

SEPLA-CON18



me360.....My Future Matters

Ms Robyn Russell¹

¹*Council For Intellectual Disability, Surry Hills, Australia*

The Council for Intellectual Disability has been advocating for the rights of people with disability in NSW for over 60 years.

The advent of the NDIS has raised questions and concerns in school communities across the country. In response to this a current focus of our work is to build the capacity of young people to engage with more confidence and have better outcomes when dealing with the NDIS.

As part of our My Choice Matters project our work in schools has been to run a series of four one hour workshops with students in year 10. The person centred philosophy of the NDIS allows for an increased opportunity for choice in an individual's life. For a person to truly benefit it is vital that students and their families take time to think and consider what their goals and aspirations may be. These interactive workshops have provided the tools to start these important conversations in the months prior to the significant transition from school.

The overarching themes are Strengths, Goals, Supports and Life After School. All too often students, and their parents or carers may not have considered or given any intentional thought to these aspects of their lives and decisions are made that are less than ideal.

As an adjunct to this work CID has been hosting information sessions for teachers and separate sessions for parents. These sessions aim to demystify the NDIS and clarify the interface between mainstream services such as DET and to delineate roles and responsibilities.

Recognising that classroom teachers are often the "go to" people that parents and students turn to, CID's presentation at SEPLA will share the workshop activities and resources to arm teachers with the skills required to initiate and facilitate these conversations.