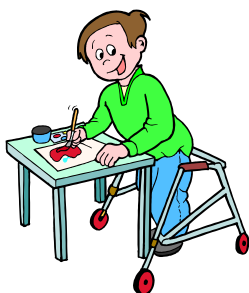


## Celebrating International Day of People with Disability in your Diocese

- Prepare the diocese for the event. Inform priests, the Catholic Education Office, Centacare, pastoral councils and other agencies and organisations of your plans and ask for their input and comments, and who would like to offer assistance.



- Register your event on the Nican website <http://www.nican.com.au/>. You will receive some resources to help you celebrate the day.
- Choose a theme that could be used on an ecumenical level; e.g. 'One in Christ Jesus'.

- Celebrate Mass in your Cathedral, celebrating the gifts of all. Ensure access internally and externally is available.

- Invite the special schools and special units (both government and Catholic) to participate in the chosen event. Ask them what they would like to contribute.

- Have a school Mass for all Catholic schools, highlighting the gifts of all

- Remember to include and invite those people living in supported homes and employment.



- You could showcase the different services your diocese offers through agencies, organisation and movements before or after the event, or have a middle page spread in your Catholic newspaper (e.g. Passionist Family Movements were mentioned many times during the consultation as it strives to be fully inclusive.)

- Have examples of Church documents and homilies, etc in Braille and large print. Large print needs to be font size of at least 18. Braille and audio versions are available on request.

- Publish/tell etc 'good news' stories of people with disability and their families. This could be achieved on a web site and/or in your Catholic newspaper.



## Celebrating International Day of People with Disability in your Diocese



- Book a sign interpreter and advertise that there will be a sign interpreter attending the event. Book early as they are in short supply and high demand.

- Invite 'Faith and Light', an international Christian organisation for families living with intellectual disability, and L'Arche communities.



- Invitations need to be available in Braille, large print and audio. If you use your website to advertise events, put the invitation in Adobe portable document format (PDF). People who are blind can access the 'read me' button. It is a good idea to provide other material in PDF so people who are blind or vision impairment can access information. Advertise it as a support on the website.



- Invite leaders from other Faith traditions.
- Check to see if the local government body is planning anything and link up with them.



- Try to send representatives to any local or regional events. Often Catholic representatives are absent from these events only because they were unaware of the event.

- If you provide refreshments after the event ensure the venue is accessible. Some tables may need to be accessible for people using wheelchairs. Hire accessible toilets.

## ***Celebrating International Day of People with Disability in your Diocese***

- You may need to organise transport or support. You could put a statement like this on the invitation:

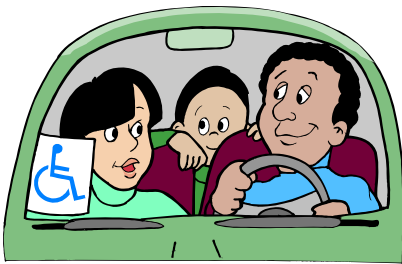
***“Please contact us if you require support to attend this event.”***

This will also alert you to how many people may need support, especially those who require the support of a wheelchair.



- You may like to remove a few pews in the church to make room for chairs, so that people who require the support of wheelchairs, walkers or strollers can sit with their family. Often a wheelchair section is allotted, but it means that the family member with disability is separated from their family.

- Provide some chairs with arm support for people who find it difficult to stand and sit without arm support.
- You may need to increase the number of disabled parking spots or provide special parking for this event. Watch for barriers like drains, stairs etc that may impede a wheelchair, walker or stroller.



- Invite a family living with disability or a guest speaker to speak briefly about the gifts of their family.
- Choose hymns and language that celebrate inclusiveness.

- Order 'Celebrating as One' prayer cards from <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200503101.pdf>.

- Have fun!!

