



COMMUNITY INCLUSION FOR ALL

**"WE SUPPORT COMMUNITY INCLUSION"**

**Tony Mooney**  
Mayor of Townsville

**Les Tyrell**  
Mayor Thuringowa City Council

**Mrs E. Mabo**  
Aboriginal Elder Indigenous

**Most Reverend Michael E. Putney**  
Catholic Bishop of Townsville

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**Mike Reynolds**  
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**Ian Stacker**  
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Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for  
Health and Member for Mundingburra

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**COMMUNITY  
INCLUSION  
FOR ALL**

**SEVEN  
COMPELLING  
ARGUMENTS FOR  
CREATING  
INCLUSIVE  
COMMUNITIES**





## **INCLUSIVE LIVING IS ABOUT:**

- **Welcoming people in**
- **Accepting differences**
- **Finding valued roles for all**
- **Interdependence**
- **Recognising the contribution and gifts others bring.**

**C**ommunity organisations and individuals have the capacity to provide leadership in the inclusion of people with disabilities into the community.

**YOU** can lead the way in creating inclusive communities, communities that welcome diversity and that are flexible and creative enough to cater for such diversity. Through your leadership role we invite you to join us in further promoting these seven compelling arguments for inclusion.

### **✓ LEARNING**

People learn from their involvement in community and the presence of appropriate role models. Community places higher expectations on individuals in inclusive settings and quality services are assured.

### **✓ MEMBERSHIP**

Membership into community offers people a variety of roles and the opportunity to accept responsibilities with others as well as a sense of belonging.

### **✓ BALANCE**

If people are involved in community, the responsibility and opportunity for providing support are shared. This provides a balanced lifestyle for all family members.



## **✓ CONTRIBUTION**

Individuals contribute to the community with their gifts, skills, and uniqueness through involvement with others.

## **✓ CHOICE**

Community offers a smorgasbord of valued experiences to choose from.

## **✓ RELATIONSHIPS**

Through the community people have the opportunity to make friends and form relationships with people of varied cultures, abilities, interests, and age groups.

## **✓ SAFETY**

Community is about developing a variety of relationships. Through these relationships people gain a greater sense of personal safety.

We redefine community by celebrating diversity, by practising tolerance, understanding and empathy, and by acknowledging and valuing the contributions of all people. Imagine **your** life without community.

***“We are seeking nothing less than a life surrounded by the richness and diversity of community - a collective life, an everyday life, a powerful life.”***

**John McKnight *Beyond Community Services*, Illinois 1989.**

