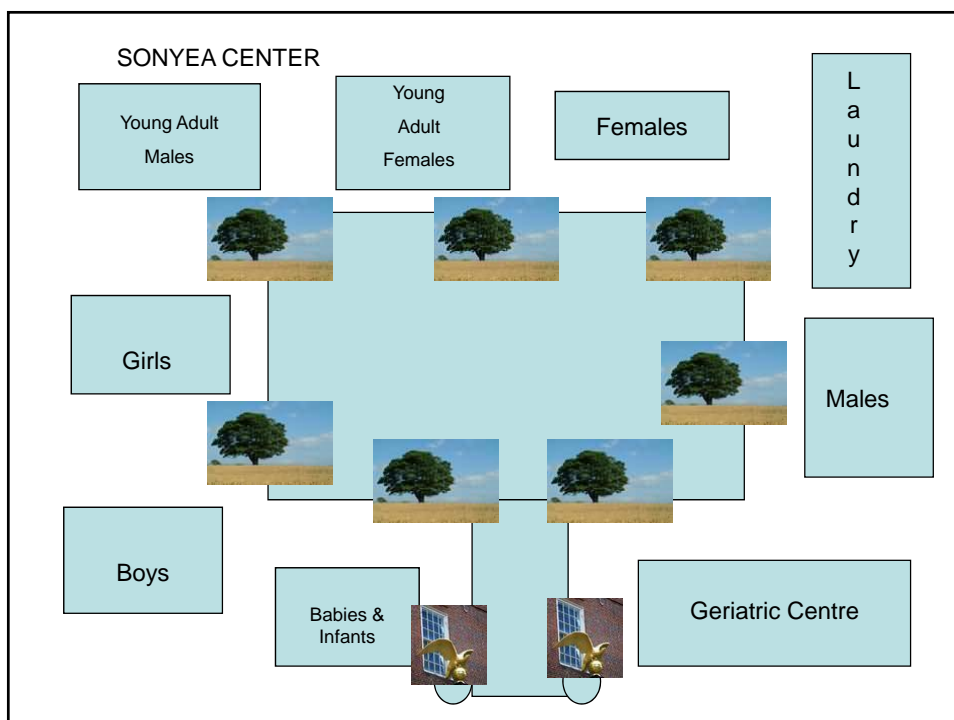


Instruments for evaluating human  
services in terms of SRV:

**PASS** (Wolfensberger & Glenn, 1975)

**PASSING** (Wolfensberger & Thomas,  
1983).

**Foundations Forum (NSW)**



## **The Early Days**

### **Newfoundland**

Childrens Home  
Exon House

### **Victoria**

Gold Rush Legacy  
St Nich's Hospital  
Colanda- electronics  
Dax Homes & MR Nurses  
Beechworth- Cages & Rotting floors  
MRD Admissions & Discharge Committee  
From Health to Community Services

## **The Early Days in Australia**

- 1811: First institution, Castle Hill Asylum, established in NSW
- 1852: Adelaide Lunatic Asylum established
- 1860 Royal NSW Institute for Deaf & Blind Children established
- 1866: Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind established

## TIMELINE

- 1901** — Alice Betteridge born: first deafblind person to receive education in Australia.
- 1910** Invalid Pension introduced
- 1933** — First folding, tubular steel wheelchair was invented.
- 1941** — Discovery of link between rubella in pregnant women and blindness in newborn babies
- 1945** —Sickness benefit introduced
- 1948** — Helen Keller visits Australia.
- 1950s** — First sheltered workshops for children with disabilities
- 1952** — First guide dog training centre in Australia established in Perth
- 1960s** — Text telephones invented
- 1969** — Vaccine for Rubella became available.

## Milestone 1975

### UN Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons, Adopted 9 December 1975

- Disabled persons are entitled to same political & civil rights as others, including measures necessary to enable them to become self-sufficient.
- Reiterated rights of disabled persons to education, medical services, & placement services.
- Recognised right to economic & social security, to employment, to live with their families, to participate in social and creative events, to be protected against all exploitation, abuse or degrading behaviour, & to avail themselves of legal aid

Milestone - 1981

International Year of Disabled Persons

UN General Assembly: Themes = **equalisation of opportunities, rehabilitation & prevention**

Planning began 1976 with **National Advisory Council for the Handicapped** (NACH) and the Standing Interdepartmental Committee on Rehabilitation (SIDCOR).

