



Principle 1

Inclusion of people with intellectual disability in the decision-making and governance of community organisations is valued

Our research shows that including people with intellectual disability in the decision-making and governance of organisations brings value to the people with intellectual disability involved, the organisation and the general community.

People with intellectual disability reported that they felt heard, they learnt new skills and were able to have a role that is valued by others.

Organisations that are already including people with intellectual disability on their Boards, also reported value from this inclusion. These organisations reported that having a person with intellectual disability on their Board

- allowed them to hear, consider and reflect on the perspective of people with the lived experience of intellectual disability
- it also helped other Board members to have an increased understanding of intellectual disability, and the impact this has on people's lives

Having Board members with intellectual disability can make a real impact on the culture of a Board. As one CEO who took part in our study said about having people with intellectual disability on his Board "It completely grounds us, and centres us – it is our soul"