

DAIP Video Transcript

0:05

There's no deafness in our family, but my son was born profoundly deaf.

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Didn't know that at the time.

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My first thought was, how am I going to communicate with him?

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My God was instantly my concern.

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Now I'm ashamed to say that deaf was not on my radar, which is very much why I like to do this kind of advocacy work.

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In 2016, I went over the handlebars on a BMX bike and I broke my back, which left me a complete paraplegic.

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I've been lucky enough to work for a rebound for the last few years, and living with a spinal cord injury in the community has had some challenges, but it's also been great engaging with the opportunities that I've had.

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I cut my foot mowing my front lawn and I was wearing bare feet, which was a really, really silly thing to do.

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It got infected and over the period, a period of years, the infection got worse.

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I trained as a high school music teacher.

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But having an amputation done physically, some things I just can't do anymore.

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So it was like, what am I going to do next?

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And I think it's something that I'm never going to give up as learning and educating myself and learning about things that are going on in my life.

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How is that impacting other people?

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And then how can I use that information to help other people get through stuff as well?

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It's a very isolating thing.

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So there's a lot of anxiety and psychological, emotional issues that that come with this, this constant thing of being, you know, excluded.

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Some of the barriers that I probably face are limited parking.

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It gives me the opportunity to come to local government and say, you know what, I'd really like to be able to access that event.

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Have you got an access and inclusion plan?

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Put in place a checklist for that event so I can come and I can bring all my friends who are all wheelchair users.

2:01

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan is our commitment to creating a city where everyone belongs and everyone can participate in community life.

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It matters because one in five Australians has a disability and here in Sterling, more than 11,000 residents need support with communication, mobility or self care.

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And access benefits everyone from older residents, parents with prams, people from culturally diverse backgrounds or anyone who may experience barriers at different stages of life.

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That's why we Co created our plan with our community.

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More than 800 voices from 22 engagement activities alongside the invaluable insight of our Access and Inclusion Advisory Group.

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The plan isn't just a requirement, it sets out clear, actionable strategies to remove barriers and build a more inclusive and accessible city across 7 themes over the next five years.

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They include inclusive services and events like creating opportunities for people with disability to be facilitators, suppliers and performers.

3:02

Accessible buildings, facilities and spaces from footpath to beach.

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Access inclusive information including easy read and visual formats.

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Customer service that offers multiple ways to provide feedback, including interpreting services, community engagement, embedding lived experience directly into our decision making, employment, supporting inclusive recruitment and training, and education and advocacy like public campaigns that promote respectful behaviour.

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And these aren't just themes on paper.

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They drive detailed implementation plans, monitored quarterly and reported annually to the Department of Communities.

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Together, we'll continue to foster a city that is inclusive, welcoming, and accessible for everyone.

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Well, I think we're all wheels in the cog.

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And local government is just bringing it down into a more personal area where deaf people live and work and, you know, live out their lives and what may seem small or insignificant or not worth doing or too expensive at a council level in a family.

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It can, it can like change their whole trajectory and their whole life.

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We can only engage with members and people that come in that would like to play a sport or look for another opportunity.

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But making changes at a ground level certainly needs to start with infrastructure and the available resources, obviously council and then moving up through government for that.

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I don't have to think, can I go there?

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I know because they've got robust plans in place that I can go there.