

ARE WE THERE YET??

OMG Dorothy we are in Canada!

TOWNSVILLE – BEAUTIFUL ONE DAY & LOVELY THE NEXT



A wide-angle photograph of a tropical beach. In the foreground, several people are in the shallow, clear water, some on surfboards. The sandy beach is populated with more people, some standing and some sitting. A line of palm trees runs along the back of the beach, with a parking lot and some buildings visible behind them. In the distance, a large, rocky hill rises against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

OUR MISSION :
COMMUNITY CONNECTION PROVIDES PERSONAL SUPPORT AND
ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH A DISABILITY AND THEIR FAMILIES
SO THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE CHOICE AS TO HOW THEY WANT TO LIVE
IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Our vision is to make what 'can be' a reality for
people with a disability

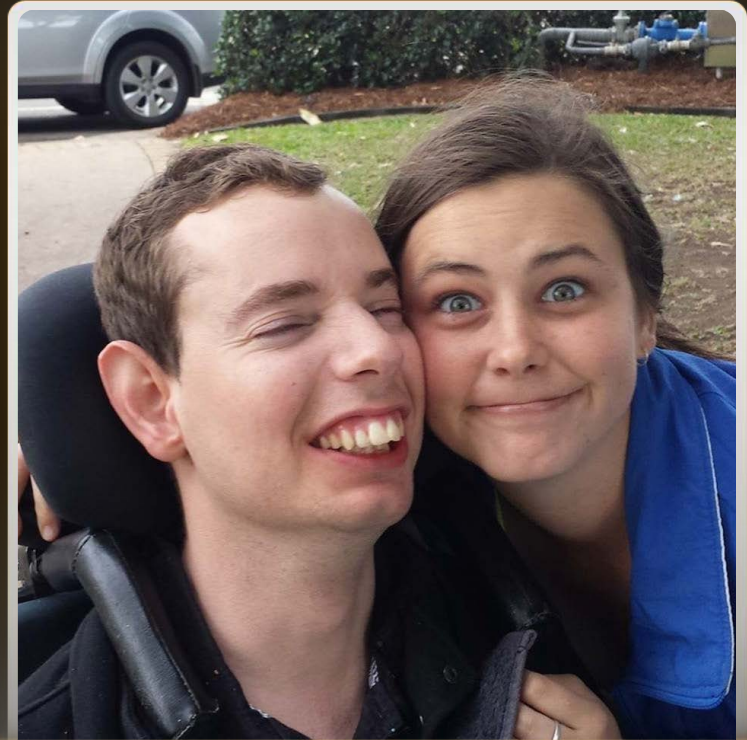
THE HISTORY OF COMMUNITY CONNECTION INC

- Disability Society and Change – ‘Change-agentry legislation’ 1989
 - Community Connection Inc established 1992
 - Vision-driven
 - Family run and a strong belief in the role of family
 - Based on principles of
 - Social Role Valorization
 - Frameworks for Accomplishment
 - Mindful of the need to stay small
 - Bespoke nature of the service
 - Loyal to families and long term relationships with many
 - Clear framework for working with individuals and their families
 - Design was based on lived understandings of disability
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VALUES AND BELIEFS THAT UNDERPIN CC INC

- Individuals with a disability have the same right to live and participate in their community as everyone else
- Individuals with a disability and their families have a right to a good life in the ordinary sense that we all understand
- That community life and relationships cannot be artificially duplicated or approximated by placing individuals with a disability in group or institutional settings
- That people deserve a life they don't need a break from – not a break from a life characterized by intolerable pressure
- That individuals with a disability deserve the support they need to maintain good standing within their relationships and not to be seen as a burden
- That the families of individuals with a disability deserve the support they need to maintain their health and wellbeing
- That parents and families are the right and proper advocates for their sons and daughters who are not able to speak for themselves
- That we listen to individuals with a disability through all communication means to maximise their own personal choice and control
- That we advocate to all responsible bodies, so that they are aware of the extent and nature of the needs
- That support is always one-to-one, with a matched person selected by the individual and their families

Scott



SCOTT

- Lives in his own house – with support from his mother
- Has his own adapted vehicle
- Chooses and directs his workers
- Has lived with housemates without disability
- Spends time each week hearing reading in grade 2
- Is an artist – sells his prints and cards at the night markets in Townsville once a month
- Regular attendee at church where he is known and liked by many people
- Is increasingly about to get his voice out – and has things he wants to say

What others might say.....

- Severe cerebral palsy – can't do anything for himself
- Can't speak clearly – doesn't have much to say
- Not capable of much

VALEN



VALEN

- Lives with his dad
- Sub-leases two coffee machines and services them three times per week
- Does his own grocery and clothes shopping
- Does his own banking
- Directs his workers
- Goes to Magnetic Island four times a year with his family for a break (our form of respite)
- Is well known – by name - in many spots around his community

Things others might say.....

- He has severe epilepsy, autism and Tourette's syndrome – dangerous to go swimming
- Difficult to manage in the community
- Needs help with everything
- High risk of injury from seizure activity – unable to be left alone

SUZI



SUZI

- Lives at home with her mother
- Has control over her roster
- Decides who will work with her
- Makes arrangements for herself
- Spends time on the computer
- Loves public speaking
- Spends time alone when her mother goes away for work
- Makes all of the decisions about her day to day life
- Things others might say.....
- Can't speak clearly
- Can't modulate her behaviour – difficult and explosive
- Not capable of making decisions about her service

ELEMENTS THAT MAKE UP A 'GOOD' SERVICE

- Embrace chaos – remember there is order in chaos
- Embrace risk – but manage it well
- Use active listening - don't just take everything at face value
- Be creative
- Be flexible
- Know the people you serve
- Expect equality and respect
- Be vision driven
- Know that funding isn't everything
- Know what is available in your community and use it –see goodness there – not evil
- Have a theoretical framework; ours are:
 - Social Role Valorization
 - Frameworks for Accomplishment
- Be clear about what you will and won't do
- Be clear about what you can do
- Believe in the attractiveness of the people you serve
- Treat your employees right
- Be strengths based

THINGS THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES NEED TO GET A 'GOOD' SERVICE

- Know what you want
- Believe in your son/daughter and your family
- Be clear about your rights
- Understand your responsibilities
- Know that intellectual growth and development doesn't come without risk
- Open out your heart to others – ask for help or know what you would ask of others if they ask
- Face up to the future – make a plan
- Treat workers properly and with respect
- Have high expectations – of your son/daughter
- Have high expectations of the service
- Let yourself off the hook (parents)
- Invest in a life in community for your son/daughter not a life in congregation (believe that community is good)
- Don't believe that a service is all that he or she needs – funding isn't everything