

International Day of People with Disability Event planning kit for community groups



International Day of
People with Disability

3 DECEMBER

www.idpwd.com.au



/idpwd

#idpwd

What's in this pack?

What is International Day of People with Disability?	3
Help us to spread the word	3
Event ideas	4
No time to organise an event?	5
Event tips	6
Event planning checklist	7
On the day	8
Resources to help you show your support	9
Posters.....	9
Banners	9
Instagram frames	10
Social media images.....	11
Social media	12
Shell media release	13
Tips for engaging with media	14
Newsletter article	15
Official invitation letter	16
Key messages	17
More information.....	17

What is International Day of People with Disability?

Every year on 3 December, people around the world take part in International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD), a day to celebrate the achievements of people with disability and promote awareness, understanding and acceptance in the community.

At the heart of IDPWD are the events organisations, schools, community groups, businesses and individuals hold to mark the day – from sausage sizzles and sports days, to fêtes and film festivals.

Every event helps to break down barriers for the 4.3 million Australians living with disability and create a more inclusive community for all.

Help us to spread the word

The best way to celebrate is to hold an event at your community group.

By getting together to celebrate this day and talking about disability, you will help to break down barriers for the Australians living with disability and contribute to positive change in your community.

An IDPWD event should involve and celebrate people with disability and be held on or around 3 December.

In this event planning kit, you will find a range of useful links and resources to help you plan and promote your event. You can also download posters, banners, icons and website buttons from the International Day of People with Disability [resources](#) web page.

International Day of People with Disability is your opportunity to challenge perceptions and educate others.

Website www.idpwd.com.au

Facebook www.facebook.com/idpwd

Twitter www.twitter.com/idpwd

#idpwd #GrowInclusion

Event ideas

Stuck for ideas on what kind of event to run? This list will help you get started.

Activity	Description
Art show	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask local artists to dedicate an art show, or develop a piece of art on the lives of people with disability.
Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledge the achievements of people with disability and those making positive contributions. E.g. recognise accomplishments of students or sportspeople, or businesses with good disability access.
Awareness in action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Put up posters to celebrate and take a group photo to post on Facebook www.facebook.com/idpwd.
Concert	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold a concert to mark the day, it could feature people with disability or you could provide discounted tickets for people with disability.• Don't forget to make sure the venue is accessible.
Expo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A disability expo where local organisations with a connection to disability can set-up stalls with information about goods and services.
Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help out a charity organisation associated with providing services and supports for people with disability and undertake a funding drive or identify a volunteering opportunity.
Guest speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organise a guest speaker to talk about disability or to share their story to inspire others.
Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Host a lunch to mark the day.• Invite a person with disability and/or your local member of parliament to speak.
Morning tea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Host a morning tea to mark the day.• Invite a person with disability and/or your local member of parliament to speak.
Sports carnival	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run an inclusive sports carnival featuring seated volleyball, wheelchair basketball etc.
Sausage sizzle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold a sausage sizzle to mark the day.• Every dollar can support a local organisation helping people with disability.
Seed planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the seed bookmarks from your IDPWD event pack to organise a seed planting activity in your community.

No time to organise an event?

You can still get involved and help to raise awareness of this important day.

Encourage others to hold an event or simply start a conversation about disability to mark the day. One in five people, or 4.3 million Australians, have a disability. By having a conversation about disability, you can challenge perceptions, educate others and normalise disability in everyday life. We all have a role to play to ensure people with disability have the same opportunities as others to reach their full potential.

You can show your support by writing a newsletter article or sending an opinion piece to your local newspaper.

Visit the [IDPwD website](#) for suggestions on other ways to celebrate, how to start a conversation and make your community more inclusive.



Event tips

Now you are ready to hold an event, here are a few tips to get you on your way.

Set your goal

Decide what you want to achieve from your event.

Enlist some help

Many hands make light work. Consider getting help to organise things like speakers, catering or entertainment.

Name it

Think of a catchy name that captures the spirit of your event.

Location, location

Make sure your chosen venue has wheelchair access, accessible toilets, lifts, parking spaces for people with disability and a hearing loop, if required. Do you need a microphone or staging? Do you have a wet weather contingency plan if it will be held outside?

Official invitations

Consider inviting a member of parliament to open your event and get involved in the celebrations. Identify local community leaders and personalities—such as sporting stars or local musicians to invite to your event. Try to find a business sponsor willing to lend a hand and support your event. Ask invited guests to indicate any assistance they may need (e.g. carer or interpreter, or dietary needs).

Entertainment

Will your event include entertainment? Think about ways to appeal to your audience e.g. speakers, performers, musicians and/or interactive activities.

Make it official

Register your event at www.idpwd.com.au to help you spread the word about your celebration. All events will be published on the website. You can also find out what else is happening in and around your local area by checking out the events calendar.

