

Today is the day to talk about social inclusion

Today is International Day of Persons with Disabilities and more than 50 Blue Skies Conversations are taking place across the state.

Spokesperson for the Blue Skies group, Valmae Rose, says that during the past few months the *Blue Skies Scenario* has prompted many Queenslanders to reconsider what is possible for people with disability, their families and supporters.

"The Blue Skies' vision for an inclusive community has challenged many of us to think about disability in a different way," she said.

"More and more, the conversation has become about 'possibility'.

"People are coming together in local communities all across the state to discuss ways to create a brighter future for people with disability."

The Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk will join more than 70 local stakeholders in one such conversation in Brisbane this morning.

When: From 9:30am to 11:00am this morning

Where: [Royal on the Park](#), Corner of Alice and Albert Streets, Brisbane

Check the [online schedule](#) for additional conversation times and venues (www.blue-skies.info/action/december3.htm).

For media comment, please phone Valmae Rose on 0428 227 637

For media support, please phone Cameron Gledhill on 0422 269 603

Additional information overleaf...

Background information about Blue Skies

The *Blue Skies Scenario: A vision for an inclusive community* was officially launched by the Minister for Disability Services in September 2009.

In the *Blue Skies Scenario*, our community is strong, vibrant and embraces diversity. Wherever a person with a disability lives and whatever their choice of lifestyle, their experience is one of rich inclusion and sense of belonging.

People from across the state are meeting today to discuss ways to make the Blue Skies vision a reality. Some of the questions being explored in Blue Skies Conversations include:

- What would it take to create an inclusive community?
- What action am I willing to take to make it happen?
- How can everyone achieve a home of their own in the community?
- How do we build support for a National Disability Insurance scheme?
- How can we help others learn from our experiences as parents of children with disabilities attending main stream education?
- How do we create a welcoming school community?
- How can we turn our local Police Citizen's Youth Club into a creative and vibrantly productive place for young people with a disability?
- What would it take to create a society where community is available to all young people?
- How can we encourage local business to be more welcoming to people with disability?
- What does local government do now towards building a more inclusive community and what would it take to do more?
- How do we tackle the problem of homelessness and disability?
- What would it take to reduce the number of people with disability in the criminal justice system?
- How can we support families to achieve their potential, where one or both parents have a disability?
- What must be done so that all jobseekers with a disability are meaningfully employed?
- How can we create a bright future for people with a disability exiting the foster system?
- How do we create more, disability friendly spaces and places in our local community?
- What would it take to create a pathway into sport of people with disability?
- How do we support community capacity building?