



Practitioner
Interest Forum
**Building Organisational
Inclusion**
Thursday 11th April
9AM-1:00PM
Melbourne

Session 2 – Advocacy and Inclusion

Inclusion and Advocacy

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Nothing about us without us: Inclusion in advocacy

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Article 3: General principles

'Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons'

Article 8: Awareness-raising

- 'Raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;
- Combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life;
- Promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.'

Determining policy

- Deepening connections with program partners, particularly disabled people's organisations (DPOs), allows us to support their priorities through program support and advocacy.
- This allows us to think bigger, and work towards long-term solutions.
- Where appropriate, shared strategy development allows us to align with locally-identified priorities.
- Challenges: maintaining discipline, removing organisational ego (including by working through coalitions such as ADDC to remove perceptions of organisational self-interest).
- At the core is the recognition that our in-country partners, particularly DPOs, are experts in their own experience and context. As such, we need to maintain respect for their agendas.



Developing resources

- People with disabilities telling their own stories
- Human rights methodology – End the Cycle
- International Day of People with Disability and CBM resource collection
- Accessibility of process and accessibility of resources
- The way we tell stories matters - rights-based communications
- Challenges





Joint advocacy in action

- Lobbying in partnership with DPO members or advocates with disability creates an impactful experience for Australian-based decision-makers.
- This can challenge their perceptions of the capacities of people with disability, from beneficiaries to experts and change agents.
- Joint advocacy activities can provide capacity development opportunities for people with disabilities, which can create flow-on benefits for the DPO in country.
- Challenge: to be undertaken effectively, joint advocacy requires dedicated investment of both time and funding.



Case study: sign language development in the Pacific

- The issue: in most parts of the Pacific, there is no formalised sign language. This means that many Deaf people use home signs to communicate. These home signs are often only recognised by immediate family, typically only allow home sign users to express basic needs, and do not constitute expressive language.
- The proposal: a situational analysis, the design of which would be funded by DFAT, to develop a better understanding of the lives and experiences of Deaf people in the Pacific.
- The advocacy: written report, presentation at ACFID Conference, meetings with DFAT and politicians, timely re-engagement.
- The outcome: a design funded by DFAT, with efforts underway to secure broader donor buy-in to a larger-scale regional analysis.



ADDC Disability Focal Point network

Creating small groups of people who are working to raise the profile of disability inclusion within their own organisations and programs to share ideas, resources, challenges and strategies.

Register your interest with Kerryyn via kclarke@addc.org.au

10 days for 10 years

Celebrating a decade of disability inclusion development

- Marking achievements in DID, particularly those led or made possible by Australian aid under the first and second *Development for All* strategies.
- Daily articles on ADDC website reflecting on the successes of DID practises by 13 ADDC member organisations, including Oxfam Australia, World Vision, TEAR, CBM Australia and Good Return.
- **Starting from Monday 29th April**