

International Day of
People with Disability

Information Kit for Community Groups

International Day of People with Disability

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations (UN) day, observed each year on 3 December. In Australia, it is a day to promote awareness, understanding and acceptance of the 5.5 million people with disability in the country.

A key part of IDPwD each year are the events and activities that schools, workplaces and community groups hold to recognise the day.

Community groups play a vital role in creating a more inclusive and diverse community in Australia. This information kit has been developed to help community groups get involved. This includes local sports clubs, neighbourhood associations and volunteer groups.

Did you know?[1]

- There are 5.5 million people with disability in Australia – that's 1 in 5 people.
- 15% of people in Australia aged 0-64 years have disability.
- 52% of people in Australia aged 65 years and over have disability.
- 7.9% of all Australians have a profound or severe disability.
- 9.9% or 1 in 10 people with disability in Australia have experienced discrimination.

For more information about disability statistics in Australia, visit the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.

IDPwD theme

Each year, the United Nations announces a theme for IDPwD. The 2026 theme is: 'The CRPD at 20: Building on Progress, Advancing the Future'.

It's been 20 years since the United Nations (UN) agreed to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The CRPD is an agreement between different countries. It says that people with disability must have their rights respected.

The theme looks at what has improved over the past 20 years and what still needs to change.

It calls on governments and communities to:

- remove barriers for people with disability
- protect the rights of people with disability
- make our communities more accessible and inclusive.

[1] Source: Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia survey 2022, Australian Bureau of Statistics www.abs.gov.au/disability

You can use the official theme in your IDPwD activity or event. You can also develop your own theme around the topics of disability, diversity and inclusion.

The IDPwD website has more information, including an Easy Read version of the theme.

Ways your community can get involved

There are many ways your community can recognise IDPwD on 3 December and all year round. Your involvement can be big or small. We encourage you to get creative and recognise IDPwD in your own way.

Host your own IDPwD event or activity

Holding events or activities are a great way to observe IDPwD and start inclusive conversations in your community.

We encourage you to register your community event, so we know about all the events happening across Australia. You can keep your event private or register as a public event and be featured on our community event calendar. To find out more, visit the Event Registrations page on the IDPwD website.

Here are some ideas to get you started.

Learn about disability inclusion together

- Taking time to learn about disability inclusion is a simple but impactful way to connect with all members of your community.
- Our IDPwD Community Conversation Guide can help you discuss IDPwD and disability more broadly all year round. It has tips on inclusive language, themes for your IDPwD event and practical advice on communicating with people with disability.
- Check out our Inclusion Resources page for useful links like disability language and etiquette, and ways to host inclusive events and meetings.
- You can also encourage your community group to take part in disability awareness training together.

Film screening

- Host a screening of short films or videos that feature people with disability or disability themes.
- Check out previous IDPwD Ambassador videos to learn about their lived experience.

Volunteering

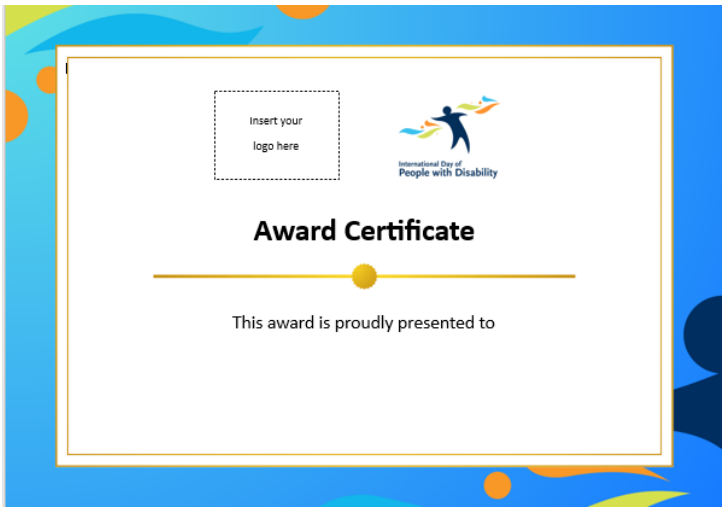
- Get to know a local organisation that provides services and support for people with disability and spend time volunteering with them.

