



Rocky Bay

HEALTH + COMMUNITY

SDA Research

Abstract

A qualitative research project exploring the experiences of 'home' for residents within newly designed SDA homes at Rocky Bay

Pat Hayes

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60 McCabe Street, Mosman Park WA 6012 • PO Box 53, Mosman Park WA 6912
08 6282 1900 • enquiries@rockybay.org.au • ABN: 66 028 387 386 • ACN: 636 892 898
rockybay.org.au

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Research Objectives

The study aims to identify and describe residents' experiences, engagement with and feelings towards Rocky Bay SDA / Shift homes. The research will contribute to gaps in the current research relating to residents' experiences of both their home space and the role of the home space in facilitating broader inclusion and participation within their communities. The experiences of support staff, residents' family and friends will provide perspectives on the homes and their understandings of the home space.

To achieve this objective the research will seek to:

- Identify and describe residents' meanings of 'home' and the lived environment; including how residents engage with their home space; its role in meeting their perceived needs, expectations and aspirations; identify any limitations, areas for development and changes.
- Identify and describe staff experiences of supporting residents within their home environments; including their understandings of how residents interact with their home space and how the residents' everyday experiences of wellbeing, inclusion, connectedness and belonging including any changes.
- Identify and describe families' or significant friends' understandings of the residents' home environment and how it may have shaped residents' everyday experiences of wellbeing, inclusion, connectedness and belonging, including any changes.

Partners

Rocky Bay is partnering with Curtin University's School of Allied Health in undertaking this research.

Approach

A phenomenological, qualitative methodology will be the approach for this research. This will include semi-structured interviews, using a range of appropriate supportive communication, to gather data at each phase of the research.

Semi-structured interviews will use open-ended questions and be approximately 40 minutes with residents or as long as the resident wants to engage and 30-60 minutes with families and staff. Purposive sampling will be used in recruiting participants.

Participant criteria includes the following:

Residents - being a resident with Rocky Bay and in transition to a new SDA home.

Family member or Guardian of the resident moving to the new home.

Staff – support worker/s for each resident. Support workers with 8-9 years experience will be the focus due to their experience of changes to housing both in terms of

understandings about home and in terms of the physical environment of homes for people with disability.

Data will be gathered across a 12–18month period allowing for feedback to be provided to Rocky Bay at different stages in the residents’ journey of home making.

Impact

Evaluating the experience from the perspectives of residents, their family and staff will provide a grounded and holistic account of creating a sense of home. This information will be important in the on-going development of Rocky Bay’s unique housing program.

Key Contacts

Dr Angela Burns and Prof Angus Buchanan, Curtin School of Allied Health