Promotion

How will you tell people about your event? Will you use social media and posters? What kind of signage will you use at the event?

Using the media

Using the media can be helpful in promoting your event, or to spread the word about your celebration. Some people find contacting the media daunting, but it doesn't need to be. To get you started we have provided a shell media release and some tips to guide you.

Event planning checklist

This checklist will help you to plan, promote and celebrate your event and associated activities. All the information you need to complete this checklist can be found in this kit.

Plan your celebration

- Have you chosen your International Day of People with Disability event?
- Have you told everyone who will be involved in planning your event?

Make it official

- Have you registered your event on the [IDPwD website](#)?

Invite guests

- Have you sent out your event invitations?
- Have you invited officials, community leaders, local stars or speakers?

Make some noise

- Have you applied the [IDPwD style guide and logo](#) to your materials?
- Have you placed [IDPwD graphics and banners](#) on your website and social media pages?

Engaging the media

- Have you edited the shell media release with your event details?
- Have you contacted and followed-up with media?

Getting some resources

- Have you downloaded and used [IDPwD resources](#)?
- Have you [registered your event online](#) to request IDPwD merchandise?

Connecting with us

- Have you connected with us on [IDPwD Facebook](#) and [IDPwD Twitter](#)?
- Have you subscribed to our mailing list on the [IDPwD website](#)?

On the day

Here are some extra tips to help you on the day of your event.

Setting up

- Secure all electrical equipment, making sure areas are easily accessible without trip hazards.
- Include chairs with and without arms, to allow for physical limitations.
- Reserve appropriate seating for guests including hearing and vision impaired, interpreters and carers, wheelchairs and guide dogs.

At the location

- Make sure your signage is large enough and written in Plain English so it's easy to understand.
- Ensure that all your guests are settled and as comfortable as possible.
- Make sure you have identified a safe place where attendees with wheelchairs can arrive.
- Have people to meet and greet attendees and invited guests.
- Make sure everyone knows where the amenities are and make sure helpers are available to assist where needed.

Communication materials

- Use an accessible font for name tags (as large as possible and a good contrasting colour).
- Use contrasting colours if you are using a PowerPoint presentation (i.e. light coloured text on dark background or dark font on a white background).
- If you are using interpreters, provide them with documents at least one week before the event.
- Hand out written copies of presentations on the day.
- Consider making information available in alternate forms such as Easy English, large print, Audiotape or Braille.

Resources to help you show your support

You can download the complete range of event invitations, posters, banners, images and invitations from the [International Day of People with Disability website](http://www.idpwd.com.au).

Below are some examples, to get you started.

Posters



Instagram frames



Social media images



Social media

Social media can be a great tool to spread the word in your community. We have provided a few suggested posts to get you started.

Facebook

POST EXAMPLE #1	We're holding an event to celebrate 2019 International Day of People with Disability! Join us for a day of fun and conversation [link to Facebook event] #idpwd #GrowInclusion
POST EXAMPLE #2	International Day of People with Disability is nearly here – only [x] sleeps to go until 3 December. [Community/Organisation] can't wait to celebrate and recognise the wonderful contributions people with disability make to this country. Find out more at [registered event web link] . #idpwd #GrowInclusion
POST EXAMPLE #3	Today marks International Day of People with Disability. Join us for [details of the event] . The time is now to break down barriers and help build awareness and understanding of people with disability. Find out more at [registered event web link] . #idpwd #GrowInclusion
POST EXAMPLE #4	Thank you to everyone who joined us on [details of the event] to celebrate International Day of People with Disability. With your support we are helping to make positive changes to the lives of 4.3 million Australians. [Insert event photographs] #idpwd #GrowInclusion

Twitter

TWEET EXAMPLE #1	We'd love you to join us for [event name] at [location] on 3 December to celebrate #idpwd. Find out more www.idpwd.com.au #idpwd #GrowInclusion
TWEET EXAMPLE #2	Join us on [event date] for [event name] as we celebrate #idpwd. Check out [registered event web link] . #GrowInclusion
TWEET EXAMPLE #3	#idpwd is on 3 December. Visit [registered event web link] to find out how you can help us celebrate. #GrowInclusion
TWEET EXAMPLE #4	Thank you to everyone who joined us on #idpwd to celebrate the achievements of people with disability. #GrowInclusion

Shell media release

[Community/Organisation] celebrates International Day of People with Disability

[Community/Organisation] is celebrating International Day of People with Disability on [3 December or alternative date].

[Spokesperson] for [Community/Organisation] said, “It is important we work to ensure everyday inclusion for the 4.3 million Australians living with disability.

“Together we can start a conversation about the issues experienced by people with disability to help to make our community more inclusive.

“This year [Community/Organisation] will mark International Day of People with Disability by holding [event name] at [venue] on [date].

