

2012 Count Me In Awards

Count Me In Award for an Individual

Winner: Jethro Hepton

Jethro Hepton, 28, has cerebral palsy and has always been determined to achieve his ambitions and not let his disability define his life. Through influential presentations, Jethro is committed to promoting disability awareness in his community. As a school mentor at Dalyellup College near Bunbury, Jethro worked with students with special needs to create a documentary on his work. He is a member of Advocacy South West, and is on a variety of other committees and boards. Jethro also hosts a weekly community radio show that features segments relevant to disability and inclusion, alongside top 40 music. Jethro is a participant in the National Leaders for Tomorrow program and is studying in his chosen field of disability awareness.

Highly commended: Natasha Milanko

Hillary's mother, Natasha Milanko used her experiences as a parent of a child with disability and as a primary school teacher to write a book about a child's experiences of living with disability. *Tessa's Best Friend* is based on the experiences of Natasha's daughter Ella, 5, and is illustrated with photographs of Ella and her friends. Natasha's outstanding work in the area of inclusion has resulted in copies of *Tessa's Best Friend* and curriculum support materials now available for educators in every State Government primary school in Western Australia.

Count Me In Award for Customer Service

Winner: Denmark Arts Council - Denmark Brave New Works Community Arts Festival Inclusion Project

Denmark Arts Council's community arts festival was designed to encourage people with disability to participate and attend the annual event. The positive experiences Denmark Arts gained through the festival has set the stage for inclusive practices in future events and work on other disability-specific supports and opportunities. The festival also raised awareness and understanding about disability in both Denmark Arts' staff and the wider Denmark community. The community's involvement in the festival and exposure to significant positive media and public relations coverage helped broaden people's awareness of disability and changed their perceptions about what individuals can do.

Highly commended: Central Institute of Technology - Fairholme Gymnasium Program

The Fairholme Gymnasium Program offers adults with intellectual disability personal fitness programs at the Central Institute of Technology in Perth, run by Certificate IV fitness students. As part of the fitness course, the personal trainer or gym instructor students must be assessed in a wide variety of situations, and with at-risk clients - and this program meets this requirement. For the participants, the programs are continuing to extend their capacity - physically, intellectually and socially. The students are overwhelmingly in favour of maintaining the program as part of the course.

Barry MacKinnon Award for Employment

Winner: Baptistcare

In early 2012, Baptistcare and Options Employment signed a Memorandum of Understanding that agreed to connect people with disability with Baptistcare to create mutually-beneficial employment outcomes for people in regional and metropolitan WA. Baptistcare has pledged to provide 11 jobs, 11 traineeships, 15 mentoring and 15 work experience placements to people with disability by 2014. Another 13 organisations have been inspired by Baptistcare - they have signed Memorandums of Understanding with Options Employment and have committed to establishing 124 meaningful jobs for people with disability during the next four years.

Disability Future Directions Award: Liveable Homes

Highly commended: Solar Dwellings, universal housing design

Griff Morris established his Mount Hawthorn business, Solar Dwellings in 1991 to design energy-efficient and sustainable homes that also incorporate universal access and 'healthy' homes principles. The Solar Dwellings home in Hitchcock Street, St James, shows how universal design features can make a home accessible for both current and future occupants. The home is welcoming to people of all ages and abilities.

Count Me In Award for Education and Training

Award for Primary and Secondary School

Winner: Mount Lawley Senior High School - Student Services Team

The Student Services Team recognised a need for a more centralised approach when catering for students with disability at Mount Lawley Senior High School. A dedicated learning support co-ordinator was appointed to the team. This made it easier for the school to instigate novel approaches and creative solutions so all students could be included in mainstream classes and have a positive experience. The result is students with disability have individual workable plans that include strategies to enhance their success.

Highly commended: Career Enterprise Centre

The Career Enterprise Centre (CEC) in Mandurah offers a variety of courses that provide students with disability with learner-centred programs. These are tailored to each student and designed to lead to successful post-school participation. The centre's Workplace Learning Program is driven by each student's personal goals, post-school aspirations and passions. Its Life Skills classes encourage community interaction and acceptance within the Peel region. Each student leaves CEC with a strong destination pathway into employment or further education.

