

## Voices That Matter:

# Insights from Queensland's Intellectual Disability Community, July 2025 (Easy English)

(By Down Syndrome & Intellectual Disability Queensland – DSIDQ)



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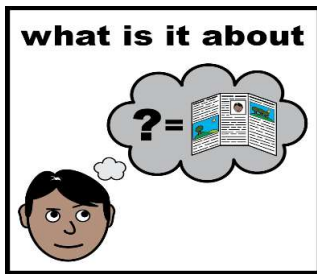
### DSIDQ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TOWNSVILLE, GOLD COAST, TOOWOOMBA, BRISBANE SOUTH, BRISBANE  
July 2025

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Down Syndrome &  
Intellectual Disability  
Queensland



## About the Project



We spoke with people with intellectual disability, families, and **everyone involved** across **Queensland**.



We had meetings in Townsville, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, **Brisbane North & South**, and received 118 **online surveys**.



**Our goal** was to understand what works well and what is needed.



## What People Said

### Feeling Safe & Included



- Many people feel **welcome** in their community.
- But **safety concerns** in public transport, restaurants, and shops.
- Families are **less confident** in community inclusion.

### Respect & Services

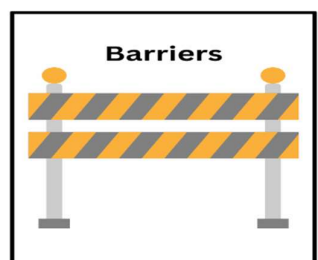


- People generally feel **respected** by health and disability services.
- But there are **gaps** in **employment, school, and NDIS**.
- Families see lower levels of respect and inclusion.

### Access to Services



- Most people with disability **agree** that services are easy to use.
- Most families and carers **do not** agree that services are easy to use.



### Barriers

- Lack of awareness, high costs, poor information, limited opportunities.



## Top Priorities

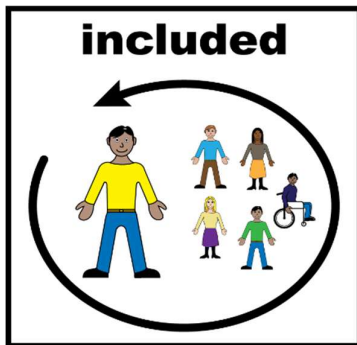
### People with Intellectual Disability

1. Feeling safe and supported
2. Making friends
3. Being included and respected

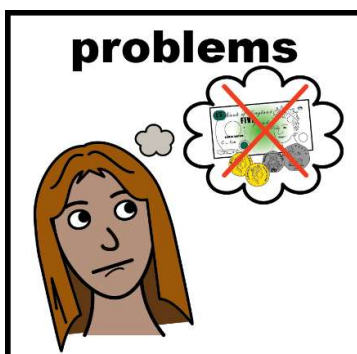


### Families & Carers

1. Inclusion and respect
2. Friendships
3. Access to quality healthcare



### Main Challenges



- Not enough **simple to read** information
- Poor communication and system complexity (NDIS, health, education)
- Unfair ideas about people and exclusion
- Limited transport
- Limited opportunities in regional areas
- Not enough money

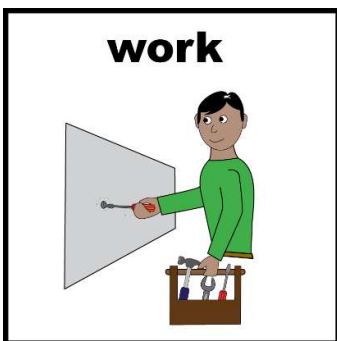


## *Community Solutions*



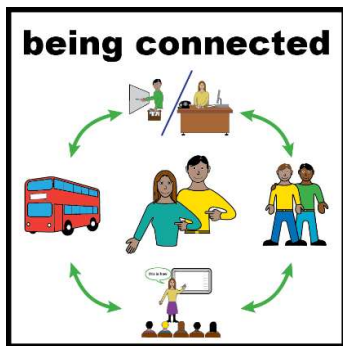
## Education & Training

- More post-school and life-skills programs
- Self-advocacy training
- Disability awareness for teachers and providers



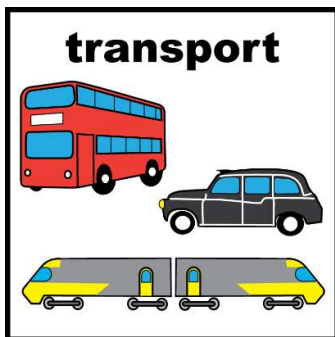
## Employment

- Support for finding and keeping jobs
- Employer education
- A rule that helps make sure people with disabilities get some of the jobs.



## Social Connection

- Inclusive events and sports
- Peer support groups for individuals and families



## Transport

- Train transport staff
- Expand travel programs and parking concessions



## Communication

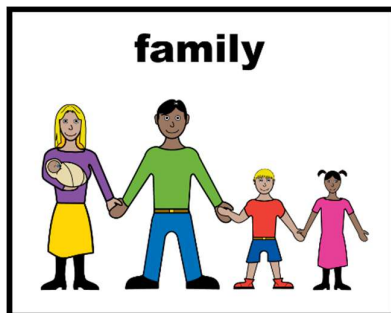
- Create **Easy Read** resources
- Build a one-stop information hub
- Ensure co-design includes lived experience



## *Voices from the Queensland All Abilities Network (QAAN)*

- Help people make friends in their community
- Keep disability funding secure
- Train support workers
- Support people to do what they love
- Allow people with disability to make their own decisions

## *What Families Told Us*



- People often talk *about* rather than *to* those with disability
- Systems are confusing — families want **navigators**
- Those with high support needs are often excluded
- “Remember, not everyone is on social media”

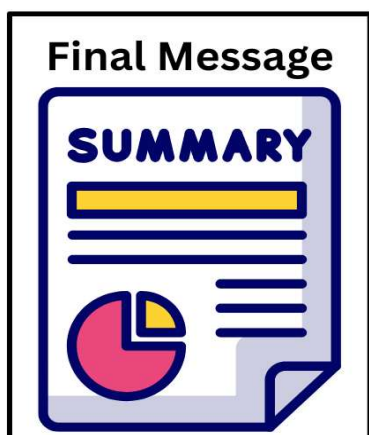


## *Moving Forward*



- Put **lived experience** at the centre of decisions
- Strengthen **regional support**
- Offer more **inclusive social and family opportunities**
- Provide **clear information** in an easy-to-understand format
- Keep listening through regular community consultations

## *Final Message*



People with intellectual disabilities want:

- To **belong**, feel **safe**, and be **respected**
- Equal chances in **education, jobs, and community life**
- Systems that are **simple, fair, and inclusive**

Together, we can build a Queensland where everyone is valued and supported to thrive.