

Acknowledgement of Country

As you entered this morning we were “I was born blind” by Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingo. He was a blind Indigenous singer and multi-instrumentalist, playing drums, keyboard and guitar.

Phoebe:

Welcome to our assembly to celebrate the United Nations International Day of People with Disability. My name is Phoebe and I live with Autism Spectrum Disorder and a few other things, and I am happy to be co-chairing this assembly. Tomorrow is December 3rd the day on which it is celebrated every year. So wear your badge today and tomorrow with pride.

On Friday during DEAR time to help us celebrate this important day we will be visited by Kurt Fearnley. Kurt is in a wheel chair because he was born without a lower portion of his spine and is a passionate advocate for people with a disability.

Kurt Fearnley is a three time Paralympic gold medallist. He has won over 30 marathons. He crawled the Kokoda Track to raise awareness of mens health. Kurt was also a member of a winning Sydney to Hobart yacht crew. He is New South Wales Australian of the year for 2019. It will be great to have him visit.

International Day of People with a disability is a united nations decreed day that is celebrated internationally. It aims to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability and celebrate their achievements and contributions.

Each year the UN announces a theme to observe. The annual theme provides an overarching focus on how society can strive for inclusivity through the removal of physical, technological and attitudinal barriers for people with a disability. This has been occurring since 1992 when the General assembly proclaimed 3rd December as the International Day of disabled persons.

The theme for this year is “promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda”. According to the United Nations, 2019’s theme focuses on the empowerment of persons with disabilities for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development as envisaged in 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, which pledges to “leave no one behind” and recognises that

disability cuts across issues, and therefore needs to be considered in the implementation of its 17 sustainable development goals.

Hannah:

My name is Hannah and like Phoebe I also have Autism. To try to address this years theme we have in Australia, the National Disability Strategy which commits all governments to a nationwide approach aimed at improving the lives of people with disabilities. The strategy's ten year national framework for reform focuses on better inclusion for people with a disability and seeks to create a society that enables people with a disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens.

The development of this National Disability strategy is the first time in Australia's history that all governments have committed to a unified, national approach to improving the lives of people with a disability, their families and carers, and to providing leadership for a community wide shift in attitudes.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is known as NDIS. The NDIS aims to provide support to eligible people with disabilities and give all Australians the peace of mind that if they, their child or loved one is born with or acquires a disability, they will get the support they need.

I would now like to invite our co captains to the mic to speak about Tourette's.

Co-Captains:

One focus of today's assembly is Tourette's syndrome. This years year 12 had the unique experience of being part of a cohort with Monica whose lived experience was going through high school with Tourette's. Monica is now on a plane to celebrate finishing her HSC so cannot be here to share her experience as she had planned. You are about see a short video on Tourette's and how it affects a person. Some messages include:

1. Suppressing tics involves physical pain so its best if we don't expect tics to be suppressed.
2. Although it can be confronting, try not to over react to someone with Tourette's

Hannah:

Before you leave today we have information and items at the back of the MPC for you to take away.

That concludes our assembly today. I would like to ask Ms Naisbett to the mic.