National IYDP Unit established Canberra in Department of Social Security

**Strategies integrated into national policies**

for socio-economic development,

preventive activities include development &

use of technology for prevention,

legislation eliminating discrimination on access to facilities, social security, education and employment.

**MILESTONE 1987**  
**Disability Council of NSW**

*Established by Act of Parliament,*  
*The Community Welfare Act of 1987.*

**Duties**

- To advise Government on disability matters;
- To raise community awareness about people with disability and their aspirations; and
- To promote participation by people with disability

MILESTONE  
**CS(T)DA 1991**

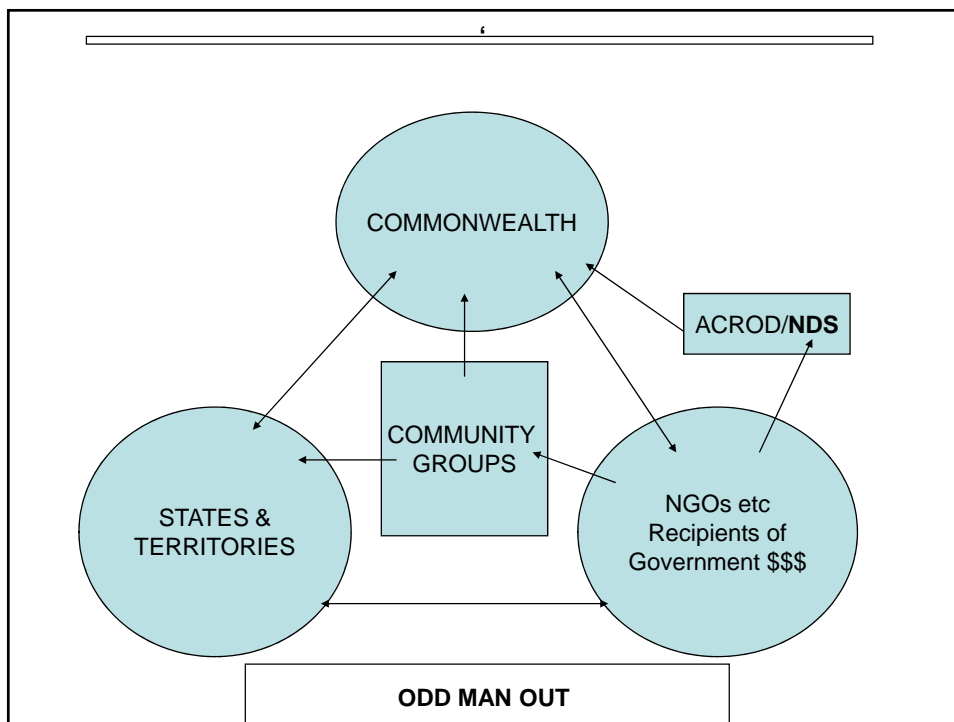
- Sets out responsibilities of Commonwealth, States & Territories Governments & types of supports to be provided

National Goals

- Provide range of innovative services
- Shift as far as possible to funding non-government services
- Simplify service access arrangements
- Promote access to generic services, including transfers of existing services to generic services
- Reduce administrative overheads, streamline administration

**CS(T)DA SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Accommodation Support  
Advocacy  
Competitive Employment  
Independent Living Training  
Information Services  
Print Disability Services  
Recreation Services  
Respite Care Services  
Supported Employment Services  
Early Intervention (Therapy) Services  
Other Therapy Services  
Research & Development, Assessment, Case Management, Staff  
Training



[www.dsa.org.au/life\\_site/text/intro/](http://www.dsa.org.au/life_site/text/intro/)

Medical Advances & Health  
Technical Innovation  
Education  
Participating in Community Life  
Employment Opportunities  
The Arts  
Sport  
Finding a Voice

