

Everyday steps to address everyday harm against people with disability

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Aims/Objectives: What was the purpose what you did? Why is your topic important? What did you want to change? What difference did you want to make?

How to address the everyday harm experienced by people with disability is underexplored. Everyday harm comes from a lack of care, respect or valuing between people. These problems leave people feeling uncomfortable, silenced or neglected. Understanding how to address this problem is important for the future for people with disability.

Methods/Process: Who was involved? What did you do? (100 words)

We used creative methods for qualitative interviews with 36 pairs of young people with intellectual disability and their support workers about what steps they take to address everyday harm in their work together. The methods were guided by the project's conceptual framing from recognition theory, which helps explain how unethical practice can be avoided and addressed through inter-relational and organisational practice.

Results: What did you find? What changed? What difference did you make? What did you learn?

The pairs reported ways they prevented, acknowledged, addressed and repaired everyday harm in their work together. Their steps included listening to each other before harm happens. Listening means working out how to ask about harm and how to speak up about harm. They checked in with each other about whether they felt harm and if so, how to fix it. Practice using these steps helped. Speaking with peers and managers about what they learned about preventing and fixing harm helped other people gain practice to take steps too.

Conclusion: How could other people use what you found out? What would you recommend other people do based on what you did and what you found out?

Everyday harm happens to us all. Harm happens at a higher rate to people with disability, and so steps to prevent and address this matters. The findings have implications to improve the practice and policy about daily support relationships of people with disability. The responsibility for these changes rests on service providers and workers to improve the quality of support.

Alignment with the Conference Theme: How does your proposal address the conference theme of ‘New Frontiers’? How does your proposal showcase something new we can do to make the world a better place for people with disability? (50 words)

Knowing, promoting and practising steps to address everyday harm can improve lives of people with disability and support workers. These ways of preventing and addressing everyday harms are relevant to other relationships in the lives of people with disability too, outside paid support.