

# The Framework Report

## PLAIN ENGLISH VERSION

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS) and the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability (CID) are concerned about what happens to people with intellectual disability who get into trouble with the law and people who might get into trouble if they don't get some form of help.

CID and IDRS asked Jim Simpson, Jenny Green and Meredith Martin to write report about this. The report is called *The Framework Report*. It suggests ways that things could be better for people.

### **SOME OF THE PROBLEMS FOR PEOPLE WHO GET INTO TROUBLE WITH THE LAW ARE:**

- There are not enough services to help them.
- They often don't have enough friends or family to support them.
- They usually have problems that no one notices when they are younger or when they are at school.
- The sometimes don't understand what is happening when they are being interviewed by the police or when they are in court.

### **THE REPORT SUGGESTS THINGS THAT CAN BE DONE TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT OF JAIL:**

- We need to work out a way of finding out if people who are in trouble with the law have intellectual disability.
- Support people should be made available to people with intellectual disability during police interviews and when they have to appear in court.
- The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care must give people funding when no one else will.
- Families need better support and people with intellectual disability need more advocacy and support.
- People such as psychologists need more training to work with people with intellectual disability in trouble with the law.
- Schools need to have better programs in place to help people to not get into trouble with the law.
- TAFE's need more courses to help people develop living skills.

- People who work in disability services and people who work in health services need to work more closely together.
- All accommodation services for people with intellectual disability should accept people with intellectual disability who are in trouble with the law.
- There is also a need for some crisis accommodation and somewhere for people to stay where there are programs to help them change some of their behaviours.
- People with intellectual disability of non-English speaking background and Aboriginal people do not get treated fairly and this needs to change.

## **IMPORTANT ISSUES**

- Government and community disability accommodation services for need to be more accepting of people with intellectual disability who get into trouble with the law.
- Accommodation services usually accept only people with more severe disability and what is called 'high support needs'.
- The report says that the behaviour that leads to people with intellectual disability breaking the law also means that they have 'high support needs'.
- A new agency should be set up to help people change their behaviour and develop new skills.
- This agency would have workers to help people find somewhere to live. People would also get help with other things such as dealing with their anger and budgeting.
- The agency could also teach disability workers about the criminal justice system. It could also teach people working jails about intellectual disability.
- More money is needed when people are in crisis, like when they come out of jail and have nowhere to live.
- More money for services needs to be used to help people stay out of trouble.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact IDRS on 9318 0144 or 1800666 611  
or NSW CID on 9211 1611 or 1800 424 065