



September 2010

What do we mean when we talk about valued roles?

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The term '*valued roles*' is used in Social Role Valorisation (SRV) theory. While it is a rather awkward term it is, nevertheless, a very important theory. SRV theorises that some groups in society, such as the homeless or people with disabilities, are devalued by others, either consciously or unconsciously, on the basis of their 'difference' to those members of society with valued status. When people are devalued they are treated differently and have different life outcomes to the more valued members of society. As a result of being devalued, people are more likely to be unemployed, homeless or institutionalised, and have fewer of the opportunities which seem to be the 'birthright' of people who have valued status.

Too often people with disabilities are not thought of as being contributing members of society. This perception needs to be challenged. At Pave the Way we believe that all people with disabilities have gifts and strengths which can be translated into valued roles. This belief is reflected in Pave the Way's latest information document, *Participation and contribution through work, study, and other valued roles*.

The aim of this document is twofold. Firstly, it aims to give individuals and their families a sense of **the importance of valued roles** and how these roles fit into the whole of a person's life planning and journey. Secondly, it aims to provide individuals and families with **information** about some of the options and services that are available to people with disabilities to pursue valued roles.

The valued roles we play in society are usually carried out in places where we spend significant amounts of our time and almost invariably involve other people. When we contribute something of value through these roles people can come to value us and, because they see us regularly, they can also come to know us. In the course of contributing to others, we not only build relationships but we develop skills, and self confidence too. Overall, contributing can increase our valued status.

For more information about Social Role Valorisation refer to the SRV website at <http://www.socialrolevalorization.com/index.htm>. If you do not have access to the web you can contact Pave the Way and we may be able to post some information to you.

All of Pave the Way's information documents can be found on our website at <http://www.pavetheway.org.au/resources/index.php>

'Most people live up or down to the expectations of others'

To talk about any of the ideas in this article, please contact Pave the Way on (07) 3291 5800 or 1300 554 402 or by email pavetheway@pavetheway.org.au

News

Pave the Way is happy to talk with families at any time about any of the ideas in this newsletter or about any other information that may help with your own future planning.

2 day live-in workshop – Coolum 22 – 24 October Vision and Planning

This live-in workshop is fully subscribed but will be held again early next year. Information will be on our website and in the December newsletter.

Staff News

In August we farewelled Dianne Mandeville from the Pave the Way team when she left to begin work with the Inspirit project at Mamre Association. Dianne is well known to a number of families with whom she has worked in Brisbane. Many others know of her work through the documents she has written, *A place to call home: thinking it through* and *A Document of Personal Information: Ideas and Strategies* both of which have been of great assistance to families in their planning. Mamre will no doubt benefit from Dianne's passion for good lives for people with disability and the skills and energy that she brought to her work at Pave the Way. We have greatly appreciated her contribution to the team and wish her well for her new position.

Information Updates

Pave the Way has updated its planning booklet, *Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future*. Written by Jeremy Ward, the main change to the first part of this booklet is the addition of a short section on recording important information, with reference to Pave the Way's publication, *A Document of Personal Information: Ideas and Strategies*. In the second part, covering legal issues, changes include an updating of the section on the Supreme Court's power to approve a will for someone who lacks testamentary capacity (sometimes called "statutory wills"), and changes to the section on Special Disability Trusts. This updated booklet is available on Pave the Way's website or from the Pave the Way office.

Pave the Way has also updated its [document on seeking advice and assistance in relation to wills and trusts, estate planning and financial planning](#), which includes contact details for professionals on the Pave the Way Professional Panel. In addition to the inclusion of new solicitors in Gladstone and Toowoomba, this document has extra information about other options for seeking legal, accountancy and financial planning advice and assistance

Events

Old Parents for People with Disability (OPPD). Presented by Canadian parents from Community Living Association, Wendy McDonald and Robin Acton.

- Friday September 24th - 9.30am - 3.30 pm (TBC) For family members only: having a voice, developing leadership skills and hearing stories on how these parents have worked to improve the lives of their family members.
- Saturday September 25th - 9.30am - 3pm (TBC) For families and others; employment and community connection.
email: sally.barone@qppd.org; phone: 1800805184 or 3875210.

Community Resource Unit (CRU) Presented by Hope Leet Dittmeier.

