

# INCLUSIVE RESEARCHERS COLUMN

## No Research About Us Without Us

Jack Kelly speaks about being an inclusive researcher

Hi my name is Jack Kelly. I have been a researcher for three years. I got involved with the Centre for Disability Studies (CDS) by joining the Inclusive Research Network in the beginning of 2015. At the end of 2015 I got offered a part-time position at the CDS as a Research and Administration Assistant.

I have worked on many different research projects during my time at CDS. My first project was the Family & Community Services ADHC Inclusive Research Project. This project focused on how people felt about the closure of Family and Community Services when the NDIS was introduced.

Last year I worked on the Two of Us project. This project was an exploration of the relationships of people with intellectual disability in different social contexts. We did the interviews for this project in 7 pairs of participants. We were able to showcase everybody's stories on banners for CDS's 20 year anniversary celebration. I was very fortunate to be able to bring my own story to the table as well.

At the moment I am working on a project called Photo Tales. This project focuses on a day in the life of a uni 2 beyond student in the form of photos. In case you don't know, uni 2 beyond is a program run by CDS that supports people with intellectual disability to attend Sydney University. I have been working on Photo Tales alongside my work colleague Sarah Wagstaff. We started this project by meeting up with uni 2 beyond students to explain to them what the project was about. Then they took photos around the Sydney University campus and we met up with them afterwards to talk about the photos that they took. After that we had a focus group for the participants to come together as a group to talk about the themes of the photos. We are planning to put these photos in an exhibition during inclusion week on campus.

I think my favourite part of doing research is being a person with a disability and not being a case study but doing research projects that I truly believe in and am passionate about. I think it's important for people with disability to do research as it does show what a person with a disability can do if they put their mind to it. As I have said before it is important to not be a case study but being able to do research that is important to the individual.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading about what the Inclusive Research Network does.

If you would like to know more about where and when we meet contact the co-ordinator: Dr Tanya Riches

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