

**MEDIA RELEASE
3 DECEMBER 2009**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Family Planning Queensland gets involved in
International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD)**

IDPwD is a UN sanctioned day that unites people around the world in celebrating and acknowledging the contributions, skills and achievements of people with disability. The aim of the day is to promote an understanding of people with disability and encourage support for their dignity, rights and well-being. FPQ acknowledges the benefits of integration of people with disability into every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life, and embraces such integration.

The theme for 2009's IDPwD is based on a full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by people with disability. This theme is ***Making the MDGs Inclusive: Empowerment of persons with disabilities and their communities around the world***. Part of this empowerment includes the right for people with disability to be informed about their sexual health, to have access to services to enhance their sexual health, and to be free to express their sexuality. FPQ is proud to have been able to provide services to the disability community for over 35 years to support, protect and address the rights of people with disability.

Georgina Livingstone, FPQ's Disability and Sexuality Program Officer commented that *FPQ has a strong history of excellence in this area. People with disability often experience discrimination, rejection and disapproval related to their sexuality and sexual health needs. FPQ is thankful that the disability sector is focussing on advancing the social and cultural aspects of the lives of people with disability as highlighted by the community commitment to this year's IDPwD. Such focus serves to empower people with a disability to make the sorts of choices about their sexuality and sexual health that a lot of people take for granted.*

Cecelia Gore, FPQ's Director of Education and Communication Services said: *There is a misconception about that people with disability are not sexual beings. FPQ works to promote the rights of people with disability to learn about their sexuality in a safe environment and to have control of their sexual health decisions. This is a very important part of every person's personality and FPQ supports people with disability to develop and embrace their full potential in all areas of life.*

FPQ is a registered training organisation and regularly delivers various units of competency from the Community Services Training Package in the disability and special needs context. FPQ also offers a range of education programs, support for policy development and advocacy, and advice to the disability sector.

For further information, please visit www.fpq.com.au/education/disability.php.



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