

NZASID 6th Annual Conference

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

THE JOURNEY via IDPWD

**Presenter : DENNIS ROBSON
CIVIC DISABILITY SERVICES**

CIVIC DISABILITY SERVICES

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

(N.G.O.)

Location 15 – 30 km from the Sydney CBD

Boundaries - East – Pacific Ocean

North and West - Rivers

South – National Park

LGAs – Sutherland, Rockdale, Kogarah,
Hurstville

General Population - approx 430,000

Services Provided to adults with a disability

- Accommodation support
- Drop in support
- Attendant Care Services
- Work activities
- Respite – Centre based overnight
 - Community based; 1:1 or group programs
 - Aged Care centre based overnight
- Day Programs – School Leavers, Life Choices & Active Ageing

Guiding Legislation

- NSW Disability Services Act, 1993
Objects, Principles,
Application of Principles,
Disability Services
Standards
- New Zealand Public
health and Disability Act
2000

Disability Strategies and
Standards

Relevant Standards/Strategies

- NSW Standard 5 – Participation & integration

“Services are provided in a way that facilitates the integration and participation of each person with a disability in the community at times and in ways similar to other members of the community”

Relevant Standards/Strategies

- The New Zealand Disability Strategy

A vision of a non disabling society

“ The vision of this strategy is a fully inclusive society”

(Office for

Disability issues-

Ministry

of Social Development)

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

3rd December

A celebration of the abilities of People with a
Disability

NSW slogan – “Don’t DIS my ABILITY”

IDPWD 2003

A small Barbeque (BBQ) in a local park for
Civic service users and staff





IDPWD 2004

A small BBQ in a local park for Civic service users and staff

Entertainment





IDPWD 2005

BBQ in a local park for Civic service users, service users from 3 other services, and their staff

Entertainment

A raffle to raise funds for a local charity





IDPWD 2006

BBQ in a local park for service users from 6 disability service providers, their staff and some families

Planned and co-ordinated by 6 organisations (included a person with a disability) plus the local Council

Entertainment – Guitar playing singer, dance group, local school choir

Publicity

Local service groups assisting

Raffle with donation to a special needs scouting group







IDPWD 2007

Events

1. BBQ in the park for PWD, staff, families and friends, Council staff and elected personnel

Entertainment and involvement by PWD

2. Disco – open invitation
3. Aqua classes for PWD
4. Launch of beach Wheelchair at local surf club

Publicised in local media

Organised by 7 service providers and local council

IDPWD 2008

Co-ordinating Committee applied for and received a “seeding” grant from local Council

- At last a chance for an inclusive event
- What ? A festival featuring and promoting people with a disability along with other members of the community
- Where ? A council park right at North Cronulla beach
- When ? First Saturday of summer- 6th December, 2008
- What will it be called ? “EmbraceAbility Day”

EmbraceAbility Day

Things to do

Attend local fetes and community promotions to observe and get information from stall holders

Book stage, sound system, M/C, entertainers, art & craft stalls, food stalls, activities, celebrities, patrons, politicians, other attractions.

Media publicity (local paper and community radio) and via flyers to schools and letterbox drop

Embrace Ability Day

Outcomes

Entertainment – 4 dance groups (2 including PWD), 2 choirs, 3 bands, soloists (PWD)

Attractions – Jumping Castle, Pass the ball competition, 10 art & craft stalls, 8 food stalls

information stall

Celebrities – Patron, TV presenter, Special Olympian, Paralympian, Olympian, Mayor, Member of Parliament, Council staff



















EmbraceAbility Day

Outcomes (contd)

Event attended by approx 100 PWD with their family friends and carers, together with an estimated 600 – 700 members of the general community who came for the event or were just “passing through” on their way to or from the beach.

All members of the community enjoyed a fun day – it was incidental that a percentage were people with a disability. – leading to the further breaking down of barriers for inclusion of PWD.

Lessons to be learned

- Identify your goal at the start and don't lose sight of it
- Be prepared to start in a small way and gradually build up. Don't go all out until you have the necessary support structures in place – a broad spectrum of support for the activity, volunteers, local government, funding (?), publicity
- Be persistent – follow up, encourage continued involvement, develop informal partnerships
- Regularly consult with other services and people with a disability

THANK YOU