- Monday 20 September, 9.30 – 5.00pm. Ambitious Visioning: Delivering better lives and real choices: "How can people have real homes and better control over their lives and lifestyle?"
email: cru@cru.org.au; phone 3844 2211

For further information about legal updates, contact Jeremy Ward on Monday or Wednesday mornings on (07) 3291 5800 or 1300 554 402

New information resource

Participation and contribution through work, study, and other valued roles.

Information is a key component in sound decision making and planning. To this end, Pave the Way endeavours to produce information that is not only relevant to planning but aims to inspire families to imagine the best possible life for their family member with disability. Recent documents include: *A Place to Call Home: Thinking it Through; Document of Personal Information: Ideas and Strategies; From Dreams to Reality: Ideas and Strategies for Planning* and a revised version of *Planning to Make a Will*.

Pave the Way is pleased to announce that we have published a new information document: *Participation and contribution through work, study, and other valued roles*.

This document attempts to bring to light a number of options that people with disabilities can consider to explore valued roles, and some of the resources, both formal and informal, that might assist individuals and their families with this endeavour.

Many in our society believe that it is only people with less significant disabilities who can pursue work, study, or other valued roles. Yet all people have something to learn and contribute and it is about working out what each person CAN do and what each person WANTS to do.

The question becomes not, can the person make a contribution, but what contribution can the person make? The families we interviewed for the stories in this document often said that they started with thinking about who their family member is and what they wanted to do. Their interests, gifts and strengths and what resources they have were all important considerations.

Work is an important activity but not the only way people with disabilities can contribute to the communities in which they live. Joining a group, working as a volunteer and being a good friend, son, daughter, or neighbour are all extremely valuable roles.

We have included a number of stories to demonstrate the diversity of possibilities for people with disabilities to pursue valued roles. We encourage you to read these stories for inspiration about what is possible rather than read them as a recipe for how your own family member should pursue a particular role.

We have also included some useful links to some of the services which have been established to support people with disabilities in work, study, apprenticeships and traineeships. We hope this document will assist you to explore this often overlooked area in the life of people with disabilities.

The question becomes not, can the person make a contribution, but what contribution can the person make

If you are unable to access the website, please contact the office for a copy of these resources

Pave the Way

Pave the Way assists families throughout Queensland to clarify their vision for their family member with a disability and to plan to implement that vision. We encourage planning which is vision driven, 'whole of life', developmental, outside service planning and which safeguards family members in the long term. We believe it is other people who keep people safe and support the development of personal networks, including Support Circles.

Contact Us

Please contact us if you would like to be on our mailing list, or would like information or assistance developing a vision and plan or developing a support circle or similar network. If you are part of a group of families and would like us to come and talk about these issues, let us know.

Pave the Way
Level 1
1428 Logan Road
MT GRAVATT QLD 4122

Postal Address
Pave the Way
PO Box 949
MT GRAVATT QLD 4122

Ph: (07) 3291 5800 or 1300 554 402 www.pavetheway.org.au

General enquiries pavetheway@pavetheway.org.au
Catherine Raju catherine.raju@pavetheway.org.au
Julie van Oosten julie.vanoosten@pavetheway.org.au
Elaine Henderson elaine.henderson@pavetheway.org.au
Jeremy Ward jeremy.ward@pavetheway.org.au

Upcoming Events

Workshops

Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future

Ipswich	28 September 2010	(DSTF)
Ayr	7 October 2010 (TBC)	(DSTF)
Townsville	8 October 2010	(DSTF)
Atherton	26 November 2010	(DSTF)
Cairns	29 November 2010 (TBC)	(DSTF)
Bowen	27 October 2010 (Bowen Flexi Care)	

Documenting Personal Information

Gold Coast	3 September 2010	(PTW)
Goondiwindi	November 2010 (TBC)	(PTW)

Regional Visits

Julie van Oosten	Bundaberg	16 - 17 Oct 2010
	Rockhampton	18 - 19 Oct 2010
	Goondiwindi	November (TBC)



SEPTEMBER 2010

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Workshop Regional visit

To book for a workshop, please phone the relevant contact: Pave the Way (PTW) 3291 5800, DSTF (DSTF) 3234 0190, and (Bowen Flexi Care) 4786 4755. To contact Julie van Oosten regarding regional visits, please phone