Providing a new outlook

Outlook celebrates people with disabilities every day.

The work they do is driven by their vision of creating and supporting inclusive communities where people with disability can live, work, play and participate fully in community life. With a strong history and presence of over 50 years, they strive for everyone's full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

This year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities theme is Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post Covid-19 World, and that is exactly what they have been doing at Outlook.

General manager community services Gabriella Browne, said, "During lockdown, the disability services team re-designed our centre-based and community-based programs and now, more than ever, Outlook has a range of programs and activities to suit all abilities. Of course, we've kept the favourite activities Outlook customers have always enjoyed.

"Whether people with disability in our community are looking for further education, employment, social interactions or just plain fun, there's something for everyone at Outlook. We've also introduced enhancements to our supported employment services and we have new sustainable long-term work opportunities for school leavers. The new programs have had tremendous uptake and response."

"We are looking forward to rolling out a range of new and exciting initiatives in 2021 including recreation and leisure activities", Elaine De Vos, disability services manager said.

Outlook invites the community to get in touch and speak to their knowledgeable and friendly team to work out a path that is the perfect fit for a rewarding and inclusive community experience.

Outlook clients gather for a meal. 260580

Using proper language

By Elle Cecil

As our society progresses into a more inclusive and welcoming environment, it is important that we make a conscious effort to ensure the language we use towards others is appropriate. Rather than relating to concepts such as profanities, this is in reference to the way we address or describe people with disabilities.

Like fashion crazes, music styles and interior design trends, language tends to change and update with time. New words and phrases are introduced into our vocabularies to reflect the times we live in.

Terms like 'handicapped,' 'physically challenged' and 'wheelchair-bound' are heading away from being the accepted way to refer to people who have a disability, while the use of phrases like 'suffering from' or 'afflicted with' are generally deemed offensive in today's language.

Avoid the use of words and phrases such as crippled, a victim of, unfortunate, suffering from, incapacitated or worse, words that have evolved from historically medical terms to become hurtful slurs. Using the word 'normal' is also, depending on context, one that should generally be avoided when referring to people with a disability.

Using proper terminology is empowering, while outdated terminology is hurtful and offensive.

Instead of defining someone by an impairment or disability they may have, try to first recognise that they are a person above all else. They are not disabled, they have a disability - in the same way that someone is not brown hair, but rather they have brown hair.

Instead of saying 'a blind person' or 'a quadriplegic', perhaps consider rephrasing to 'a person who is blind or has a vision impairment, or 'a person that has quadriplegia.' Similarly, this concept also applies to medical conditions such as asthma and cancer - instead of 'she suffers from asthma,' instead use 'she has asthma.' Rather than 'a cancer patient,' use 'a person with cancer.'

It is in this way that we are not defining someone by any disability that they may have, but rather recognising that it is simply a feature of who they are.

One of the best ways to address or refer to people with a disability is to start with 'a person,' as you are affirming their humanity first and foremost. You can then go on to say '...that uses a wheelchair,' '...with a hearing impairment,' or whatever their disability may be.

Language and terminology will continually evolve, as do all other aspects of our society, and is something that we all have a duty to remain aware of. It is important to take note of the terms that the person with the disability uses to describe or refer to themselves, and then use those terms accordingly. It all comes down to each person's own preference and we should respect everyone's preferred way of self-identification.

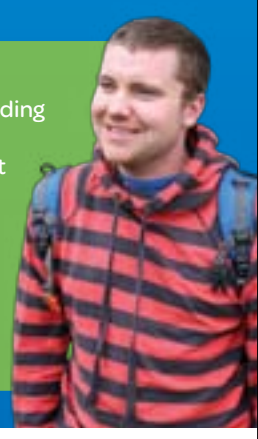
Find your spark!

'Outlook provides me with a 1:1 mentor who helps me work through my stuff.'

Demi

'Outlook helps me keep on top of funding and speak to my manager. This part time job is a start. I plan to become a teacher's aid. I want to help kids out.'

Travis



Your personal goals are just as important as your NDIS goals

During the week we celebrate International Day of People with Disability, let Outlook team up with you to find your spark and talk to us about how we can support you to reach your personal goals.

At Outlook, we focus on you. Because your life is unique, we take the time to get to know you and explore all the possibilities that will spark your passion. Our well-established, progressive organisation provides customers with a wide range of options to build their confidence and ability to be active members of their community.

Outlook's valuable outcomes include connection to community, employment and volunteering, friendships, recreation activities, good health, and wellbeing and life skills.

Call Elaine today on 0429 170 108 and find your spark!

outlookaust.org.au

Outlook
an inclusive society for all

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