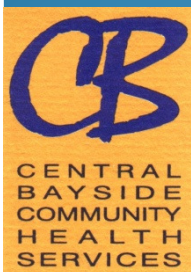


Good Things

Having a good life in a group home when you have communication difficulties



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Introduction to Good Things

- [Good Things - YouTube](#)



What is Good Things?

- 22 minute video
- Freely available on YouTube
- Training resource
- Naturalistic observation of life in a real group home
- Focus on communication and quality of life



How it came about

- Desire to “showcase” communication in a good group home
- Funding from the Department of Human Services Victoria, Australia
- Steering committee comprising local services
- Communication Access Network – community capacity building role





Aims of the project

- Share the good work done at Roydon St across the sector
- Develop a training resource for disability support workers
- Explore factors contributing to good quality of life in group homes
- Identify enablers for a positive communication culture in group homes
- Contribute to cultural change



Method

- Set up steering committee to engage organisations across the sector
- Interview residents and staff – garner consent, clarify aims, discuss process
- Work with staff and residents to identify key activities for filming
- Engage film maker with disability experience
- Film identified activities

Roydon Street communication video information sheet



My name is Andrea. I am a speech pathologist. I help people to communicate. I am making a video.

This video will be about communication. I think there is lots of good communication at Roydon St.

I would like you to be part of my video.

What will happen?

If you want to be in the video, I will come to visit you at Roydon St and talk to you. Sometimes I will record our conversations on my iPad. Sometimes I will have a lady with me who makes videos. She will video you if you say she can.

If you don't want to be in the video you can still talk to me and give me ideas for things to put in the video.

When the video is finished it will go on the Internet. The video will be used for new staff from lots of houses. The video will teach staff how to communicate with people with disabilities. It will help them to be good at communicating. It will help them to be good staff.

What to do next

If you want to be in the video I will give you a consent form. Write your answers on the form. Give the form back to me. You can ask someone to help you fill in the form.

If you don't want to be in the video you can just tell me.

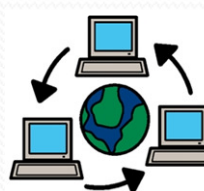
If you have any questions

You can ask me any questions when you see me at Roydon Street. Or you can ring me. My phone number is 8587 0258. You can send me an email. My email address is amcqueen@cbchs.org.au.

You can also ask your staff if you have any questions.



Multimedia consent form



What is a multimedia consent form?

- Multimedia means photos, videos, voice recordings and website
- This form is for anyone involved in the Communication Showcase Project – residents, staff, families and others
- On this form you tell us if we can use multimedia of you
- Sign this form
- Give this form back to us

Who can you speak to for more information?

