

Disability Awareness Training

Deb Whitecross Enterprises (DWE) takes a fresh look at presenting material that relates to people with a disability. Generally, when people hear the word 'disability' they automatically think of wheelchairs, ramps, 'disabled toilets' and 'disabled parking'. Each of these responses is specific to mobility impairments and infrastructure issues. Although DWE training takes participants through the mobility and infrastructure considerations of 'Universal Access', it does not dominate the presentation. The training will investigate **all** aspects of the most common disabilities and related issues and not allow one type of disability or impairment to dominate the presentation. It will be an informative, useful, holistic training session with a bit of fun thrown into the mix.

Over the years, Deb Whitecross has organised and facilitated many Disability Awareness Training sessions and other events, expos, community consultations, public launches and forums. In October 2009, Deb facilitated the two day annual HACC conference in Hall's Gap for approximately 80 attendees. The facilitation included Disability Awareness Training session, speed networking and assertiveness training as well as introducing guest speakers, keeping all activities to time and to task and ensuring all guests had a worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

More recently, Deb presented a Disability Awareness Workshop at the Manningham City Council which was very well received. The MetroAccess worker even commented, "*I can't believe how much I learnt today – I thought I knew a lot, thank you so much*". DWE is contracted to undertake ongoing Disability Awareness Training with disability agencies, neighbourhood houses, councils and hospitals in Melbourne and regional areas.

DWE provides several options to 'mix and match' to suit your specific needs. Unless disability is your agency's core business, we would recommend that there is no need to provide more than a three hour session. Each option would include a Quiz which covers the majority of disability related issues.

One Hour Option

The Interactive Quiz:

This multiple choice quiz would be tailored to the audience and is an informative, 'warm up' session for the rest of the presentation or a 'stand alone' one hour option. The answers to the questions raise awareness about most types of common disabilities and their related access and inclusion issues. It also touches on legislation and implications of formal discrimination complaints. The presentation provides opportunities to discuss case studies or provide a piece of 'common sense' advice that addresses each question's topic in turn. There are opportunities for audience participation, questions and discussion during the presentation. This is always a fun session.

Two Hour Option

Outline of this presentation:


- Disability Legislation and its implications
- The Quiz (*as outlined above*)
- How to communicate respectfully and effectively with people with a disability.

Please note – there is a 10 minute break during this option.

Three Hour Option

Outline of this presentation:

- Disability Legislation - Presentation about Legislation and its implications covering the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Victorian Disability Act 2006. This session will highlight the importance of the drafting and implementation of the Disability Action Plan and how it mitigates risk to the Council against potential formal disability discrimination complaints. The presentation will also incorporate information about the AS1428 and promote the principles of 'Universal Access'.
- The Quiz
- The four P's – Preparation, Policies, Procedures and People
- Who are our clients? – A more in depth session on the different types of disabilities and the methods of communication and supports for each. This session teaches participants how to communicate respectfully and effectively with people with a disability. It includes more useful information about people with:
 - Mobility impairments;
 - Health issues;
 - Cognitive impairments;
 - Behavioural issues; and
 - Sensory impairments.
- 'Myth' busting - Having been given an overview of disability issues in general, we discuss the 'myths' and 'reality' of disability.



Handout of
presentation
provided

Please note – there is a 15 minute break during this option.

Throughout each presentation, there will be opportunities for audience participation, specific solution-focused, case study brainstorming and discussion.

Other specific Options available

What is Inclusive Recreation?

This session looks at the 'Inclusion Spectrum' and discusses:

- What are the barriers?
- What are enablers?
- What are the benefits?

Outcomes for participants

At the end of the sessions, DWE will ensure that all participants are aware of the issues experienced by people with disabilities, value and embrace the diversity of members of our community, and will be able to confidently and appropriately relate to and respond to the needs and aspirations of people with disabilities during the course of undertaking their activities.

Below are two testimonials from recent events:

"Deb's enthusiasm and dynamic personality is infectious. Her knowledge of the disability and health sector is impressive and adds insight and depth to her facilitation skills. She is cool under pressure, able to think on her feet and improvise when necessary."

Cathy Faull,
HACC coordinator and Conference organiser
Ballarat District Nursing & Healthcare

"Deb's experience, understanding and knowledge of issues relevant to people with a disability, enabled her to MC the 2009 Monash Disability Forum with great confidence, sensitivity and insightfulness. Deb engaged and communicated with the speakers and the audience with great ease, enthusiasm, respectfulness and a sense of humour. I highly recommend Deb without hesitation".

Eugenia Grammatikakis,
MetroAccess worker and Forum Organiser
Monash City Council

Please contact DWE for a quote tailored to suit your specific audience needs:

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Other services include:

- Preparation of Disability Action Plans or Reviews
- Event facilitation or planning days
- Community consultation
- Project management
- Development of accessibility brochures, resources or services e.g. "Accessible Events Guide" or Mobility Maps
- "Good access is Good Business" and "Accessible tourism" packages
- Access appraisals and compliance with AS 1428 parts 1 – 4
- Assistance with Quality Framework audits and more.....