



From 'Disability' to '*That*ability'

Our community, our future

Welcoming and inclusive Sheds



Coral Crameri – Manager, Aged and Disability Services

Darren Cunningham – Ageing Well & Access for All Abilities Programs

During our conversation today we'll:

- Share our experiences of disability
- Share our issues and ideas
- Challenge attitudes around disability
- Have a few laughs along the way too

Melton Men's Shed – A Snapshot



- Melton is the first to run a Shed fully as a service of Council
- Partnership with State and Federal Governments
- Council has made a major ongoing commitment:
 - \$250,000 (2008 – 2010)
 - Fully funded Shed Supervisor position 3days p.w.
- A Men's Shed could help us achieve our Council Plan Strategic Objectives:
 - Community Health and Wellbeing
 - Environment
 - Business and Employment
 - Managing Growth
 - Leadership
 - Community Engagement



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A Snapshot cont....



- Officially Opened by the Mayor, and Deputy PM Julia Gillard on Friday 21 August
- A range of opportunities available:
 - 'Re-Cycle' project - repairing bikes for local donation/sale
 - Building possum boxes for Wildlife Victoria for use in fire affected areas
 - Men's Health Forums
 - Restoration projects
 - Cooking classes
 - Drop-in



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Defining Disability



WHAT DOES DISABILITY MEAN TO YOU?

Disability:

- Covers a wide range of conditions, illnesses, diseases and impairments
 - Physical, Sensory, Intellectual, Psychological
- Can be short or long-term
- Can be acquired or permanent
- Everyone is affected by their disability differently

What's in it for us?



It's more than just *'doing the right thing'*

Benefits can include:

- Increased membership / participation
- More volunteers
- More income / revenue
- Opportunities for great publicity
- Improve chances of success in grant applications
- Positive recognition from your Sheddies and other supporters



**With 19% of the population with a disability (ABS 2006),
if you're not inclusive, you're missing out**

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Physical Environment



To the Shed

- Smooth pathways
- Well lit
- Clearly signed
- Clear pathways
- Accessible Parking

Inside the Shed

- Minimise noise
- Height adjust wbench
- Clear space to move
- Equipment easy to reach
- Chairs at work stations

GOOD ACCESS BENEFITS EVERYONE

People Environment



- **Reach out** to people with a disability, carers in a range of ways
- Treat **everyone as an individual** with their own unique skills, interests and needs
- Only make **modifications *IF*** you need to
- **Value everyone's capacity** to contribute
- Promote **inclusive messages in everything** you do



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Great Resources & Further Help



- Local Council
- Disability Service Providers
- Carers/Carer Support Groups
- Health Services
- W.H.O. *'Age-Friendly Cities'* checklist
- Other Sheds
- Your existing Sheddies
- People with a disability

In Conclusion



- Offer a **variety of activities**
- The physical environment is important, but the **people environment is essential**
- You **don't need a knowledge of 'disability'**
- **Reach out**
- **Just be prepared to have a go**
- Change the mindset **from Disability to THATability**