Inner South Communication Service

Central Bayside Community Health Services

Phone 8587 0258

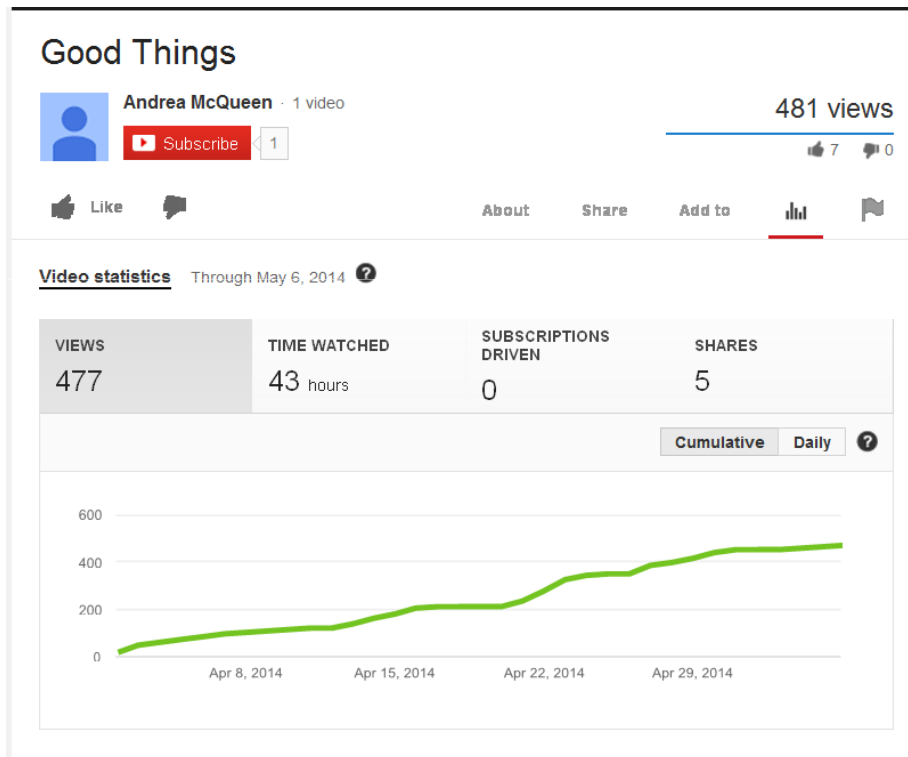
Email communicationservice@cbchs.org.au

Method (cont.)

- Video interviews with key players – staff and management
- Develop a rough cut (1.5 hours)
- Selective editing to highlight examples of communication
- Final cut
- Distribution
- Promotion
- Evaluation



Outcomes



- >450 views on YouTube in the first month
- Views in Australia, UK, Ireland, USA, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sweden and Malaysia

- Residents, staff and film maker all reported that the process had positive impacts on them
- Reported uses for training, empowering individuals, advocacy and awareness raising
- Feedback from people with disabilities, families, disability support workers, speech pathologists, OT's, community visitors, educators and the general public



Feedback

Loved watching the video, thanks for sharing. It demonstrates many great examples of staff encouraging and engaging the residents to make choices and be involved in the household.

I have forwarded it to all of my staff and think it would be great if all staff in southern could be sent the link or house Sup's could be encouraged to forward it onto their staff team.

House supervisor

Feedback

Just had to send an email to say how much I enjoyed that video! It is absolutely fantastic, must have taken a lot of work I can imagine but it's amazing. I'm gonna share it with all my houses, some fantastic simple ideas there that many other homes could replicate.

OT, Behaviour Support Services

Feedback

Darren was watching bits of it with me in between getting ready for his work and he was pointing out people he and others knew at the house. I'm going to see if I can get the rest of the residents to watch it as I think they will enjoy it, and hopefully see some things that they would like to do. At the very least I think they'll get a kick out of seeing their friends on screen. I goes without saying that the staff should watch it too.

House supervisor

Feedback

OMG just watched the video very well done everyone must be very proud of this.....few tears here lol

Disability support worker

What a cool video!! I love that house and how all the residents seem so empowered and happy.

Speech pathologist

So, what makes a good life?

- Autonomy
- Dignity of risk
- Being listened to
- Having your communication attempts recognised
- Having your communication methods respected and modelled
- Having your choices respected



So, what makes a good life?

- Social participation
- Opportunities to build and maintain friendships
- Opportunities for romantic and sexual relationships





More good things:

- Good food
- Being able to choose to have pets
- Being actively involved in daily tasks and in the management of your home
- Opportunities to have fun and express humour
- Control over your own space



Good communication in group homes – what's needed?

- Long-term commitment
- Commitment from staff at all levels
- Formal and informal management support
- Creative management
- The right staff – control over recruitment
- Budget and resources
- Faith in the people you work with
- Knowledge of communication systems
- Planning

Implications for speech pathology

- Social media is a fabulous tool for communication



- Training and intervention must target all staffing and management levels



Challenges for speech pathology

- Interventions aimed at increasing communication competence need to target:
 - The individual
 - Communication partners
 - The communication environment



Challenges for speech pathology

- What is the role of a speech pathologist working with adults with intellectual disabilities?
- Dealing with the transdisciplinary nature of the role
- Working in partnership
- Securing commitment from staff and management at all levels
- Dealing with staff turn over the long term nature of cultural change
- Fitting effective speech pathology services into NDIS funding models



Areas for future research

- How to develop and maintain a positive communication environment in group homes for adults with intellectual disabilities?
- What is the role of the speech pathologist in developing a positive communication environment in group homes?



References

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