

Inclusive Living Network

Manifesto

We Believe

- Our lives are better when we live in inclusive and diverse communities
- Strong personal relationships, connections and networks give us a sense of belonging and safety
- Our lives are better when we focus on each other's strengths, abilities and gifts
- Our lives are better when we have power and control to make our own decisions
- Our lives are better when we have support to make meaningful and valued contributions to everyday community life
- Our human rights, equality and better lives for all demands significant change in thinking, policies and practices

Our lives are better when we live in inclusive and diverse communities



We can recognise inclusive living when:

- Every member of the community is using ordinary places in their own community and is known by others using the same places
- The community is experienced as warm and welcoming by all and to all
- Each person is known by name as an individual with their own uniqueness and for the kinds of things they do in their daily lives
- Each person has a role in the community, is involved in a variety of things that are important to them and has got to know others by name
- Being present can be a contribution. Being visible in our community is important

Inclusive living is strengthened when:

- We know others in our community
- We know others based on common interests
- We don't tolerate exclusion and we accept and embrace the diversity of each person
- We plan strategically and intentionally to avoid unintended or reinforced exclusion – get it right from the beginning
- We promote and proactively support strong connections with family and friends

Inclusive living is weakened when:

- We are seen as going *into the community* as a group when we have not chosen to be part of the group and /or the activity
- We are confined to home because we cannot get the support we need
- We are living in a place that sets us apart, keeps us separate
- We are living in a separate and isolated group
- We are denied the right to choose who we spend our time with

Strong personal relationships, connections and networks give us a sense of belonging and safety.



We recognise inclusive living when:

- We are in real relationships, knowing and understanding each other
- We are sharing our time, interest and support with each other
- We spend our time in ordinary spaces and places with ordinary people.
- During a life time we share our lives, strengths and vulnerabilities together

Inclusive living is strengthened when:

- We open our hearts, minds and curiosity to each other within our communities
- We are in real, mutually respectful relationships with those we choose.
- We value and protect the positive relationships in place
- We intentionally seek out and nurture start as many positives as we can

Inclusive living is weakened when:

- We are separated, segregated and removed from our communities.
- We are not offered opportunities and support to be included, engage and contribute in positive ways to our communities
- We are not allowed and supported to offer our individual strengths to others within our communities
- We are defined by deficits, support arrangements rather than by our personhood and all the focus is on what is wrong, what's missing in terms of capacity and supports

Our lives are better when we focus on each other's strengths, abilities and gifts



We recognise inclusive living when:

- We are known for what we contribute to our family, school/work, society
- Our interests and gifts are applauded and promoted
- Our will, preference and wishes are the starting point of all conversations

Inclusive living is strengthened when:

- Everything starts with us, where we are at and how we define our needs and aspirations
- The focus is on what we are good at
- We have the support we need to get on with life

Inclusive living is weakened when:

- The control lies with those around us and not with us
- There is an over emphasis on our weaknesses
- There is an over - focus on experts and risk and not on understanding the essence of who we are

Our lives are better when we have the power and control to make our own decisions



We recognise inclusive living when:

- We get on with our lives and it's clear that our daily life is one of our choosing
- When things are out of control for us we direct what needs to happen with support from family and friends

Inclusive living is strengthened when:

- We have control over all decisions affecting our day to day lives
- We have access to information in a format that is easy to understand

Inclusive living is weakened when:

- When the focus is not on a discovery of who we are and what we want our life to look like
- When the focus is defined by the service we receive
- Group thinking
- Resources driven decision making, for example, pooling budgets for two individuals to share with each other even if this is not what they want

Our lives are better when we have the support to make meaningful and valued contributions to everyday community life



We recognise inclusive living when:

- Advice and support is sought and given by those closest to us
- We define what good support is and we choose who does that – including GP, hairdresser, staff, etc etc.
- We spend our time with others in ordinary places doing ordinary things in the community we belong to

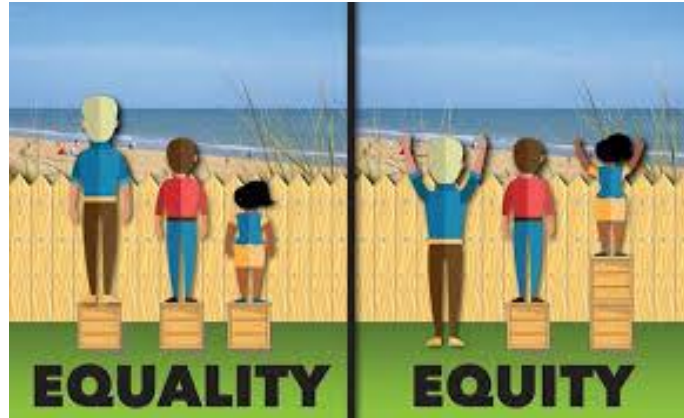
Inclusive living is strengthened when:

- We are surrounded by natural, freely given relationships
- We are the starting point of all conversations, actions and decision making.
- We listen to each other

Inclusive living is weakened when:

- We do not have choice and control of our life
- We are not living where and with whom we choose and are not doing the things that we would like to do
- Our voice is not central and heard
- Support arrangements define everything about us
- We are not supported to have meaningful and valued roles

Our human rights, equality and better lives for all demands significant change in thinking, policies and practices



We recognise inclusive living when:

- Policies are developed in partnership with us and focus on community inclusion
- Policies are focused on all aspects of life ensuring access to housing, transport, employment, social life, friendships and cultural activities etc.
- Policies focus on good support and good outcomes, based on supporting our will and preferences and choices
- Policies do not hinder or compromise our access to the good things in life

Inclusive living is strengthened when:

- Implementation of policy deliver what is needed
- Policies are person centred in their focus and can be changed if impacting on us negatively
- Services meet the regulation and policy requirements in a way that does not sideline or take the focus off our will and preferences and needs

Inclusive living is weakened when:

- Regulation, policy, procedures focus on groups and not individuals
- When our will and preferences compete with the power of bureaucracies that are not person centred
- Checklists become priority tasks that are undertaken to meet the needs of bureaucracy and not the things that we need