


Office of the
**Adult
Guardian**

Opening Doors:

*How Can Guardians Help Facilitate Recovery
For People With A Mental Illness*


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 Department of
Justice and Attorney-General
Queensland Government

Office of the Adult Guardian
Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Guardianship and Recovery

- Current Adult Guardian is Dianne Pendergast
- Adult Guardian is guardian for 1130 people in Queensland
- Approx 25% have a mental illness impairing decision-making capacity
- There are special needs groups of people within the overall population of people with a mental illness in Queensland




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Guardianship and Recovery

- vulnerable to human rights' violations
- Adult Guardian – to uphold human rights and protect vulnerable people from abuse, exploitation and neglect

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Guardianship and Recovery


- different levels of risk and need
- a range of high quality, effective interventions needed for initial recovery
(Commonwealth of Australia, 2009)
- “The initial phase of participation in psychosocial rehabilitation is particularly important in recovery.”
(Bradshaw, Roseborough & Armour, 2006)

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Guardianship and Recovery

- “...a strong argument can be made that giving such individuals the right to refuse treatment is tantamount to abandonment.”
(Munetz & Frese, 2001)

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Guardianship and Recovery

- The elements of recovery and the General Principles of the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 have a lot in common.

General Principles include:

- the presumption of capacity
- the same human rights
- to be a valued member of society
- encouraging supported in participating in community life
- encouraging and supporting the adult to become self-reliant
- maximum participation in decisions, minimal limitations

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Types of Guardianship Decisions

- Accommodation
- Service provision
- Health care
- Legal matters (non-financial)
- Education, employment and training
- Access to or limiting contact with others
- Other

Issues for Adults Under Guardianship and Recovery

- high turn-over among professionals
- not enough time with helpers
- too many people involved
- not seeking understanding

What does this mean in a practical application?

- 2 case studies
- Successful
- Not so successful
- Looking at linkages recovery and General Principles
- Ethical issues

Case Study One

- 42 year old single female
- Out of town
- Initially no diagnoses
- Involuntary Treatment Order
- Recovery Plan
- Community

Case Study 2

- 37 Year old single man
- Out of town
- Diagnosis of Schizophrenia for the past 20 years
- Recovery/independent living
- Resistant to support
- Transient

Ethical issues

- Values Beliefs Attitudes versus Values Beliefs Attitudes
- Want versus Need
- Empowerment Versus Risk
- Legislation
- Balance

Conclusion

- Processes and procedures
- Legislative base
- Balance

Thank you.

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