



## Kylie Scott awarded an Aspire Award Medal



### *International Day of People with Disability:*

Unlike many countries in Europe, the USA and Ireland for example, Australia's uptake of university education for people with intellectual disability has been slow to develop, with only the University of Sydney and Flinders University having such programs.

The Centre for Disability Studies had the opportunity to present at the Attorney-General's Department in Canberra about its **uni 2 beyond** program at Sydney University and invited former students Kylie Scott and Amrita Ramjas to accompany CDS Director Mary-Ann O'Donovan and David Pech, Career Advisor, to talk about their experiences - academic and social - at university.

Their memories and stories were very positive, and demonstrated the benefits of and the need for much more inclusion at all levels of learning.

Amrita had the opportunity to speak on ABC radio the evening before, and next day at Parliament House the group met with Bill Shorten MP and others before presenting to the Attorney-General's Department.

As Down Syndrome Australia Network representative for NSW, Kylie also took part by Zoom in the first Inclusion International Global Self-Advocacy Summit.

In December 2020, Kylie received an Australian Aspire Award Medal of Recognition for Individual Best Achievement Service to the Australian People.



## Kylie Scott... an inspiration to us all!

*'Really, I want to speak up for people who can't. We all need to be understood and supported.'* - Kylie Scott

Like everyone, Kylie has had ups and downs in her life.

In particular, for many years before the NDIS, workplaces lacked the right understanding of the support needed for people with intellectual disability. Her talks highlight some readily understandable ways we all may assist people less able than ourselves so they are confident and included in all our communities.

Kylie's life as a person with an intellectual disability (Down syndrome) is very full, and her experiences have equipped her to share her story for the benefit of others. For Kylie, it is important that the focus for everyone should be on *ability* - not *disability*.



When Kylie was growing up, her parents lobbied for her to have the same opportunities as her sister, such as going to her local school. With her mother Evelyn's help, Kylie runs her own business as a public speaker, advocate and artist. Kylie has described her mother as the wind beneath her wings.

In 2017-2018, she attended the uni 2 beyond program, run by the Centre for Disability Studies, an affiliate of the University of Sydney's Medical School. The program aims to help students become real advocates and supporters of social inclusion. There, she enjoyed a great sense of belonging as part of the university community, with Sydney Uni peer mentors helping her with her individual learning projects.

Kylie's has represented Australia in tennis at the Dublin 2003 and Shanghai 2007 Special Olympics.

Kylie has represented people living with intellectual disability on various committees and networks. She was named as 2019 Sydney Local Health District's Volunteer of the Year.

Reading this young lady's CV is exhausting and to understand a little of the scope of her achievements and how she is continually affecting the lives of so many people, visit [www.kyliedownsbarriers.com.au](http://www.kyliedownsbarriers.com.au)



*Kylie with then Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove on World Down Syndrome Day*



## JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Vocational Service is the shared responsibility of both the Rotary Club and its members and focuses on:

- Adherence to and promotion of the highest ethical standards in all occupations, including fair treatment of employers, employees, associates, competitors, and the public.
- The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, not just those that are pursued by Rotarians.
- The contribution of each members' vocational talents to solving the problems of society and meeting the needs of the community.

The role of the Club is to implement and encourage the Rotary objectives by its own actions in dealing with the community and by the development of projects that enable members to use their vocational talents in the service of the community.

The role of members is to conduct themselves and their businesses in accordance with Rotary principles, and support the Vocational Service projects that the club has developed.

Our annual Pride of Workmanship night will again be a huge success and will be as always a wonderful way to promote Rotary in the community.

