**Transcript**

***Professor Christine Bigby – Achieving an ordinary life for people with intellectual disabilities***

The research, all the research that we do is involved with looking at the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities and the project I’m going to talk about is looking at people who have more severe intellectual disability who live in group homes. And we know from previous research that the quality of their life and their social engagement and inclusion is related to the quality of the staff support that they get. So, our research question is about what makes staff do what they do. What are the influences on the nature of the support that they give?

So we’re trying to identify what are the factors that impact on staff behaviour and the type of support they give, they do. So we are trying to identify how we can make a difference to the quality of support that’s provided. How we can change the way organisations are structured, the way they behave, the messages they give to staff, the type of leadership and practice coaching that they give to staff, the way they organise themselves and if we can identify some of those key factors then we’ll be able to intervene and provide advice about how to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and improve staff support.

We spend an enormous amount of money on disability support services and quite honestly some of them aren’t particularly effective and the degree of social inclusion particularly for people with more severe disabilities isn’t very good. This research will hopefully improve the quality of support that’s provided and the outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities so we’re getting more effective and more efficient support services.