

Introduction

Over 10 years ago I met Phil Tuckerman, a leading employment expert in Australia. Phil had the wonderful blend of being an active employment service clinician with an astute interest in research, evaluation and outcome. He was keenly interested in the studies being conducted in the U.S. on supported employment and other competitive employment initiatives.

As the Australian efforts have unfolded over the past decade, increasing numbers of positive activities have occurred. First, there is a people first, person-centered level of interest for client services. Consumer power is taking on an increasing influence to program planning and implementation. Second, the papers in this issue reflect service delivery and implementation challenges experienced by community service providers. Many of these issues and the solutions necessary hold interest to providers around the world. The third issue is cost: how much do services cost and how are these costs

figured?

Supported employment and competitive employment as outcomes for persons with significant disabilities are now a global interest. There are programs throughout the world, which is why the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation* is interested in publishing papers from Australia as well as former issues which reflect Spain, Europe or other international themes.

In order to help solve complex implementation problems in supported employment it is essential that we publish good information on how programs in different parts of the world are approaching these issues. Additional questions or comments about the Australian experience should be directed to Phil Tuckerman at +61 2 9554 9555 or E-mail: philt@jobsupport.asn.au.

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Editor