

Shared Visions

disability conference 2009



'This challenge won't break me'

Overcoming the odds

Vinny Lauwers can tell an adventure story better than any blockbuster film. One of the keynote speakers on day two of the conference, he did far more than make the audience laugh and cry. He inspired people of all abilities, reminding them why they should strive for their dreams.

After a motorcycle accident, Vinny, *right*, felt he had a second chance at life and he didn't want to pass it up. Despite having lost the use of his legs, he latched on to his dream and didn't let it go. He built a

yacht and set sail around the world.

He revealed that the gruelling and painful journey had at one point tempted him to give up and throw himself overboard. But



he realised: "This challenge isn't here to break me. It's part of my journey."

He reminded us all to make the most of our abilities, and to live our passions.

Robyn brings out the best

To the minds of many who attended Shared Visions 2009, a standout feature at the conference was its facilitator. Robyn Moore, *left*, brought humanity, humour and even love to the gathering, opening the channels for honest and respectful interactions between delegates and speakers throughout the two days.



Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre 2-3 April 2009



Queensland Government
Disability Services Queensland

Facing the future together



'I have a dream'

Adapted by Kevin Cocks, Director of Queensland Advocacy Incorporated, pictured above right, with Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Bill Shorten

I have a dream ... that people with impairment will have freedom to choose where they live, with whom they live and who provides the support for them to live in communities and be included in communities.

... that people with impairment will experience life free of torture or cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment and punishment.

... that people with impairment will live life free from exploitation, violence and abuse.

... that people with impairment are not subject to interference with their physical and mental integrity.

... that people with impairment are treated equally before the law and have equal access to justice.

I have a dream that people with impairment live in a nation where they will not be judged by their impairment but by the content of their character.

From the people



1. Kay Pascoe-Lambert

Some of the people I support have cerebral palsy, and it was great to find out different ways of being able to communicate with them and drawing them out a little more.

2. Eva Hallam

The attitudinal change – recognising that whatever funding you've got, it comes down to social attitudes toward disability; we've got to have an inclusive society as a start.

3. Catherine Smith

People with disabilities, friends, carers, anybody, need to all combine and have a community that is inclusive.

4. John Nimmo

It's been great to see the new, youthful enthusiasm coming from the Ministers.

5. Tanya Hornberg

It's important to have ideas enshrined in legislation. Otherwise, we're lone voices down the bottom. The top needs to meet the bottom halfway.

6. Steve Coleman

We need to simplify lots of things – sometimes all a lot of people would like is a friend, someone to talk to.