MEDICAL ADVANCES, HEALTH, SAFETY

Development of vaccines to prevent serious illnesses that cause disability

Improvements in care of accident victims

Education about safety on roads & workplace

Education to reduce risks of birth defects caused during pregnancy

Recognising importance of care & understanding for people with disabilities

**Technology, Communication & Mobility**

- Touch replaces sight: Mountbatten Brailier
- CCTVs (Opticon)
- Talking Computers (JAWS)
- Talking Books (Books in the Sky)
- Sign language (Auslan)
- Hearing Aids
- Text telephones
- Guide Dogs, Wheelchairs, Long canes

## Community Participation

- NSW HomeCare
- Meals on Wheels
- Carers
- Disability Standards for Public Transport
- Building Standards/Codes
- Captioning
- Holidaying
- Wheelchair access
- Awareness Events

## Advocacy

### **HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION**

(HREOC, 1981)

Purpose: To eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities and promote wider acceptance and inclusion.

### **NATIONAL DISABILITY SERVICES**

**(NDS, 1963)**

National industry association for disability services in Australia. It established as ACROD with today over 600 NGO's as members. NDS plays a critically important role in influencing government legislation and funding with regard to quality services for people with disabilities

### **Employment Opportunities**

- Business Services (House with No Steps)
- Open Employment Services (CentreLink)

#### Employer Obligations

- Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Act (1986)
- Disability Discrimination Act (1993)
- Employers required to make adjustments to workplace unless it caused unjustifiable hardship to business
- Workplace Modifications Scheme of Dept of Health & Family Services, businesses eligible for Govt funding to offset cost of adjustments

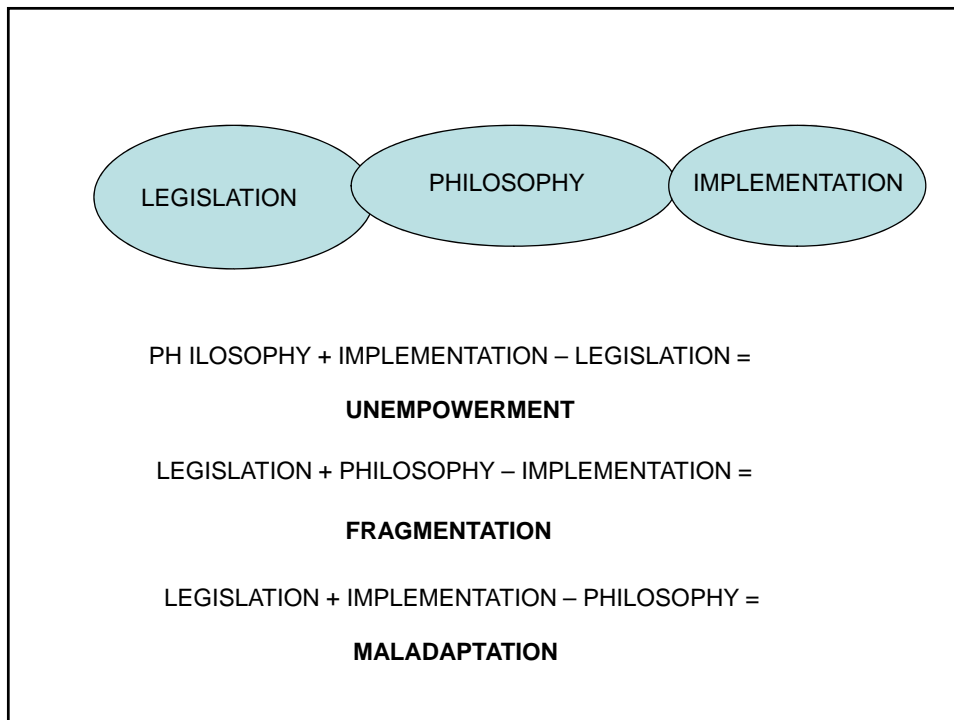
### **Australian Greats**

1967, Professor Graeme Clark, University of Melbourne, began research on hearing devices surgically implanted in the ear (Cochlear Implants)

