

Melanie Henwood

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Cash and Care: emerging issues in promoting choice, control and self-directed support



The idea of empowering service users through a personal allocation of money, rather than through the provision of a direct service, is being hailed in England as the next big idea in social care and beyond, as evidenced by the increasing use of Direct Payments, the expansion of 'In Control' and the piloting of Individual Budgets. A number of policy issues and dilemmas arise in the development of self-directed support including considerations of equity, transparency, accessibility, self-determination, flexibility, and values and outcomes. The seminar will reflect on emerging issues in the UK, drawing particularly on the findings from a review of the Independent Living Fund that Melanie Henwood and Bob Hudson have just completed for the Department for Work and Pensions. Many of the themes currently being explored in the English context have parallels in similar developments across Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand.

Melanie Henwood is an independent health and social care consultant based in the UK. She is a lay member of the General Social Care Council, Chair of the Advisory Board on Social Care at the MS Society, and a specialist adviser to the House of Commons Health Select Committee. Melanie has more than 25 years experience in research and policy analysis, focusing particularly on health and care issues of an ageing population, and exploring new models of enabling choice and control. She is a frequent commentator on health and social care issues in the professional press and on broadcast media. Before establishing her own consultancy in 1991 Melanie held research posts at the King's Fund (1989-91); the Family Policy Studies Centre (1983-89), and the University of Bath. She has held Visiting Fellowships at the London School of Economics, the University of Leeds, and (in 1999) with SPRC at UNSW.



Tuesday, 20th March 2007

1-2.00pm

Green Office, Room 2, Building G2,
Western Campus, UNSW
(Next to SPRC)

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by **Monday 19th March 2007**

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<http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/>