



NEWSLETTER

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Disability Employment Australia Conference 2022

BY LENDA ALMAJID

Inclusion is essential in our society. It is a way that we are able to eliminate the issues surrounding stereotypes that can prevent individuals from reaching their highest potential in relation to things such as employment. Which is why the 2022 Disability Employment Australia Conference is so important.

The 2022 Disability Employment Australia Conference will be commencing on The 31st of May and will conclude on the 2nd of June at the Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney. Due to Covid, the event had been postponed for the last two years. However, its return means that there is a great opportunity for providers and carers within the disability employment sector to be able to attend, engage and meet with others to further build support networks and challenge and expand their knowledge and learning. With a series of presentations and panels, as well as group activities, it is an opportunity to develop connections with exhibitors and event partners who can help support your organisation.

To find out more about this year's program, visit <https://dea.cw3.events/program/>

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Zero Barriers Business Spotlight: Roly Poly Childcare - Bankstown

Roly Poly is a family owned and operated Early childhood education and care centre that prides itself on inclusion for all. Their curriculum is child initiated and planned but also leaves ample opportunities for spontaneous experiences. The service and curriculum are inclusive of children with additional needs and is dedicated to providing a safe and supportive learning environment. The centre's SIP (Strategic Inclusion Plan) includes short and long-term strategies for improving and embedding inclusive practice of children with additional needs.

The centre has been purpose built with Inclusion of disability in mind, so the design of the environments is appropriate, suitable, safe, clean, and is used to support every child's participation and engagement in quality experiences in both the built and natural environments.

The service is accessible for people using a wheelchair with a weatherproof car space, access ramps, lift to the second story, toilets on both levels are accessible and wide hallways offer space. All classrooms are spaced for easy access around furniture and resources.

To find out more, please call (02) 9709 8999 or visit them at 9 East Terrace, Bankstown NSW 2200

“There is no greater disability in society than the inability to see a person as more.”

– Robert M. Hensel

Community Voice: Elsie

"I was born with cerebral palsy, which has effected my mobility, with not being able to walk from a young age. I have been using a walking frame for over 20 years now and I currently still use it. Nothing has stopped me from doing anything, no limitations regardless of my ability as I like to call it. It has taught me to be independent and positive towards everything in life."

What is it like for you when using businesses and services in the community?

"Thankfully it is mostly good. I am fortunate to be able to use a walking frame, however it is not always smooth sailing. I tend to use the lifts and ramps, which makes things easier.

At cafes, it can get tricky as I will always need someone to open doors for me. If there are stairs, I can only use them if there is a rail. Thankfully I have family members who stay beside me. I was afraid to ask for help before, mainly because I thought I was troubling people, but I eventually grew out of this and learned that it is okay to ask for help. "

What do you think businesses and services can do to improve access for people with disability?

"Make people more aware - most people and businesses don't know about accessibility. Improve accessibility of heritage buildings. I understand that they are heritage, but it is limited for someone with a disability like me to access them sometimes, without a ramp. Step escalators are hard, more ramps should be placed in centres. I would love to see a play centre for people with disability that is completely modified for them, so when they are out they can access it all in one place rather than being restricted to one option."