# Stories of Change – Call to Action - Transcript

Our streets, transport, public spaces and venues, that are a part of our everyday life, is where inclusion and equity can start and stop.

It's where exclusion happens for people living with disability.

And this is because of attitudes, stigma and approaches to planning and design.

People with disability need to be at the forefront of planning and design, to ensure our right to participate is realized.

This means that we will be free to live our lives with ease and feel included, valued and safe.

Just like everyone else we need to be seen and heard.

As disabled people we are diverse.

We have different access requirements.

Our sensory, physical cognitive and mental health needs must be understood and met to achieve equity in these spaces.

We need things like wide foot paths, plants for shade and noise buffering, seats for resting and pausing, and interactive, easy to read and understand signage that supports our right to be included.

This comes from working with us from the beginning to the end.

Nothing about is without us.

Attitude and planning go hand in hand.

We want people to understand that disability is a natural part of being human.

Difference is powerful.

This also means recognizing that not all disabled people have the same opportunities and experiences as a result of intersecting inequity and prejudices.

So, planning for equity not only matters, it is a must to ensure that the most impacted people have what they need to access and participate in everyday spaces.

It comes back to respect and empathy equals dignity.

It's not just about acceptance and awareness or being given the bare minimum.

It's about planning for inclusion, with us.

It improves everyone's experiences.

It upholds our human rights.

Our right to be in this place.

So the next time you plan any public space, transport or neighbourhood, please check you are planning for everyone.

We ask you to work alongside us from the beginning.