

Developing a culture of  
participation

# What we are going to talk about today.

- About NSW CID (James)
- Introduction (Helena)
- What CID does to create a culture of participation (James)
- James's story – becoming a self-advocate (James)

# About the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability



- NSW Council for Intellectual Disability represents the rights and interests of people with intellectual disability in NSW.
- The government funds us to speak up on big issues that affect most people with intellectual disability – this is called systemic advocacy.

# More about the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability



- We are not funded to help people with their individual problems.
- Asking people with intellectual disability what they think about issues is an important part of our work – this is called consultation.
- Important issues for people with intellectual disability include health and accommodation.

# Developing a culture of participation – what we have learned

- We have to make a conscious effort to develop participation as a reality for people with intellectual disability.
- Sometimes we need to change the rules.
- Find ways to include people that are respectful and meaningful.
- Have expectations about what's possible- believe in people - and provide support.

# What does NSW CID do to develop a culture of participation?

- We have strong principles of respect – we see people as the experts about their own lives.
- We make sure people are included and supported to take part in our work.
- We support people to take part in their communities.

# What else does NSW CID do to develop a culture of participation?

- More than half of the Board of Directors must be people with intellectual disability.
- People are supported to take part with a lot of preparation before each Board meeting.



# What else does NSW CID do to develop a culture of participation?

- We have a participation sub-committee of the Board; the Speak Out Reach Out (SORO) sub-committee.
- SORO has the role of a watch dog in the organisation – making sure that we are true to our principles.



# What else does NSW CID do to develop a culture of participation?

- SORO helps put NSW CID documents into easy English.
- SORO runs VOICES forums for other people with intellectual disability.



What else does NSW CID do to develop a culture of participation?

- VOICES forums– stands for Values, Opportunity, Inclusion, Choice, Equity and Support.
- The VOICES forums discuss issues that are important like accommodation, employment and health.
- At the forums we make sure everyone gets a chance to have a say.

Here is James's story – participating in my community.



A decorative graphic at the top of the slide features the text "James's story" in purple. The text is positioned over a series of circles: a solid purple circle, a white circle with a purple outline, a solid purple circle, a white circle with a purple outline, and another solid purple circle.

## James's story

- I lived some years in an institution.
- I didn't have many opportunities to get into post school programs and employment.
- I didn't have much support and got into trouble with the law.

# James story

- About 15 years ago I started to learn about self-advocacy
- I joined NSW CID in 1994.





## James story –

- Then got onto the Board of Directors.
- Now I'm active on SORO – helping run the forums.
- I'm also involved in lobbying on accommodation and criminal justice.
- And I was on an advisory committee for the National Council on Intellectual Disability for 2 years.

# What are the benefits of being involved?

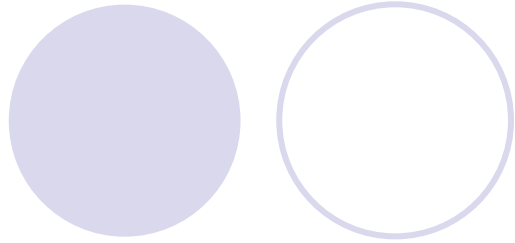
- Connecting with other people.
- Having something interesting to do in the day.
- Staying out of trouble.



# Other benefits of being involved?

- Getting the opportunity to speak at AGMs and conferences.
- Most importantly understanding my rights and responsibilities in society.





- Are there any questions?

