

Breaking down the barriers to relationship and sexuality goals for people with intellectual disability.

Melanie Guiney¹

Ally La Verdiere², Courtney King¹ and Debora Vogt¹

¹ Rubix Support

² Thrive Rehab

What is the topic to be discussed?

People with intellectual disabilities face multiple barriers to having fulfilling relationships and meeting sexuality needs, this often includes a denial of human rights and inequality in sexuality and relationship education (SRE). This panel aims to discuss these barriers, what comprehensive SRE looks like and advocate for future change.

What are the key questions/agenda you would like to raise for discussion? (50 words)

- What are the barriers for people with intellectual disability to having meaningful intimate relationships?
- What does comprehensive SRE for people with intellectual disability look like?
- What are the consequences of a lack of SRE?
- New frontiers – what needs to change in the future for sexuality and relationship quality of life?

Who will lead and contribute to the discussion? Please include the names of the panel members here, and add them as co-authors below (select Yes for Presenter).

Melanie Guiney to lead discussion and invite audience participation by welcoming questions from the panel and the audience

Ally La Verdiere - contributor

Courtney King - contributor

Debora. Vogt - contributor

All the above are SRE educators in their various fields of expertise (see profiles).

How do you plan to engage the audience? (e.g. ask for audience input in response to the topic questions and/or invite them to question panellists)

Propose questions to the panel and then invite audience to question panelists, use live polls to enhance audience participation

Why is this important and how does it contribute to the theme of ‘New Frontiers’? How might this panel discussion showcase or debate new ideas and how we might make the world a better place for people with disability?

This new frontier is comprehensive SRE that is sex positive, evidence based and promotes choice and control, aiming to build quality of life and reduce restrictive practices is vital to changing the world for people with intellectual disability and building them rich, safe and fulfilling relationships.