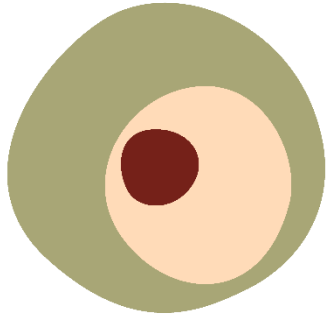
Making friends

Leigh Creighton & Jen Cush



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About Hunter Circles

Hunter Circles is a grassroots organisation based in Newcastle. We support people with disability to build friendships and community connections.

Our vision is a Hunter community where everyone belongs, where everyone matters and where everyone can be a full and equal citizen.

"Together we can do so much"

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the **Gadigal People of the Eora Nation** as the Traditional Owners of the land that we are on today.

We pay respect to Elders past and present.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

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Where did you meet your best friend?

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Why It Matters

Too many people with intellectual disability - even with lots of NDIS funding - are lonely, isolated and excluded from community life.

It's time to bridge that gap.

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We all need people in our lives who aren't paid to be there.

Friends make all our lives richer.

Friends help keep us safe.

Friends spread love everywhere.

Love makes the world go round.

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Community For Everyone project

A two-year project:

Side By Side Advocacy and **Hunter Circles**

Community For Everyone

side by side advocacy

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Why is lived experience important?

We know what happens when we feel lonely.

We know what helps us to feel included.

It is important that **our ideas come first**.

Shu-Hua Chan

Jeff Lai

Robert King

Leigh Creighton

Together, we can build a community where everyone belongs

Community For Everyone

Our role as peer leaders

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About the Social Connector role

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How it works?

- **Build trust** first - slowly
- **Explore** new things
- **Stick** at things
- **Ask!**

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Michael's Story

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What have we learnt?

We have learned to:

- **See the person as their gifts**
- Find the **people and places where those gifts can be shared**
- Go to the **same place**, at the **same time**, with the **same people**, **over time**.
- Always ask: ***What more is possible?***

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Leonard's Story

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Any last words?

Please remember
that inclusion is
everyone's business.

Belonging is for everyone!

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