Handout 15: Why People’s Goals are not Always Achieved

A review of a service plan will often reveal that not all of the person’s goals are being achieved. There can be a number of barriers including:

- **Organisational constraints** - it may be that the service did not have the funds and other resources required to support the person. There may have been some OH&S issues that were not considered earlier which have created barriers. Staff may not have had the skills or knowledge necessary to support the person. Staff attitudes may have made them resistant or uncomfortable to implementing the strategies to meeting the needs.

- **Differing perceptions of needs** - when a number of people are involved in a person’s life they will all have different views on the best way to meet their needs. If the person is not able to assert their needs they may have people interpreting them on their behalf. Some people may be more cautious and others more risk taking in how they support the person. These different perceptions can sometimes result in tensions between people which can result in little actually being achieved.

- **Unclear goals** - that is they did not meet the criteria of being **SMART** - **Specific**, **Measurable**, **Achievable**, **Resourced** and **Timely**. Often goals are not clearly stated and so people are confused about how they will support the person to achieve them.

- **The goals are not really agreed to by the person** - Sometimes other people decide that a goal is a good idea but the person may not agree with this. Unable to say this at the time, they may show this by not participating in the strategies developed to achieve the goal.