

Cristina Portilla

From: Sam J>
Sent: Sunday, 11 February 2024 1:53 PM
To: Cristina Portilla
Cc: smriti chopra
Subject: Expression of Interest - Lithgow City Council's Women Advisory Committee

Hi Cristina,

I hope you are well.

I am writing to express my interest in joining Lithgow City Council's Women Advisory Committee.

I am an Actuary by Profession and an Executive Director in Disability Services Business. I constantly would like to support women facing any issues and women from all backgrounds; however, my main interest is to support women living with disabilities.

As a professional with extensive hands-on experience working for people with disabilities, I want to outline my experience under the following heads:

1. Understanding Disability Models:

It is essential to comprehend the social model of disability, which recognises that disability arises from societal barriers rather than just from inherent individual limitations. Creating accessible environments is crucial for promoting autonomy and participation.

2. Navigating Legal Frameworks:

I understand that having a robust legal system is essential, but it is equally important to monitor and update the system in this ever-changing dynamic environment to meet individual support requirements.

3. Promoting Universal Design:

As science and technology advance, creating products, services, and environments that everyone uses, regardless of their abilities, is tricky. Stakeholders and experts from various industries should be invited to contribute to the ongoing issues and how they can support overcoming these issues and filling the gaps discovered along the way as a part of their corporate social responsibility.

4. Collaborating with Stakeholders:

Engaging and collaborating with diverse stakeholders, including people with disabilities, government agencies, not-for-profit organisations, and private enterprises is necessary to spread awareness about inclusive environments. It can provide a platform for people with real-time experience, facilitate dialogue, conduct training sessions, and raise awareness about disability rights and access.

5. Assessing and Advising:

Conducting audits into practices for accessibility gaps identifies barriers and recommend improvements. Assistive technologies can bring miraculous changes to individuals, but it is also essential to ensure that these devices meet Australia's compliance requirements, making them more accessible.

6. Healthcare Access Advocacy:

Addressing the challenges and promoting ideas for the healthcare industry to lead this space is pertinent. Advocating for multidisciplinary clinics, training healthcare professionals, and promoting disability-inclusive practices can resolve some fundamental issues.

7. Continuous Learning and Collaboration:

Staying informed about advancements in disability research, adaptive technologies, and best practices within the industry is crucial. Collaborating with disability organisations, attending conferences, and contributing to policy development can help bring necessary reforms.

In summary, 12 volumes and 222 recommendations made by the Royal Commission may have the answer to what is necessary, but developing a robust system and monitoring it simultaneously is essential.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require any information. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Regards
Sam

Samriti Chopra (She/her/hers)
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