Count Me In Award for Education and Training

Award for post-school/tertiary education and training

Winner: Great Southern Institute of Technology - Around the Garden Project

The Great Southern Institute of Technology's Around the Garden project in Albany has provided an inclusive, non-institutional and friendly platform for people with disability to engage and learn gardening, communication, art and horticultural skills. Around the Garden activities occur on Wednesdays and include gardening, producing garden art in media such as mosaic, painting and sculpture and cooking classes and demonstrations. The project provides an opportunity for people who want to expand their learning and gain a Certificate I in Horticulture.

Count Me In Award for Innovation and Excellence

Winner: Inclusion WA - Youth Connect Program

The Youth Connect Program, which operates throughout the Perth metropolitan area, is designed for teenagers living with disability who would like to be more involved in their community. Launched in 2011, Youth Connect works one-on-one with each young person to find sport, recreation or other activities to suit their interests - no two recreation programs look the same. This lack of structure means there are no limitations on the person's youth recreation officer. In the first year, 35 people have used the program and every young person who started and finished the program has been successful in connecting to an activity in their community.

Highly commended: Brightwater Care Group - Holiday Program

Brightwater's Holiday Program is designed to empower all people to engage in their community with purpose, dignity and a sense of fun. The metropolitan-based program has supported people to enjoy diverse holidays across Australia, including visiting the wine region of Margaret River, deep sea fishing, riding a surfboard and watching a football game at the MCG. All parts of the holiday process are driven by the client. By providing a positive change in routine and environment, the Holiday Program has created positive longer term changes for clients and their families.

Count Me In Award for Governance and Leadership**Winner: Nulsen**

Nulsen, in partnership with the Goldfields Individual Family Support Association, established a 24-hour accommodation option for six Aboriginal people in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. This partnership demonstrates how Nulsen views the importance of collaboration and partnerships with regional not-for-profit agencies. With the combined knowledge of a respected local provider and the professionalism and expertise of Nulsen, this project is set to provide reconnection and a 'real' home for people who have been living in inappropriate aged care accommodation.

Winner: Inclusion WA - Recreation Access Program

Inclusion WA's Recreation Access Program works across WA to connect individuals living with disability with sport and recreational activities. The program focuses on working one-on-one to maximise participation and help create sustainable relationships between an individual and their community. Any potential barriers to inclusion are addressed. Inclusion WA continues to look at how to improve the program's service delivery and identify service gaps to facilitate social inclusion for all people within the wider community.

Count Me In Award for Local Government**Winner: Shire of Manjimup - Network Warren Blackwood**

The Shire of Manjimup identified there was a lack of social, recreational and community integration opportunities for people with disability who lived within its boundaries. Network Warren Blackwood was the result. The project promotes self-advocacy and increases the skills of people of all ages with disability living in the region. This innovative program provides regular excursions and trips to bigger town centres such as Bunbury and Busselton, which enables clients to take part in activities previously inaccessible to them. The trips are open to the wider community to promote community inclusion and a diverse range of community members take advantage of the service.

Highly commended: City of Bunbury - Bunbury accessible playground

The City of Bunbury's commitment to access and inclusion is demonstrated by the creation of an accessible playground that encourages and facilitates interactive play between children and adults. The playground is the first of its kind in the region and boasts exciting equipment pieces that can be used and enjoyed by children of all abilities. Since its completion, the playground has become a significant centre in the region that encourages and facilitates interactive play between all children in a fun and popular environment.

Count Me In Award for State Government**Highly commended: Department of Corrective Services - Intellectual Disability Diversion Program**

The Department of Corrective Services recognised in 2003 that offending behaviour among people with intellectual disability is often associated with social disadvantage factors and the difficulty they have in accessing appropriate services.

To overcome these issues, the department set up a pilot diversion program in 2003 which has led to the establishment of the Intellectual Disability Diversion Program operating from the Perth Central Law Courts. The program takes a holistic approach and is responsible for linking clients with a range of services to tackle issues. The result is a program that diverts people with intellectual disability from incarceration towards structured programs and services that can address their complex needs, providing potential to reduce rates of recidivism.

Dr Louisa Alessandri Award for Excellence

Inclusion WA for governance and leadership through its Recreation Access Program

The program focuses on working one-on-one to maximise participation and to help create sustainable relationships between an individual and their community. Any potential barriers to inclusion are addressed. Inclusion WA continues to look at how to improve the program's service delivery and identify service gaps to facilitate social inclusion for all people within the wider community. For more information, see the details about the winner of the Count Me In Award for Governance and Leadership.