



Australian
Spinal Injury
Alliance



WHO WE ARE

- ✓ 8 community organisations
- ✓ Discussions since 2008 (at least)
- ✓ Formed in 2013 (MoU)
- ✓ Formal launch in 2014

SCI – SOME QUESTIONS

What does
spinal cord
injury have in
common
with.....

1. European refugee crisis?
2. Global warming?
3. World economic growth?

(...answers later)

WHAT DO WE DO?

The Australian Spinal Injury Alliance was formed to provide a national voice for people living with a spinal cord

1. Government liaison
2. Advocacy
3. Injury prevention
4. Information sharing
5. Awareness raising

WHY ARE WE NEEDED?

Despite major advances in treatment and social support, current outcomes for people living with a spinal cord injury are well short of where they could be

- Unemployment (~70%)
- Family and relationship breakdowns
- Depression and mental illness (5 X suicide rate)
- Poverty (~45%)
- Discrimination and social isolation

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

- It's not about funding!
- Instead of coordinated effort we have piecemeal programs
- Our approach has been about refinement, not transformational change
- We have all traditionally focused on inputs (funding, staffing)
- A small gain feels like a major win!
- But: we haven't defined what success looks like as a community
- What are we all trying to achieve?

WHAT COULD BE DIFFERENT?

- NDIS is about transformation of funding and approaches
- SCI service system also needs transformation - to ensure lasting reform is actually realised
- If we continue as we are, the same problems will persist

SCI – SOME ANSWERS

Q: What does spinal cord injury have in common with the European refugee crisis, global warming, world economic growth?

A: No one player has all the answers; a coordinated effort is what's needed!

WHAT COULD BE DIFFERENT?

- In future, system should be designed around person-centred outcomes
- People need to be connected to all of the supports they need across their SCI journey, with smooth, transparent pathways
- Need to start with the individual and wrap the services around them...
- ...rather than all working separately and hoping for better outcomes

HOW DO WE CHANGE THINGS?

- Currently no coordinated targets, measures or monitoring
- Therefore inconsistent responsibility – gaps, overlaps, inefficiencies
- Need to define and agree what success looks like
- Need to agree and adopt clear indicators and targets, and be accountable for our part of the solution

A NEW MINDSET IS NEEDED (Source:

<http://www.collaborationforimpact.com/the-how-to-guide/>

From	TO
Believing that isolated impact alone can solve 'wicked' problems	Accepting that we must work collectively to achieve impact
Have difficulty grappling with complex issues – want simple + quick solutions	Can weigh things up, hold lots of different views simultaneously and take a longer view
Have views shaped by narrow concerns	Have an ability to consider all perspectives
Take a self interested perspective – always have a personal (or organisation centric) agenda	Are committed to a broader agenda to make a difference even if others get the credit
Risk intolerance	Taking smart risks
Resistant to change – difficulty being objective	Capacity for change – always trying to understand other position
Need to 'own', and control attribution to self or organisation	Willing to give up autonomy and share attribution

What needs to be done?

1

To work with all stakeholders to agree a set of outcomes most valued by people with a spinal cord injury

2

To facilitate discussion, promote coordination, set priorities and actions of the service system to achieve those outcomes

3

To start to measure and monitor outcomes, and take necessary action in response



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