

## Supporting Nick to vote.

Nick is a 32 year old man who enjoys being part of his community: meeting people, going to the gym, trying new restaurants, and attending movies, stage shows and events at the museum.

He also has multiple and severe disabilities (including intellectual disability and cerebral palsy) and so is profoundly effected by changes in Govt priorities and policy.

However Nick had not voted prior to 2016.



## Australian Election July 2, 2016

- We were encouraged by Inclusion Melbourne to consider assisting Nick to enrol to vote to enable his voice to be heard and counted.
- We decided to do so, and started to discuss the role of Government and the importance of voting with Nick.
- Nick has severe communication difficulties and it was difficult to be sure how much he understood so the family repeated the information as required, and particularly when Nick was exposed to the advertising and promotion about the election.



- We concentrated on the 3 main parties and talked about what they wanted to do (policies), particularly in relation to people with disabilities.
- Then we went to a Pre Polling station and got the How to Vote cards. We talked about how everyone wanted us to put them as number 1, but that it was our choice.



- On the day of the election we waited in the queue. It wasn't a long wait and it was a great way to reinforce the fact that everyone in Australia was doing this together.
- The AEC officials were VERY helpful to both Nick and to my daughter and I who were assisting him. They allowed us to go with Nick to the booth to support him.
- Nick was very proud to have voted, like the rest of his family, and was part of the conversation about the results in a way he could not have been if he had not been a participant in the process.

