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Family governance in Supported Independent Living case study

This case study outlines an approach to Supported Independent Living (SIL) using a family governance model.

Download the report

- Family governance in Supported Independent Living (DOCX 3.8MB)
- Family governance in Supported Independent Living (PDF 1.8MB)

What we did

This case study focuses on Supporting Independent Living Cooperative's (SILC) family governance model.

We used interviews and focus groups with participants, family members, staff and management to learn about their experiences and analysed administrative and financial data.

What we found

We identified several key factors that combined to make family governance effective:

- shared values and mutual support
- communication channels
- a not-for-profit model and sustainability.

We identified potential benefits for participants in the areas of:

- engagement in activities, interests and community
- choice and control
- family wellbeing.

Families, staff and management shared the following considerations when thinking about establishing a family governance model:

- matching families as well as participants

- substantial family time commitment
- conflict resolution between families
- getting a suitable house
- ageing families
- considerations for staff and management:
    - close working relationships
    - a new way of working with support workers
    - need for ongoing staff training

In conclusion

This case study shows that with suitably committed families, the family governance approach to SIL can deliver positive outcomes for participants and their families. However, limiting factors such as the level of commitment required from families and providers impact its scalability.

Analysis of the Round 1, Home and Living Demonstration Projects data is ongoing.