

Media Release

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"To promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent human dignity."

UN Convention on the Rights
of Persons with Disabilities

PO Box 771
Mawson ACT 2607
T 61 2 6296 4400
E ncid@ncid.org.au
w ncid.org.au

Ramping Down - people with intellectual disability forgotten by ABC and Gillard Government in rush to 'do something'!

During the 2010 election campaign the Labor Party promised \$500,000 to the ABC to develop a section of its website as a portal for people with disability. Three months after the election we are told that this important website is ready!

The site is being launched on Friday, International Day of People with Disability, and is being titled 'Ramp Up'.

The use of the word ramp clearly invites people with physical disability to enter and participate in the website but what about those people with disability who do not identify with 'ramps'?

People with intellectual disability often feel that their perspective on culture and community is given secondary importance to the perspective of people with physical disability. And, that many within and outside the disability community think that things that are more 'technical' are not for people with intellectual disability.

The use of the word 'ramp' reinforces both of these discriminatory attitudes.

"NCID appreciate's that awareness of such issues will not, as a matter of course, lie within the ABC, said Mark Pattison, NCID's Executive Director.

We call on the Mr Mark Scott (ABC Managing Director), Senator Stephen Conroy (Minister for Communication) and Senator Jan McLucas (Minister for Disability) to change the name of the website to be inclusive of all people with disability and to identify those who provided the ABC with this discriminatory advice."

The ABC has a good record of positively portraying the lives of people with intellectual disability in drama and documentaries. Just this week we saw this with the presentation of 'The Ball' on ABC 1. It is a great shame that the ABC's reputation is being tarnished because of a lack of sensitivity and considered thought.

Contact:

Mark Pattison, Executive Director, 0407 406 647