2. The Boldness with Raphael

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 5:01PM • 30:11

**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

disability, people, community, boldness, royal commission, public transport, access, helpline, rest, accessible, pride, mural, called, affects, public toilets, scheme, concerns, stay, life, long

**SPEAKERS**

Raphael, Intro Voiceover, Voiceover 2 , Johnny Crescendo, Voiceover

**Intro Voiceover**

The Boldness (funky intro music plays)

**Raphael**

Welcome to this action packed broadcast on International Day of Disability on 3CR 855AM. My name is Raphael (The Beurologist) Kaleb, host of The Boldness. Rest is a necessity for our survival. People with a disability are habitually denied both rest and income. People with a disability always need to fight for rest. That is exactly what this special edition of The Boldness on International Day of Disability, 3rd December 2022 is about. Why people with a disability are denied rest.

**Raphael**

The Boldness is about standing up for your human rights instead of waiting for some well meaning person to give them to you. First off, an update on the Disability Royal Commission. The final date for submissions into the Disability Royal Commission is fast approaching. People with a disability need to submit their stories by 31st of December 2022. It is important that people with a disability share experiences of violence, neglect, abuse, or exploitation.

**Raphael**

The Disability Royal Commission was established to understand the extent and the impact of violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation against people with a disability. The Disability Royal Commission will make recommendations to prevent this from happening again. For further information, go to www.disabilityroyalcommission.gov.au. All in lowercase. One word. Here is an example of a story to submit to the Royal Commission into disability.

**Raphael**

I identify as a person with a disability. I have an invisible disability, Asperger's Syndrome. Nearly all my life I believe health professionals have not listened to me. They've labeled me is difficult, impossible, and unpredictable. As a teenager growing up in the early 1980s. Health professionals refused to write a referral to an allergy specialist.

**Raphael**

Once I was in my 40s I found out I was highly allergic to yeast, soy and lactose intolerant. When I have those foods, parts of my brain swell up and that affects my behavior, mood and how I communicate. That affected my education, employment, personal relationships, family life and accommodation. I often wonder how my life may have turned out if doctors had have given me a referral to the appropriate specialists. On the 31st of August 2022, The Boldness featured a story on the Robodebt Royal Commission. Let's replay that story.

**Raphael**

A Royal Commission has been announced into Robodebt. The terms of the Royal Commission include the establishment design and implementation of the robodebt scheme, who was responsible for it, why they considered robodebt necessary and any concerns raised regarding the legality and fairness. The handling of concerns raised about the robodebt scheme, including adverse decisions made by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the outcomes of the robodebt scheme, including the harm to vulnerable individuals, and the total financial costs of the government and measures needed to prevent similar failures in public administration.

**Raphael**

People with a disability will be able to make submissions to this royal commission. There will be further details available in the coming weeks. A legal financial assistance scheme will be available to people requested to formally engage with the Royal Commission, for example to appear as a witness. We may see justice at the end of the day for everyone that was affected by Robodebt. I was a victim of Robodebt.

**Raphael**

I felt like a criminal having to provide evidence to Centerlink, the prosecuting body, to them, to work out how much money I allegedly owed them. My alleged debt was recalculated numerous times. That Administrative Appeals Tribunal ordered Centerlink to repay me the money that I had already paid them. Centerlink then changed my reporting date, retrospectively seven years after the actual event, and then increased my alleged debt.

**Raphael**

How can a person with a disability survive when they are denied both rest and income from a system that is supposed to help support them? It’s like hitting hyperspace, playing asteroids and ending up anywhere. Accessible public transport has been a long standing problem for people with a disability going back since the inception of public transport. Let’s revisit how The Boldness reported public transport earlier in 2022.

**Raphael**

Disability Advocacy Resource Center is running 500 days to ensure public transport is accessible to all. Disability Advocacy Center works with a coalition of Victorian organisations and individuals who have come together to campaign for a public transport system that is reliable and independently accessible to everyone everywhere across Victoria. As Victoria emerges from the impacts of COVID-19 it is imperative that all members of the community can reconnect with family, friends and community. The need for reliable, safe, affordable, integrated and accessible public transport has never been greater.

**Raphael**

Yet right now, much of our public transport system cannot be used by so many in our community. People with disabilities, those who need a seat, families pushing prams and many of our elders. The late Michael Merritt was a long standing campaigner for public transport. Over the past number of months, there have been a number of protests, particularly to do with accessible trams. For further information about how you can become involved with the 500 days to ensure public transport is accessible for all, contact Disability Advocacy Resource Center at www.drc.org.au.

