

*What helps us in our journey towards a
Connected and Respectful Tasmania?
What gets in the way? What should we focus on?*



What we heard from people with disability living in Tasmania*

Challenges

Access to services and support: When help is hard to reach (not enough services, strict rules, poor physical access, hard to use systems), people have to work extra hard just to join in.

Communication: If information is unclear, complex, or not accessible, people can't understand or be understood.

Social isolation and loneliness: When there aren't enough welcoming and inclusive activities, people miss out and feel alone.

Strengths

Supportive and positive relationships: Steady, respectful ties with peers, family, service staff and local organisers build trust and reduce loneliness. They help people feel safe to join in and ask for help, and they continue to take part over time.

Inclusion, diversity and accessibility: When places plan for different needs, people feel welcome and treated fairly.

Resources and infrastructure: When services, venues and information systems are well resourced and built for access, it makes participation smoother and more reliable.

Priorities

Community capacity and skills: Build skills and confidence for people with disability and those who support them. This helps everyone find and use services, design solutions together, and lead locally.

Inclusion, diversity and accessibility: Plan for access from the start. This makes everyday places and decisions fair and welcoming. It normalises respect, cuts exclusion, and supports ongoing connection.

Mental health supports: Make mental health help timely, easy to reach, and safe in community settings.

*These insights were collected from deep conversations with 35 people living with a disability from over 1600 people of all ages and locations across Tasmania in 2025.
www.connectedandrespectful.org.au

The next steps towards a *Connected and Respectful* Tasmania...



What could the future look like?

Imagine a future where services are easy to find and information is simple and accessible. Timely, meaningful help is available.

Welcoming, inclusive places, venues, programs and online systems are built for access and free from discrimination making everyone feels safer.

Local mental health support keeps people connected and well.

People with disabilities, families, and services build skills and co-design solutions together, with more people with disability leading the process.

What if we don't act now?

Hard to reach services and unclear information will keep people with disability isolated from the community and weaken trust and caring relationships.

Gaps in diverse leadership and low participation rates will narrow ideas and real life experience in decision making. This will slow down problem solving and weaken links to local people and local experiences.

How can we work together?

We need to work together to create positive and lasting change.

We welcome new partners on this journey towards our vision of a Connected and Respectful Tasmania.

No matter who you are, you can be an important part of this initiative.

To find out about community actions around Tasmania, learn about grants and other supports, or if you are a business or organisation who would like to talk about becoming a partner, you can find out more at www.connectedandrespectful.org.au, or contact us at community@reitas.org.au.