

International Day of
People with Disability
3 December



Event Planning Kit for Schools

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). It is a day to celebrate the achievements of people with disability and promote awareness, understanding and acceptance in our community.

The heart of IDPwD are the events that schools, community groups and businesses hold to mark the day.

Every event helps to make positive changes to the lives of 4.4 million Australians with disability and create a more inclusive community for everyone.

Schools are a vital part of this

By coming together to celebrate IDPwD, your school can help grow inclusion in our community.

IDPwD encourages students to have conversations about the challenges experienced by people with disability and talk about ways to be more inclusive.

IDPwD is an opportunity for schools to celebrate the talents, achievements and contributions of all Australians with disability.

But December is a busy time for schools...

As the school year winds up, things get busy and organising an event can be difficult.

Don't worry! IDPwD school events do not have to be held on 3 December.

IDPwD is not about just one day, but rather encouraging the community to improve practices, break down barriers and celebrate all year round. We encourage schools to find a day that suits, and use this time to start important conversations and celebrate people with disabilities.

Event registration

It's really important to register your school's event on the [IDPwD website](#).

When you do, you can request a free school pack, which includes IDPwD products to use on the day, such as seed bookmarks, pens, library bags and lapel pins.

Registered public events will appear in the online IDPwD event calendar and may feature on the IDPwD website, Facebook or Twitter.

Events can remain anonymous, but all schools are encouraged to register so we can provide support for your festivities.

There are fun and easy ways to get involved

We invite schools, classrooms, teachers and students to be part of IDPwD.

There are so many ways to get involved, such as:

- Plan an IDPwD event.
- Enter the IDPwD *Grow Inclusion* schools competition for the chance to win \$3,000 in fun and accessible learning resources.
- Spread the word about IDPwD and the importance of inclusion by starting positive conversations, and raising awareness in your school newsletter and social media.
- Download the [teacher resources and activity sheets](#) to help incorporate IDPwD in the classroom.

We encourage schools and students to get creative with their events and activities.

Event ideas

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

Activity	Description
Art class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run an art class painting with restricted senses e.g. without use of your hands or blindfolded.
Awareness in action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Put up posters to celebrate and take a group photo to post on Facebook.
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.
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.
Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run a special assembly that could include speakers, student presentations, musical performances etc.
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.
Sport game	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run a sports game like seated volleyball, wheelchair basketball, goalball, treasure hunt relay (in a wheelchair), wheelchair dancing, bushwalk with blindfolds, or navigate the playground.
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.
Film screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold a Focus on Ability film screening.• There are lots of films to choose from online, that focus on the stories of people with a disability.
Seed planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the seed bookmarks from your IDPwD schools pack to organise a seed planting activity.
Class activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run lessons across the school to discuss the obstacles and achievements of people with disability• Could include watching videos, games and worksheets

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. Will the school, faculty or students lead this? Do you want smaller activities focused in the classroom? Do you want a larger event, such as with speakers and entertainment? How can your event encourage long-term inclusion in your school and community?

Get others on board

Many hands make light work. Consider getting help from teachers, student representatives etc. to brainstorm ideas and organize logistics, such as speakers, catering and activities.

Name it

Think of a catchy name to get everyone excited.

Location, location

Do your best to 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 held outside?

Invite special guests

Consider inviting a speaker to your event, such as local community leaders and disability advocates. Ask invited guests to indicate any assistance they may need (e.g. carer, interpreter, or dietary needs). A useful website to find and reach out to speakers is [Speakers Bank](#).

Make it official

Register your event at 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.

Spread the word

How will you tell people about your event? Will you promote internally to teachers and students? Will you use social media and posters? We encourage you to tag the IDPwD Facebook page or use the hashtag when promoting your event through Facebook.

Event planning checklist

This checklist will help you to plan, promote and celebrate your event and activities.

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](#) and entered the *Grow Inclusion* schools competition?

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

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

Setting up

- Secure electrical equipment, making sure areas are accessible without trip hazards.
- Include chairs with and without arms, to allow for physical limitations.
- Make sure you have identified a safe place where attendees with wheelchairs can arrive.
- Reserve appropriate seating for guests including hearing and vision impaired people, people in wheelchairs, people with guide dogs, interpreters and carers

At the location

- Make sure signage is large enough and written in Plain English, so it is easy to understand.
- 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.
- Ensure that all your guests are settled and as comfortable as possible.

