

Celebrating International Day of People with Disability



International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations observed day held on 3 December each year. It is a day to celebrate the contributions and achievements of people with disability and promote awareness, understanding and acceptance in our community.

Did you know?



20% of Australians identify as living with a disability



10% of Australians identify as carers for a person living with a disability



15% of church attenders in Australia identify as living with a disability

*Statistics from the [2018 Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia Survey](#) and the [2016 National Church Life Survey](#).

Ideas for Celebrating International Day of People with Disability

Encourage people in your mission expression to attend an IDPwD event

Fostering collaborative partnerships with your local council and other organisations provides effective opportunities for missional outreach. There are many events held around Australia each year for IDPwD. Search for [IDPwD community events in your state](#) and encourage a group from your local mission expression to attend.

Invite local people with disabilities to your community engagement activities

Christmas is around the corner and there are people with disabilities seeking free and affordable social activities where they are welcome and able to participate. Corps and Mission Expressions can invite people with disabilities to their community engagement activities via your National Disability Insurance Scheme [Local Area Coordinator](#) or local disability service providers. Share the details of your upcoming accessible Christmas events, programs, and services that their clients might be interested in attending.

Host a Discipleship Study on the theme of Disability Inclusion

Hosting a discipleship study on the theme will provide an opportunity to explore a scriptural understanding of God's heart for people with disabilities with your local mission expression. A [discipleship study on the story of David and Mephibosheth](#) from 2 Samuel 9 has been prepared including facilitation notes to be used in your mission expression. You could also create your own study based on some other biblical passages on the theme of disability inclusion, such as Psalm 139, Mark 2, Luke 14, John 9, and 1 Corinthians 12.

Invite people with disability to share their story with your mission expression

Invite a person with a disability in your local mission expression to share their lived experience of inclusion. 'Passing the mic' to people with disability is another important way we can move towards a more inclusive and welcoming culture. Keep in mind that some people with disability might have had limited opportunities to engage in public speaking, so find the appropriate format and approach. This will ensure a safe, respectful, and positive experience for all.

If you do not have any community members living with a disability that are comfortable sharing, play one of the videos below during your community gathering. Following the video, you could have a time for further reflection by asking - *"What do you see in the video that reflects how Jesus values the lives of people with disabilities?"*



[Welcoming People of All Abilities](#)



[The Salvo - Soldier Warren O'Brien's Story](#)

Caring for people with disabilities in your mission expression

The simple but powerful question of "How can we support you/your family?" is an important practical step in moving towards creating a more inclusive and welcoming culture. This question gives people with disabilities and their carers a platform to respectfully share the appropriate support needed to participate, contribute, and experience welcome and belonging in your mission expression.

Further Guidance

To discuss celebrating International Day of People with Disability or seek advice on opportunities to be more inclusive of people with disabilities, please contact the national Disability Inclusion Lead, disabilityinclusion@salvationarmy.org.au