**Raphael**

Accessible public transport has been a long standing problem in the community. Currently, the implementation and rollout of accessible public transport is around 20 years behind schedule. The Boldness is calling on the recent returned Labor government in Victoria to streamline this process, giving greater access and equality for people with a disability. After all, if there is billions available to fund that outer rail network, then surely there is enough money to complete and upgrade the tram system which is long overdue.

**Raphael**

With the current facilities, people with a disability are always fighting for the same rights as everybody else takes for granted. And that is one of the reasons that people with a disability are denied rest by the community. COVID came to the world around early 2020. In Australia we had lockdowns. Generally the community found out what life was like for people with a disability during this time. People with a disability have always had challenges with access, technology, inclusion in the community, staying at home and much, much more.

**Raphael**

Suddenly the community found out what life was like for people with a disability. Did this actually assist people with a disability? No, it didn't. People with a disability, by some organisations, were forced and made to buy protective equipment for disability support workers out of their own pocket. This further increases in disadvantaged people with a disability. On top of this, there were concerns about COVID. COVID is a life threatening disease in the community.

**Raphael**

Were people with a disability listened to? No. People with a disability, for example, who have an immunocompromised system are more at risk. Were those concerns listened to? No they weren't. They were discarded. Restrictions that were in place such as masks, when the restrictions were eased, taking away, that masks were no longer mandatory on public transport, or traveling in a plane, this further isolates people with a disability.

**Raphael**

Putting them more at risk in the community. Because their concerns are disregarded. And that means things that other people take for granted, well, they're taking away from people with a disability. Things like having respite, so that they can actually reflect back. Have some joy in their lives, some travel. These are things which the rest of the community takes for granted. But do people with disability get those same privileges? No, they don't.

**Raphael**

People with a disability are always going to fight for the same types of access and inclusion in the community that other people are readily given. That's what makes it so very difficult for people with a disability to have rest. And rest is necessary for survival. Let's now play some community announcements.

**Voiceover**

If you or someone you care for is struggling with a mental illness or other disability, and you need someone to talk to, you can call the Wellways helpline. Wellways helpline is a volunteer support and referral service that provides information to people experiencing mental health issues or other disabilities as well as their family, friends and carers. We're here to talk if you were feeling socially isolated, seeking information about mental health or mental health services, or just need someone to talk to as a peer based service everyone working at Wellways helpline has lived experience of mental health issues or disability.

**Voiceover**

Wellways helpline is a national service and operates Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm, excluding public holidays. So if you're struggling yourself or struggling to help someone else, please call Wellways helpline on 1300 111 500. That's 1300 111 500. Wellways supports 3CR.

**Voiceover 2**

3CR community radio 855am.

**Raphael**

Good afternoon and welcome back to this special edition of The Boldness on 3CRs International Day of Disability where the whole day's programming is about disability and disability issues. There are some great shows coming up later today, includes Rest Is Survival, featuring DES and disability current affairs news and conversations with other guests presented by Iris Lee from Woman On The Line and Queering The Air and Pauline Vetuna. There is also SICK / SOVEREIGN.

**Raphael**

We need to make sure that First Nations people with a disability and the criminal justice system that's on at four o'clock. That's a really important issue presented by Marisa Sposaro from Doin’ Time. That will be a great show. And one with those big issues in the community, it’s about climate change at 5pm.

**Raphael**

This Chronically Overlooked, presented by Bridget McArthur and Marijo Pozega from Chronically Chilled and of course, Stopping Discrimination and Hard Out, these are great great great shows coming up over International Day Of Disability and they're all going to live on 3CR 855 AM. One of the things about disability relating to rest, as my premise is at the start of the show, is people with disability are always have to fight. Fighting for the right to survive. In 2017, there was one the most shameful events that happened in the world of disability and disability culture. I'm referring to the wrongful removal of Disability Pride, which was an art mural in Footscray.

**Raphael**

On the 3rd of December 2017, Disability Pride (take one) was wrongfully removed. And the big thing that came out of this was that in 2018 the world came to know another art mural by Larissa McFarland, with many collaborators, called Disability Pride Is Back. It's extremely appropriate to remember, these are the sorts of things that people with disability need to contend with, in everyday life, that people with disability do belong in the community, we have got the right to belong.