Communication materials

- Use an accessible font for nametags (as large as possible and a 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 in advance.
- 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, as required.

No time to organise an event?

You can still get involved in IDPwD 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. By having a conversation about disability, you can challenge perceptions, educate others and normalise disability in everyday life.

One in five people, or 4.4 million Australians, have a disability. We all have a role to play to ensure people with disability have the same opportunities to reach their full potential.

The smallest action makes a difference. You can plan a lesson for your students using the teaching resources [on the IDPwD website](#), or by writing an article for the school newsletter.

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

Teaching resources

A range of curriculum-aligned lesson ideas and student activity sheets are available [on the IDPwD website](#). Here are just some lesson ideas:

English

- Students could write a short story about a visit to their favourite place. They cannot describe how the place looks: they must describe how it smells, sounds and feels.
- Students could interview a person with disability and then present the interview as a magazine or newspaper article. Include pictures or photographs. Publish the article in the school newsletter or the school website.
- Students could analyse how people with disability are portrayed in media and popular culture (TV, movies, music, books etc.). Do students think these portrayals are accurate? Discuss findings.
- Students could split up into small groups to research a disability and then present to their class what they learned and how it has changed their assumptions about disability.

The Arts

- Students could create large posters inviting people to celebrate International Day of People with Disability. Place them around the school for parents and visitors to see.
- Students could research famous artists with disability and try painting in their styles.
- Students could brainstorm and research ways in which people who are deaf enjoy music. Consider vibrations and movement.

Health and Physical Education

- Students could work together in small groups to modify their favourite sport so it is accessible for people with disability. For example, modify dodge ball so everyone is sitting down instead of standing.
- Students could research one sport from the Paralympic Games and then share what they learned to the rest of the class.
- Students could discuss the question: 'What does it mean to have disability?' Record the responses and discuss any stereotypes apparent. This should be an open and honest discussion without judgement.

Additional class resources

- [TED Talks](#) – you can show insightful videos of true stories, which can add to class discussion about the experiences of people with disability and how they can grow understanding and inclusion in their school and community.
- YouTube – there are great videos on disability awareness, true stories and YouTubers who make engaging videos about their experiences. You could ask students to find a video to share with the class and then prompt discussion on what they learned.

Digital resources

A range of digital resources are available on the [IDPwD website](#).

To get you started here are some content ideas for social media and newsletters.

Social media posts

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

Facebook

#1:	We're holding an event to celebrate International Day of People with Disability! Join us for a day of fun and conversation [link to event details] #idpwd #growinclusion
#2:	International Day of People with Disability is nearly here! We can't wait to celebrate the wonderful contributions people with disability. Find out more at [registered event web link] . #idpwd #growinclusion
#3:	Today we celebrate International Day of People with Disability. Join us for [details of the event] . Together we can make our community more inclusive and remove barriers so people with disability can reach their full potential all year round. Find out more at [registered event web link] . #idpwd #growinclusion
#4:	Look how we celebrated International Day of People with Disability! Our school held a [details of the event] to help grow inclusion in our community. [Insert event photographs] #idpwd #growinclusion

Twitter

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

Newsletter article

Celebrate International Day of People with Disability with [School]

International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) 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 ensure inclusion for the 4.4 million Australians living with disability and contribute to positive change in our classrooms and our community.

This year [School] will mark the 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 students, their families and carers to come along and join the fun.

We will also be entering the International Day of People with Disability Grow Inclusion schools competition, for the chance to win \$3,000 in accessible prizes. The day's festivities aim to help break down barriers, promote respect and create a more inclusive society for everyone.

Make sure you visit our Facebook page to see how we celebrated!

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

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

Key messages

- International Day of People with Disability is celebrated on 3 December as a UN observed day aimed at increasing public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability.
- IDPwD is as an opportunity for our community to make positive changes to the lives of 4.4 million Australians with disability.
- Join us on 3 December to celebrate the lives, achievements and contributions of all Australians with disability.
- We want to start a conversation about the issues experienced by people with disability to help make our community more inclusive.
- Together, let's actively remove obstacles for people with disability and encourage them to reach their full potential all year around.

More information

Our website idpwd.com.au is a great place to learn more about other ways you can celebrate and get involved along with resources to help plan your event.

Follow us on our social media channels @idpwd to keep up to date with the latest news and information.

You can also call us on 1800 440 385 (TTY users, phone 1800 555 677 and ask for 1800 440 385).