

Building Meaningful Lives: A two day staff training workshop

with US-based expert, Sara Murphy



The pandemic has flipped our world upside down, disrupting our families, jobs and community services and leaving no parts of our lives unaffected. While the disruption has been confronting, it equally presents an opportunity to rethink and restructure how we support and serve people with disability.

In these times of significant change, disability service providers must think differently and use resources in creative ways to build meaningful lives and pathways to employment for the people we support. Providers also need to be ready for the final recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission (DRC), due to be handed down later this year. There are strong indications that the DRC will find, consistent with changing societal expectations, that supports around employment need to change to deliver improved outcomes and employment in non-segregated settings. It is also likely that the NDIS review will have implications for how community and employment services are delivered.

The **Building Meaningful Lives** service model is a person-driven service model that braids work and non-work services to create service plans that are customised and “built to order”. Developed by industry experts in the USA, TransCen, Inc.—the model builds community inclusion and supports open employment. Service providers can use this model to address each individual’s circumstances and needs, build confidence and skills in the community, address social barriers and encourage the idea of work.

This two-day training is geared for training managers and direct service staff and will be delivered by US expert, Sara Murphy.

The training is designed to reframe how you see your program services and the people you support. It will provide practical and proven tools and strategies to put people on the road to independence and employment.

This model is in use across America and has achieved excellent outcomes for people with disability. The current Australian context presents a unique opportunity to learn from what has worked overseas to enhance services for people with disability to improve community inclusion and open employment.

This session will be jointly attended by leaders from IDV, Yooralla and MiLife.

Event Details

Monday 1 May: 9:30am – 4pm

Tuesday 2 May: 9am – 4pm

Location: Monash College – City Campus.
Room 8.03. 750 Collins Street, Docklands

For more information, please contact your manager

Facilitator Biography



Sara Murphy is a Senior Training Associate for TransCen, Inc. and the Director of TransCen's WorkLink program. TransCen is an American non-profit organisation dedicated to improving education and employment success of youth and young adults with disability. TransCen's work is driven by the belief that employment and active community participation are attainable for all individuals, regardless of disability or other perceived barriers to employment. For the past 30 years, Ms. Murphy's focus has been on community inclusion and employment for people with disability.

She has extensive experience in program development, person-centered community-based services, Customised Employment methods and system change and service transformation.

As part of TransCen's training and consultation team, Ms. Murphy provides technical assistance and training at multiple levels: US federal/state agencies, school districts, service providers and individuals/families. Ms. Murphy has participated in a number of American federal and state initiatives, such as Social Security Administration's Youth Transition Demonstration Projects, the Federal Department of Education's Customised Employment training project and Wisconsin's Building Full Lives Project.

Currently, she is a Subject Matter Expert for the US Federal Department of Labor's Office of Disability and Employment Policy (ODEP) and is supporting state agencies and providers across America with system and service transformation efforts. In addition to this work, Ms. Murphy also consulted for Cincinnati Children's Hospital's Project SEARCH program, replicating the project model, and helping to establish Project SEARCH's Learning Academy.



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