The Dignity Project

Video Transcript and Audio Description

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[Opening Titles: The Dignity Project - The Hopkins Centre]

[Description: Geometric shapes fade in. Outdoors, three people smile at the camera. The Hopkins Centre and Dignity Project logos displayed]

[Onscreen Titles: Kelsey Chapman, Researcher, The Hopkins Centre, Griffith University]

[Description: In an office environment, Kelsey, a researcher, speaks to the camera]

We’re working with Metro South Health to identify what dignity means for people with disability in all aspects of their life. It’s understanding what dignity means and looking to challenge and disrupt the environmental attitudinal and physical barriers that limit participation and access.

It goes along the theme “nothing about us, without us”. So we’re not setting up the traditional research dynamics of researching about someone to produce something. We’re researching with people with disability to produce something that’s going to impact all of our lives in the future.
I think that working in a team and co-designing the research, is probably the most important thing that we can do, because everyone has unique experiences, we're a melting pot, we're diverse and we need everyone's experiences. And I'm aware that it is a very vulnerable and scary experience to share your stories, but what I hope people will understand about this particular project, is that there is power behind these stories, they will be utilised to change.

So the dignity project is over two phases, the first is a survey - which takes about 20 minutes to complete, that's online through Metro South's website in their citizen space environment, and it's asking people about their experiences of dignity and of violations of dignity. We have created a community hub where we're inviting all participants of the survey and any consumers in the public, who have disability and an impairment, to join us in that space which we'll be launching, we hope in April, and that space is going to be a safe and commited space to talking, analyzing, recontextualising experiences and continuing to push the themes of The Dignity Project, so that we can produce real change through our research.

Well, I see citizen scientists, as people who have passions about certain things, and my passion is about a fair and just society - a society that is inclusive. I've spent nearly 40 years now requiring mobility aids and support of other people, so I can be functional in life... and 40 years of living life and experiencing people who are willing to collaborate, and experiencing people who reject you, because they feel they are superior. That doesn't come in a text book.
There are very few researchers that are actually informing policy, and that are people with a disability, and I think it’s really important for the people with lived experience - of our experiences, to be involved, and help researchers without disability, shape their projects and build things so that our services and environments can be accessible to everyone.

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MAIC: Motor Accident Insurance Commission

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Metro South Health
Griffith University