Community get together

- Host a morning tea or sausage sizzle for your community group to recognise IDPwD.
- Consider inviting a person with disability or a disability advocate from your local community to speak about their experiences.

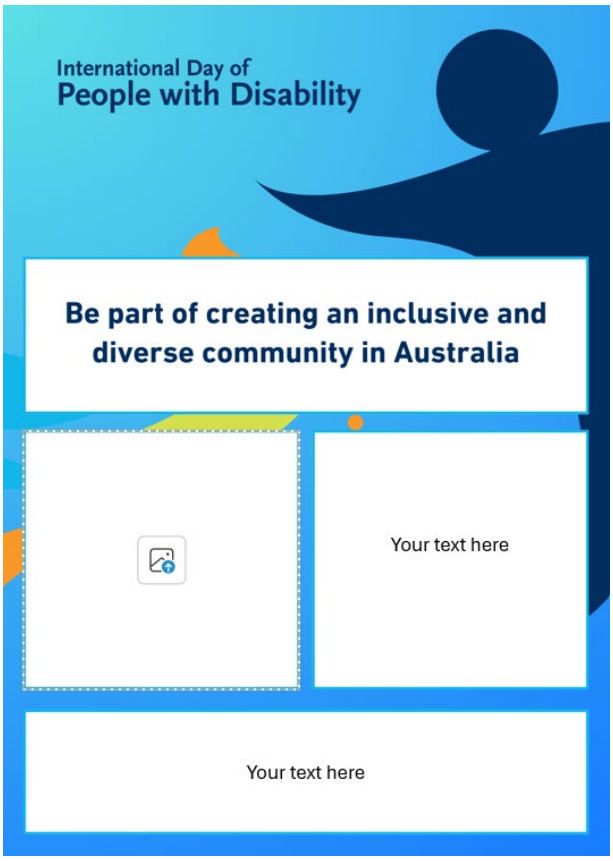
Community awards

- Acknowledge the people in your community who are championing disability inclusion.
- This could include recognising the accomplishments of individuals, sporting clubs or local businesses who are leading the way in accessibility and inclusive practices.
- You can use the editable IDPwD Certificate or create your own template using the IDPwD logo and branding.



Decorate your community

- Raise awareness of IDPwD by putting up posters and decorations in your local sports club, community hall or public notice boards.
- You can create your own IDPwD designs or use the printable poster on the IDPwD website.



Join the conversation

If you can't hold or attend an event, you can still get involved in IDPwD and help raise awareness in your community. Here are some ideas:

- Get your community together and support other IDPwD events in your local area or online. Check out our community event calendar for events happening near you.
- Post messages on your local community groups about IDPwD. Check out our online promotion kit for ideas to get you started.
- Learn more about IDPwD by using our fact sheets, which are available in 12 languages other than English, Auslan and Easy Read.
- Promote IDPwD in your online meetings and emails using our virtual meeting backgrounds and signature blocks.
- Follow or tag IDPwD on Facebook (@idpwd) and Instagram (@idpwd_au) to help spread stories about people with disability and be part of IDPwD all year round.
- Publish an article or acknowledgement in your community newsletter about IDPwD (see below).

Example newsletter

International Day of People with Disability with [community group]

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations day held on 3 December each year. It aims to raise awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability.

There are 5.5 million people with disability in Australia – that's 1 in 5 people. By recognising this day, we can take promote inclusion in our community.

We play a key role in ensuring people with disability can take part in all aspects of community life. This year [community group] will recognise IDPwD by [insert details of your event or activity].

We encourage everyone to get involved this IDPwD. Together, we can challenge perceptions about disability, break down barriers and build a more inclusive community.

For more information, go to [your website address] or contact [your phone number/email address]. You can also visit our [Facebook page] for updates. For more information about IDPwD, visit idpwd.gov.au.

More information

Visit idpwd.gov.au to find out more and access stories, videos and resources.

If you have any questions, you can:

- email us at idpwd@health.gov.au
- contact us at www.idpwd.gov.au/contact-us.