Aboriginal Disability Forum

Aboriginal people with disabilities often face multiple barriers to their meaningful participation within education, employment and their community. The vast majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders with disabilities do not identify as having a disability because in traditional language there was no comparable word for 'disability'. By not identifying as having a disability, Aboriginal people with disability often miss out on available support.

What is the focus of the session?
'Disability' is a new conversation in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This session will focus on linking people responsible for local disability support with people working to support the Aboriginal community to discuss ways to work together to best support Aboriginal people with a disability in our community to assist their transition to and participation in tertiary education, employment and the community.

Who should attend?
- Aboriginal Liaison Officers
- Disability Liaison Officers
- Koorie Engagement Support Officers
- Disability Employment Services
- Disability Support Services
- Aboriginal Health Services

Who will be speaking?
Damian Griffis is a leading advocate for the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability. In 2004 Damian undertook a major consultative project visiting Aboriginal communities across New South Wales discussing the unmet needs of Aboriginal people with disability directly with Aboriginal people with disability and their carers. This culminated in the ground breaking report entitled Telling It Like It Is. Damian is currently the Executive Officer of the First Peoples Disability Network (Australia) the new national peak organisation representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities.

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