**COUNT US IN:**

**Accelerating Gender Equality for Women with Disabilities Through Economic Empowerment.**

*An International Women’s Day Event Evaluation Case Study*.

**Event Proceedings**

* **Guest Speaker:** Jessica Zammit, founder of TodayCo
* **Networking:** Morning tea (in-person attendees) and networking breakout rooms (online attendees)
* **Panel Discussion:** Experts by Experience Teams (Gender and Disability, Health, Youth) shared insights, emphasising their crucial role in shaping disability-inclusive practices within the workplace.

**Purpose:**

* Promote WDV’s work
* Celebrate women with disabilities’ voices, lived experiences, representation and work
* Highlight co-design with women with disabilities

**Attendance:**

* **Total attendants**: 94 (55 in person, 39 online)
* **Additional registrants:** 13 received recordings/resources
* **Total registrations:** 107

**Sector Representation:**

* Disability Advocacy – 27%
* Disability Services – 16%
* Women’s Health – 9%
* Other Social and Community Services – 8%
* Violence Prevention and/or Response – 8%
* Government – 7%
* Employment Services – 2%
* Education – 3%
* Others (community members) – 20%

**Lived Experience:**

* The event was co-designed, with representation from a range teams multiple levels.
* The event highlighted lived experience in relation to economic empowerment.

**Accessibility:**

* Hybrid event increased reach and engagement
* Held in an inner-city central location with an accessible venue
* Interpreters, captioning services, and support workers were provided.

**Resources:**

* Welcome packs were provided
* Showcase of WDV resources, training, and services

**Evaluation:**

Total responses: 22 (15 in person, 7 online)

**Time well spent**

* 86% in person attendees & 66% online respondents "strongly agree" attending the event was time well spent

**Accessibility**

* 86% in person attendees & 100% online respondents found the event accessible

**Resources**

* 86% of respondents found the resources relevant

**Increased Awareness**

* 80% of respondents reported increased awareness of disability inclusive practice

**Event Success:**

* Highlighted value of lived experience
* Inspired actionable change
* Emphasised co-design and the voices of women with disabilities

**Intended Commitment to Inclusive Practice:**

* Consulting with Experts by Experience
* Advocating for paid lived experience
* Diversifying leadership roles for women with disabilities
* Ensuring accessibility in recruitment and retention processes
* Engaging in more workplace conversations on disability inclusion

**Quotes**:

"Excellent information by speakers, brief but to the point." – Event attendee

"Panel was very insightful." – Event attendee

"The overall discussion was positive, acknowledging challenges while making the event enjoyable." – Event attendee

"A positive celebration of International Women’s Day." – Event attendee

**Overall Feedback from Attendees:**

* Recognised the importance of listening to and implementing the feedback from women with disabilities.
* Many committed to involving women with disabilities in their future work and acknowledged the necessity of paid lived experience consultants.

**Learnings and future event improvements:**

* Start online event later than in person event to avoid waiting time
* Make panel discussions more fluid/ organic – different questions to different panel members
* Increase Q&A time and capacity for interactivity
* Improve venue accessibility (e.g. unlocked doors, clearer signage)
* Increase breaks
* Enhance audio quality and visual setup for better accessibility
* QR codes for more information access

For more information about future events [Women with Disabilities website](https://www.wdv.org.au/)