“There will be [briefly outline activities, i.e. music, food, entertainment] suitable for [all ages/families].

“Our event is accessible and we encourage all people with disability, their families and carers to come along and join the fun, [Community/Organisation spokesperson] said.”

Thousands of community organisations have held International Day of People of Disability registered events across Australia since its inception in 1992.

“We are pleased to represent [Community/Location] as part of this important initiative and we are looking forward to doing our bit to make a positive impact on the lives of people with disability.”

For more information about [Community/Organisation event], go to [website address] or contact [phone number/email address].

To learn more about other ways you can celebrate visit www.idpwd.com.au

Facebook www.facebook.com/idpwd

Twitter www.twitter.com/idpwd

#idpwd #GrowInclusion



Tips for engaging with media

The media is a great way to help spread the word of your event or activity.

Step 1 – Prepare your media release

A media release outlines the newsworthy points about your event. We have provided you with a shell media release to get you started. Things to remember:

- **Quote it** – Include a quote from the spokesperson or head of your organisation.
- **Keep it concise** – Keep the release to one page and use clear language.
- **Make it stand out** – Highlight why your event is newsworthy.

If you don't host an event, but want to help promote the day, you could also think of a local disability champion or a human interest story to share with local media.

Step 2 – Who to contact?

Now you have your media release, you can contact local publications and journalists who may be interested in finding out about your event.

- **Find local media outlets.** Start with a Google search. You should be able to find contact details for journalists on the outlet's website or Twitter pages.
- **Where is your event?** Local media are most likely to be interested in events held where their publication is distributed.
- **What type of event is it?** Journalists often have particular subject matters that they cover, for example sports, education, health, disability interest.

Step 3 – Reach out

It's best to contact journalists two weeks before your event and provide them with a copy of your media release and the interview details of a key spokesperson.

Print and online journalists particularly like images. You could offer photos of previous events or you could explain why this year's event would make a great photo opportunity.

When you call the news desk, introduce yourself and outline the key points that make your event newsworthy.

Step 4 – Follow up

Keep in touch with media and confirm their attendance the day before your event.

Following the event, don't forget to check media outlets publications for any coverage you have received.

Newsletter article

Celebrate International Day of People with Disability with [Community/Organisation]

International Day of People with Disability is a United Nations day that promotes inclusivity and celebrates the achievements and contributions of people with disability.

By gathering together to celebrate this day, we can help to break down barriers for the 4.3 million Australians living with disability and contribute to positive change in our community.

This year [Community/Organisation] will mark International Day of People with Disability by holding [event name] at [venue] on [date].

There will be [briefly outline activities, i.e. music, food, entertainment] suitable for [all ages/families].

Our event is accessible and we encourage all people with disability, their families and carers to come along and join the fun.

Thousands of community organisations have held International Day of People of Disability registered events across Australia since its inception in 1992.

For more information about [Community/Organisation event], go to [website address] or contact [phone number/email address].

Facebook www.facebook.com/idpwd

Twitter www.twitter.com/idpwd

#idpwd #GrowInclusion

Official invitation letter

<Your Name>
<Street Address>
<SUBURB STATE>
<Postcode>
<Phone>
<Email>
<Website>

<Date>

<Recipient Name>

<Title>

<Company Name>

<Street Address>

<SUBURB> <STATE> <Postcode>

Dear [Salutation] [Last Name]

I am writing to invite you to [officially open/ speak at/ attend] our event to mark International Day of People with Disability.

By gathering to celebrate this day, we can help break down barriers for the 4.3 million Australians living with disability and contribute to positive change in our community.

[Community/Organisation] is planning to hold [event name] at [location] on [date].

There will be [briefly outline activities, i.e. music, food, entertainment] suitable for [all ages/families].

International Day of People with Disability is held each year on 3 December. It is a day that aims to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability. It's also a celebration of the contribution people with disability make to the community.

Please RSVP by [RSVP date]. For more details please contact [Name] on [phone number] or via email [contact email address].

To find out more about International Day of People with Disability go to the website www.idpwd.com.au.

I look forward to your involvement.

Kind regards,

[Community representative/Head of organisation]

Key messages

- We're proud to host an event to celebrate International Day of People with Disability.
- International Day of People with Disability is a United Nations endorsed day that helps to break down barriers for the 4.3 million Australians living with disability.
- Join us to celebrate the 4.3 million Australians with disability on 3 December.
- Working together we can remove barriers for people with disability and create more inclusive communities to ensure they reach their full potential.
- Let's grow inclusion in our community.
- To learn more about other ways you can celebrate, start a conversation and get involved, go to www.idpwd.com.au

More information

Website: www.idpwd.com.au

Telephone: 1800 440 385

TTY Users: Please phone **1800 555 677** and ask for **1800 440 385**

Email: idpwd@dss.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/idpwd

Twitter: www.twitter.com/idpwd

