

Family Planning Queensland celebrates International Day of People with a Disability

Family Planning Queensland (FPQ) is celebrating the United Nations International Day of People with a Disability, which has as its theme this year, “dignity and justice for all of us”.

FPQ has been working within the disability sector for 35 years to support and address the rights of people with a disability to express their sexuality and access services to enhance their sexual health.

Kerry Smith, FPQ’s Disability and Sexuality Program Coordinator, said the International Day was particularly special for the organisation this year.

“We were recently presented an award for Excellence in Education by Disability Services Queensland during Disability Action Week for our groundbreaking DVD that helps professionals respond positively to sexual behaviours, and we’ll also be celebrating that today,” Ms Smith said.

The DVD ‘Responding positively to sexual behaviours: the Traffic Lights Model’ is the first of its kind in Australia and uses a case study, based on real life scenarios about young people with a disability, to model positive staff and carer responses to sexual behaviours.

“There’s a myth out there that people with disabilities aren’t sexual beings,” said Ms Smith. “The work we do promotes their rights to learn about and be supported in the development of their full potential”

FPQ also has a range of other resources that support parents, service providers and people in special needs settings to respond positively to sexuality issues:

- *About Periods: A guide for girls with learning difficulties*
- *Every Body Needs to Know*, a disability learning package
- *I have the right to be safe*, flip chart and brochure
- *Feel Safe – Promoting Self Protection*, brochure and CD

FPQ also offers a range of education and training programs, support for policy development and advice for staff. For more information contact Kerry Smith on 07 3250 0240.

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