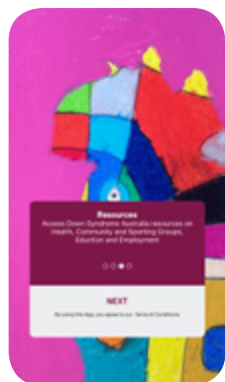


# Ask About Down Syndrome

by Kylie Preston

Down Syndrome Australia has recently launched the Ask About Down Syndrome app. This app is a continuation of the Community Inclusion Toolkit that DSA launched in 2018 to support and promote inclusion across employment, education, health and community and sporting groups.



The app has 3 main functions:

## Questions, Answers and Stories

The app features people with Down syndrome answering important questions and sharing stories about what supports inclusion, what the barriers are and how these can be addressed. Working with our state and territory associations, DSA met with people with Down syndrome

across Australia to talk about the app and then record their responses to a range of questions in the areas they were passionate or interested in.

The stories in the app provide more detailed examples of inclusion and participation in the community. These stories share tips and practical strategies to support inclusion through personal experiences. The 2020 World Down Syndrome Day stories are also available through the app.

## Community inclusion resources

This section holds the latest resources from Down Syndrome Australia's Community Inclusion Toolkit. These resources are now available to view, share, download or print from a handheld device. DSA also plans to expand this section and link to other resources that people with Down syndrome, family members and the broader community can access.

## Share your own question, answer or story

People can also share their own experiences through the app by submitting a question, answer or a story. DSA will support people to share their experience in the best format for that person. This could be through pictures and images, videos, written responses or audio recordings.

As part of this project DSA has also developed a video guide to help people understand and learn how to capture and share their story. The video guide is available on the DSA website: [www.downsyndrome.org.au](http://www.downsyndrome.org.au). Down Syndrome Australia has also worked with Taste Creative to develop an animation to introduce the app and show people how to use it and discuss its purpose in an accessible way.

The Down Syndrome Advisory Network and other people with Down syndrome have been involved throughout this project to provide advice, expertise, app content and user testing. DSAN provided advice from the app concept stage, discussing what apps they liked using and why. This helped inform the format and design of the app. DSAN members also participated in the user testing experience and provided valuable insights not only into the functionality of the app but also more generally provided advice to the app developers on accessibility.

You can read more about this process here:

<https://www.downsyndrome.org.au/news//wdsd2020/day20.html>

Sydney artist Digby Webster licensed some of his original artworks to DSA to use as a design feature of the app which adds a brilliant splash of colour and life to the look.

The Ask About Down Syndrome app is available for both iOS and Android devices and is available from the App Store and Google Play.

DSA partnered with Taste Creative and The Project Factory to design and deliver the app through an ILC grant funded through the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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