

keynote speaker profile:

Judy Huett

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My Name is Judy Huett,

I was born and raised on the west coast of Tasmania in a small town called Strahan. My father was the Harbour Master and my mother a teacher's aide at the local primary school. My parents always wanted me to be included in my community. This is easier in small towns than larger cities where people are strangers.

I am happily married to Peter and we live in Burnie on the north west coast.

I have been with Speak Out for around 15 years. Speak Out is an advocacy service for people with disability, but also a member organisation for people with intellectual disability. We have around 200 members state-wide. Speak Out's governance structure includes people with intellectual disability. We have 6 regional representatives and a Members President who are voted by the members from our three regions. The President sits on the Speak Out Board. All our work around intellectual disability is done by getting the advice and experience of our members.

Speak Out has been a good pathway for me to become a strong self advocate. I first started as a member, then was elected as a regional representative and President. I have been employed by Speak Out part time for around 5 years, I really love my job. I am the Self-advocacy support. I support the Members Executive and mentor new and upcoming leaders within the organisation. I also do some work where I help consumers of organisations talk about the quality of their services and how to improve it.

I have been a member of the NDIA's Intellectual

Disability Reference Group for two years, we give advice around intellectual disability and the NDIS. I have also just been appointed as a Member of the NDIA's Independent Advisory Council. The Council gives advice to the NDIA Board around the NDIS. I think it is really important to have someone with an intellectual disability on these. We get to have a say, I take the experiences of not only myself, but from Speak Out members.

Good support is really important for people with intellectual disability to help them grow into strong self advocates. The support I have gotten from Speak Out over many years means I have someone with me at meetings to help explain information if I don't understand and to read board papers. I have had many opportunities to contribute to my community, to grow and help others grow as well. I've travelled overseas to conferences, I've spoken in parliament and I've been on many boards. Without good support and mentorship I wouldn't be the self advocate I am today. ●