

INPLASY

A systematic review of the characteristics of programs and services resulting in open employment outcomes for young people with an intellectual disability.

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - Nil.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Completed but not published.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

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Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 23 September 2023 and was last updated on 23 September 2023.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective What are the characteristics of programs or services that result in open employment outcomes for young people with an intellectual disability who are transitioning from school to work?

Rationale To understand, based on a systematic review of the literature, the characteristics of programs that result in open, rather than sheltered or segregated, employment outcomes for young people with an intellectual disability transitioning from school to employment.

Condition being studied "Inclusion Australia" (n.d.), a peak disability organisation, defines Intellectual disability as "a lifelong condition that affects a person's intellectual skills and their

behaviour in different situations. It can include difficulties in communication, memory, understanding, problem solving, self-care, social and emotional skills and physical skills."

Open employment is defined as working at or above the minimum wage in full or part time employment in an integrated setting in the open labour market.

METHODS

Search strategy The main concepts from the research question are:

- Intellectual disability
- Program
- Employment

The following MESH headings were included; (MH "Intellectual Disability") with concept 1 (MH "Employment+") with concept 3

(MH "Occupations+") with concept 3

The search terms were organised into a search planner arranged by concept using Boolean Operators to focus the search. A systematic review of five databases was undertaken: Medline, Embase, CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature), ERIC (Education Resources Information Center), and AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine Database). Medline and Embase were chosen because they provide access to a large volume of international scientific literature in health and medicine. CINAHL, AMED and ERIC were selected as databases most relevant to the research question relating to both education and employment for people with a disability.

The date range was limited to a ten-year period from January 2013 to April 2023. The search was limited to English, human studies, and peer reviewed literature.

A grey literature search was completed in Google and the number of results searched were predefined to provide consistency across each search. The first ten pages of search results were reviewed against the study inclusion and exclusion criteria. The following search terms were used:

("intellectual disability" OR "intellectual impairment") (program OR service OR training OR education OR opportunity OR support OR strategy) (employment OR job or "vocational outcome" OR employee).

Participant or population Young people with an intellectual disability as their primary disability who are transitioning from school to employment.

Intervention Programs or services supporting young people with an intellectual disability to transition from school to employment.

Comparator Nil.

Study designs to be included Peer reviewed systematic reviews and empirical studies, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods designs.

Eligibility criteria Inclusion criteria: Published between January 2013 to April 2023, young people with intellectual disability as their primary disability, young people transitioning from school to work, programs or services supporting young people to transition from school or post secondary education to open employment. Exclusion criteria; book reviews, theses, conference presentations and project reviews, populations who do not have an intellectual disability as their primary disability or who have multiple disabilities, programs or

services focussing on supporting older adults or those not transitioning from school or post secondary education to work, programs or services only resulting in sheltered or customised employment outcomes.

Information sources A systematic review of five databases was undertaken: Medline, Embase, CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature), ERIC (Education Resources Information Center), and AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine Database).

A grey literature search was completed in Google. The first ten pages of search results were reviewed against the study inclusion and exclusion criteria. The following search terms were used:

("intellectual disability" OR "intellectual impairment") (program OR service OR training OR education OR opportunity OR support OR strategy) (employment OR job or "vocational outcome" OR employee).

Main outcome(s) Open employment is the outcome of interest. This is defined as working at or above the minimum wage in full or part time employment in an integrated setting in the open labour market.

Additional outcome(s) Nil.

Data management References from the database and grey literature search were imported into Endnote and were then imported into the online software product for managing systematic reviews, Covidence.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis Two quality assessment tools were used: The Effective Public Health Practice Project (EPHPP) (<https://www.ehpp.ca/quality-assessment-tool-for-quantitative-studies/>) tool was selected to appraise the quantitative studies, and the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool version 18 (MMAT) (Hong et al., 2018) was used to appraise the systematic review, qualitative, and mixed methods studies.

Strategy of data synthesis Analysis of the content was undertaken as a thematic analysis to identify, analyse and report on patterns in the included studies and was based on Braun and Clarke's theoretical framework (2006). Themes captured information that was important to the research question and encompassed the different stages of employment transition services for young people with an intellectual disability. An inductive approach was used to code the results to understand how they related to the research

question and to present an accurate reflection of the relevant content across all papers.

Subgroup analysis Not applicable.

Sensitivity analysis Not applicable.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved Australia.

Other relevant information Nil.

Keywords Intellectual Disability, program, open employment.

Dissemination plans Publication in a peer reviewed academic journal.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Alison Enticott - Systematic review completed as a Thesis Project for a Master of Health Economics.

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Author 2 - Angela Dew - Project Supervisor and second reviewer for screening and full text reviews, second assessor for quality reviews (completed a random sample of 30%).

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