

What's the future for people with disability subjected to institutionalised lives and expectations?

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What is the topic to be discussed?

People who have intellectual disability and high & complex communication support needs are often overlooked in advocacy and reform. This cohort are most at risk of having institutionalised lives and expectations. Having agency and voice is dependent on others knowing, acknowledging and acting on your behalf. Leave no-one behind.

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

How do we ensure agency, dignity and respect is afforded to people with disability who are dependent on other to advocate on their behalf? Why is this group of people being left behind in current reform? How do we change this?

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).

Stephanie Gotlib - Executive Director of Government Relations and Advocacy at All Means All (Australian Alliance for Inclusive Education) Asia Pacific Regional Representative for Inclusion International, Board Member of Rights and Inclusion Australia and has experience of disability as a parent.

Alan Blackwood (chair) Policy Director at Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance,

Dr Rhonda Galbally AC a former Commissioner of the Disability Royal Commission

Sue Swenson - Chair of Inclusion International

Tim Chan - Disability Advocate, author and AAC user - to be confirmed

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)

This is a high profile group of panelists with extensive personal and professional experience of disability. The plan is to have a compelling discussion presenting the urgent need for action to ensure people with profound disability, who are more frequently in segregated settings, are considered & included in advocacy and reform. There will be a discussion between panelists who will respond to specific set questions. Following this we will invite questions from the audience relevant to the discussion and related issues.

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?

Some people with intellectual disability and high communication support needs are dependent on others to ensure they have voice and agency. Dependency sits awkwardly in current times of self-advocacy and contemporary understandings of disability. What should dependency look like in 2024? A vital conversation or we risk leaving people behind.