CHATS WITH
PEOPLE WHO USE SRV

asrva
AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL ROLE VALORISATION ASSOCIATION

NATASHA BENNET

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Natasha is the Assistant Manager Circles Initiative and Facilitator at Community Living Project in Adelaide

GREG: Tash, let's start with how you first became interested in SRV. Maybe it was through work, personal experience, or family connections?

NATASHA: I first became interested in SRV when I started working at Community Living Project. Even though I just worked as part of the admin team, and not as a support worker, the training was deemed by the organisation important for all employees to undertake. Peter Millier was our teacher (Australia's first Senior Trainer SRV) and his knowledge and the way he delivered the content made me think deeper around my own personal experience with a family member who had an intellectual disability. It made me realise there was a reason why I would feel uncomfortable at times about how people spoke and treated them.

I discovered that my own values supported the framework that SRV encourages us to use. I found myself examining my own unconscious thoughts. I had some fantastic mentors at CLP: Jayne Barrett, Julie Edwards, Katrina Fredberg, Prue Gorman. As well as those at the organisation, CLP would often host events and fly in the likes of Jane Sherwin and others. I was very fortunate and had people around me who would challenge my thinking so I could get better at using SRV as well as helping others to understand the why.

GREG: What is it that you really like about SRV?

NATASHA: For me I think, everyone deserves a good, ordinary life. I believe that and I feel SRV gives me the framework to think about how we can put things in place that make this a possibility.

GREG: What's the most challenging part of using SRV for you?

NATASHA: The most obvious is when I come across others who have not been exposed to SRV and don't really understand why we would not go down a particular path. Sometimes I have trouble finding the words to explain the why.

GREG: Does SRV influence your everyday life Tash?

NATASHA: I do find myself sharing examples with my children and having discussions on good, better, best. Both my daughters are in education and I like to think I have influenced them to think differently, along with them knowing our family member who has an intellectual disability. I try to role model wherever I am, without being weird and over the top.

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GREG: When you look back at how you've used SRV, is there anything you'd like to do differently or learn more about?

NATASHA: I'd like to improve my ability to influence others especially those who haven't had any exposure to SRV.

GREG: Finally, what advice would you give to someone who's new to SRV, for example, someone who's just done a theory workshop and wants to start applying it?

NATASHA: Hopefully they would be as lucky as me to have people who they work with who could mentor them and discuss SRV and who would challenge them on their thoughts. If not, try and find someone local who you might meet with and talk about it, share frustrations as well as the good things you see happening. The online sessions that ASRVA run are a great way to meet others who use SRV as well as the good content and sharing stories. Look for online examples and organisations that use SRV and share the good things they are doing.

GREG: Much appreciated thank you Tash.