**Raphael**

I remember the wrongful removal of Disability Pride very, very, very, very clearly. It's almost a long forgotten event. But it really, really isn't - not in disability culture. This was the turning point of disability culture in Australia. And it came to an absolute head when Disability Pride Is Back was eventually reinstated. That was the turning point, people that disability needed to fight, there was no rest. It took an enormous toll on people's mental health, encountered a lot of prejudice in the community. It also became the number one public art in Victoria. And that is one of those things about Disability Pride. Disability Pride Is Back for International Day of Disability in 2022.

**Raphael**

We’re on 3CR and the theme for today is rest and survive. But because people with a disability fought for what was theirs, for what never should have been taken away, that people with disability now have a better life. It was also turned into a short film. And it was shown on the International Day of Disability in 2020. Where it reached over 2 million viewers world wide. Now, I'd like to stop and quickly pause there for a moment and consider that people with a disability, when Disability Pride Is Back, it was done with very, very limited funding, almost no money, completely by volunteers on days that were 38, 39 degrees each day.

**Raphael**

43 degrees was another day. And that mural went up. The people putting up the mural, there was no shelter. Very limited fluid, no refreshments, no public toilets, and people persevered with it. And when it came back in 2017 it was indeed a great day for disability everywhere in the world. To show that, yes. We need to do what we can do. In order for people in the community to recognise that people with a disability are human, we have the right to belong, to keep breaking down the barriers of stigma, alienation and discrimination that do take place.

**Raphael**

Now I'm going to quickly wrap up this special edition of the The Boldness on International Day of Disability. First off, one of the best ways to support people with disability is to come and act like an ally. That means there's a play coming up called Qualia. It opens on December 7th at La MaMa theatre. It's a story of Heidi Everett, a neurodivergent disability activist and disability advocate about her experiences in the public mental health system. For details go to www.la mama.org.au. It opens on December 7.

**Raphael**

Enclosing disability affects everybody in the community. The barriers that are always encountered, from having transcripts for podcast, for radio, to include friends who identify as being part of the deaf and hard of hearing culture, friends with disabilities, from the First Nations people and for everyone in the community. Keep listening to 3CR on International Day of Disability. Next up is Rest Is Survival Breakfast Show presented by Iris Lee from Woman on the Line and Queering The Air and Pauline Vetuna.

**Raphael**

We’re going to go out with the cat’s cry. A great song by Johnny Crescendo, it's called Access Access. Keep listening to 3CR International Day of Disability. And if you like what we've been talking about today, remember you can always find The Boldness disability podcast, www.3cr.org.au/boldness where we discuss many disability issues and topics in the community. My name is Raphael (The Beurologist) Kaleb, host of The Boldness on 3CR 855AM. The Boldness goes to air on the 3rd and 5th wendnesdays of the month at 6pm. Remember Rest Is Survival and in the words of Johnny Crescendo, from that great song Access Access, “we want access”. Now let's hear from Johnny Crecendo with Access Access, thank you and stay tuned for more disability news events on this edition broadcast on 3CR’s International Day of Disability. Thank you very much.

**Johnny Crescendo**

Access access / United as one / We won’t go away because we know you’re wrong / Access access / United as one / We won’t go away because we know you’re wrong / Access access / You’ve had your way too long / We’re here and we’re gonna stay / You close down the streets / To shit us out of town / You tried to give us and sweets as you took away our ground / We don’t want sweets as our rights are going down / What we want is access now / You say your public toilets, you trains and buses too / When you say public you only mean you / We’re members of the public and we’ve got rights too / What we want is access now / Access access demonstrate your rights / You’ve got a right be here, you’ve got a right to right / Access access no sacrifice / We’re here and we’re gonna stay /You bar us from the services you barricade your pubs / You ban us from your restaurants, your sleazy night clubs / Greener cities greener towns / We’ve basic right to be around / Demonstrate get out today / Don’t let them take your rights away / Access access don’t segregate / Access access no shut gate / We’re here and we’re gonna stay /You say your public toilets, you trains and buses too / When you say public you only mean you / We’re members of the public and we’ve got rights too / What we want is access now

**Voiceover 2**

You've been listening to a 3CR podcast podcast produced in the studios of independent community radio station 3CR in Melbourne, Australia. For more information, go to www.3cr.org.au