

Are you connecting with everyone in your community?

One in five people experience a disability.

Are you overlooking 20% of the volunteering population?

People with disability have skills and abilities that are underutilised; they are keen to volunteer.

There are a wide range of tasks that people with a disability can do.

Support is available to make this a positive experience.

What are you doing to include everyone in your *Volunteer involving organisation?*

Almost everyone faces barriers to inclusion at some time.

Disability is often invisible and can include.

- Illness or disease
- Acquired disability through ageing, arthritis, or accidents
- Emotional difficulty caused by mental health issues
- Extremities of height or size
- Physical disabilities caused by sport or work related injuries
- Cultural or language difficulties
- A visual or hearing problem
- Intellectual disability
- Learning difficulty

This should not exclude people from taking part in volunteering.

Focus on peoples abilities not their DIS-Ability.

Tips for working with people with a disability

REVIEW...

take an objective look at your organisation. Friendliness, respect and understanding are as important as facilities

CONSULT...

a disability service provider in your area, speak with people about the opportunities you can provide

ADAPT...

modify facilities if needed so everyone can be included. Be creative, there are support systems and aids available to assist people

ASSIST...

all members, new and old, to learn new skills so that everyone is included.

- Always address the person directly
- Focus on the person not the disability
- Ask the person if they need help
- Use clear language
- If you do not understand the person say so
- Ask the person if they understand you
- Try not to rush the person
- If a person is in a wheel chair, think of this as an extension of the person
- Respect that all people are different
- Understand that all people have different abilities
- Provide different opportunities for people
- Value each person for who they are



Can Do Check List

Are you aware disability awareness training is available? Yes No

Do you offer flexibility in jobs? Yes No

Is there someone designated to welcome new members? Yes No

Is your application form easy to fill in? Yes No

Do you have someone to buddy a person with a disability? Yes No

Do you provide clear instructions on what you want done? Yes No

Did you know some people have their own support person to assist them? Yes No

Do you provide good access in and around your organisation? Yes No

Can you be creative and modify volunteer roles? Yes No

Are you connecting with everyone in your community? Yes No

For support contact....

focus Individualised Support Services
Advocacy Coordinator
 PO Box 62, Dromana, Vic, 3936
 Tel: 5987 0988
www.focuslife.com.au
info@focuslife.com.au

Further Information
Volunteering Resource Service
 Mornington Peninsula
 Private Bag 1000 Rosebud 3939
vrsmp@mornpen.vic.gov.au
www.mornpen.vic.gov.au
 click on your community/
 volunteering



Mornington Peninsula Shire:
MetroAccess Project Officer 1300 850 600

Frankston City Council:
MetroAccess Project Officer 1300 322 322

focus
...on the life I want



NEED NEW VOLUNTEERS?



**WE CAN
HELP TOO!**