



Case Study

EXPERTS BY EXPERIENCE

Safe & Equal - PreventX Conference

A case study illustrating the value added to the 2022 Prevent X conference from consulting with Women with Disabilities' Experts by Experience Advocates.

Experts by Experience Advocates

The Experts by Experience Advocates are a group of women who, through their diverse experiences, have the knowledge and understanding to be experts in disability and inclusive practice.

Since the groups establishment in 2018, the Experts have consulted with a variety of organisations who sought advice and feedback on the accessibility of their projects, services and programs.

Overview

In 2022, Safe and Equal partnered with Our Watch to deliver their PreventX conference nationally and wanted to ensure accessibility and inclusivity of women with disabilities. They approached WDV for a consultation. Safe and Equal is the peak body for specialist family violence services that provide support to victim survivors in Victoria.

The purpose of the consultation was:

- For the group to provide their perspectives on the structure of the conference and the user experience of the online platform in terms of accessibility.
- Draw upon the groups knowledge of primary prevention and understanding of the intersection of gender and disability to advise on the conference content, ensuring it contained a strong and consistent disability lens.



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I would absolutely encourage everybody to seek these types of consultations, ... because its really a privilege and makes your own practice in whatever you do, whether it's prevention or disability inclusion or another social service, it's going to make your practice better in the long run. You can take those learnings with you and continue them throughout your work.

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- Safe & Equal staff member

Consultation

The Experts consulted on the practical ways Safe and Equal could implement accessibility and inclusion into the logistics of their conference. This involved understanding the nuances in lived experience of disability for improving access and inclusion in their event planning.

Closing the Loop

Safe and Equal returned for a follow up consultation and reported on the actions they took as a result of the initial consultation. The discussion allowed them to reflect on some of the event's strengths and challenges.

Outcomes

Consultations with the Experts contributed to Safe and Equal hosting a successful Australia-wide conference with three hundred attendees. The organisers ensured the event was trauma-informed and inclusive of a variety of survivor advocates. As a result, organisers included a quiet room, increased number and frequency of breaks, developed a plain English program and ensured screen reader accessibility.

Future impact

Safe and Equal aims to consult with the group earlier in the planning process for the 2024 PreventX conference. We anticipate that the next conference continues to include women with disabilities in leadership roles and positions of power as this is imperative to preventing violence against women with disabilities and driving best practice.

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The group were absolutely fantastic and had so many practical suggestions for how we can improve the accessibility of PreventX.

- Safe & Equal staff member



If you or your organisation is interested in learning more about consulting our Experts, please contact

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