<http://www.cochlear.com>

1970's Professor Hollows at UNSW. pioneers treatment of trachoma

<http://www.hollows.org>



### **Commonwealth Agencies**

- CentreLink
- Commonwealth Care Link
- Department of Employment & Workplace Relations (DEWR)
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)
- Human Rights & Equal Opportunities Commission (HREOC)
- NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre

## NSW STATE GOVERNMENT

BIG BUSINESS

COMPLEX STRUCTURE

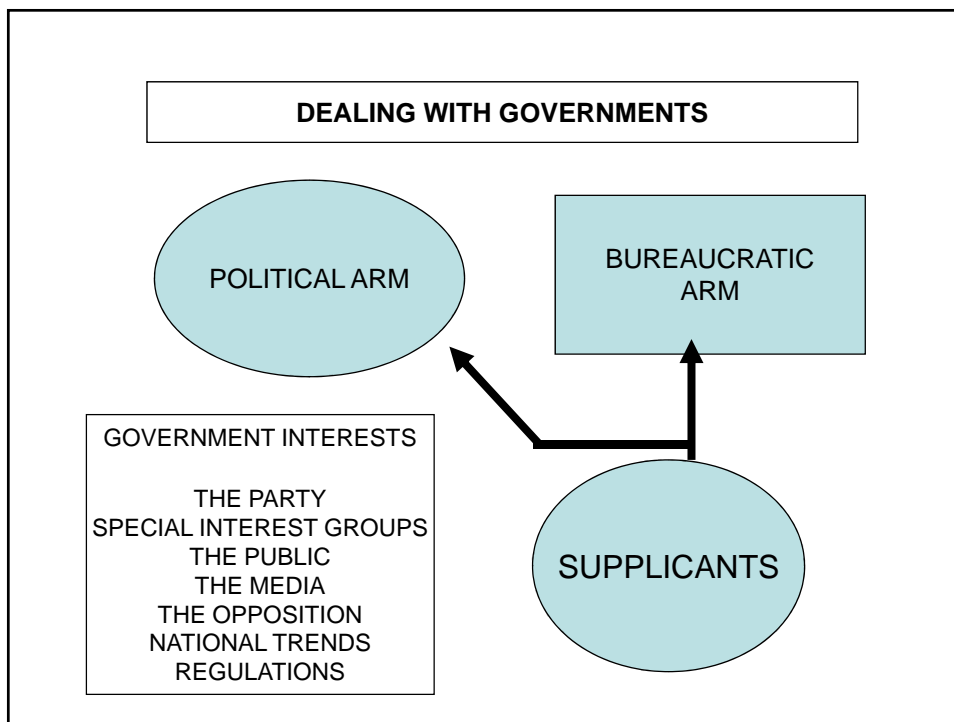
HUGE BUDGET

150 Government agencies

130 required under Section 9 DSA to produce  
formal disability plans

### **NSW Government Agencies**

- Anti- Discrimination Board (1977 Act)
- Dept of Ageing, Disability & Home Care
- Public Trustee NSW
- Office of the Protective Commissioner (merger?)
- Department of Community Services
- Legal Aid NSW
- NSW Dept of Education & Training
- NSW Ombudsman



### COMMUNITY VOICES

- **The Physical Disability Council of NSW Inc (PDCN)**, the peak body representing people with physical disability across NSW

-  **NSW Council for Intellectual Disability**





## The Charities

- Northcott Disability Centre
- The Deaf Society
- Spastic Centre
- Forsight Foundation
- Vision Australia
- Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children
- Brain Injury Association
- Down Syndrome NSW Inc

## Some early 10 Year Plans

- Calgary Plan (mid-1970's)
- Victorian 10 Year Plan 1987  
(Neilson Report)
- Disability Directions: Tomorrow's Blueprint  
NSW 1993-4

Provide a Priorities Framework  
Promote Optimism  
Attempt to address policy drift

## NSW Disability 10 Year Plan Stronger Together

Launched by Premier, 26 May 2006

NSW annual expenditure over \$1.2 billion on  
disability access to public transport, specialist Health services,  
Housing & Education

- \$1.3 Billion in first five years
- Intensive consultation process

Minister attended 9 regional consultation meetings

- Strengthening families
- Promoting community inclusion
- Improving system capacity & accountability

