



FISHABILITY QLD INC.

"Fish and Forget..."

Fishability QLD envisions a community where all people, regardless of circumstance, are empowered to break through social isolation and diversity, and repair health and wellbeing.

When people see the smiles and the joy that outdoor recreation and social inclusions bring to peoples lives, they understand why it is that our dedication to breaking the impact of social isolation and loneliness is unyielding.

Fishability QLD's mission is to provide socially inclusive fishing opportunities to disadvantaged people in the community, at risk of being lonely and socially isolated. Our focus is to create healthy friendships, pathways, employment opportunities, and enrich people's lives. Our motto is *"Fish and Forget."* It's a place to belong.

It's not really about the fishing though. The activity brings us together. During this time, we get to know our participants, and start to identify the needs of individuals living in the community who require extra assistance, such as support, advocacy, financial hardship, intervention, and community compassion. Many of these people have complex needs but do not fit the criteria for substantial government support. This often costs the taxpayer more than what it should because of oversights from the governing bodies.

The NDIS is often a fabulous scheme for so many, however there are many individuals who are constantly falling through the systemic cracks because of reasons beyond their control. Fishability QLD will often step in as a charity and take people to those appointments, help with financial hardship where we can, and make sure that person has support, a sense of purpose and hope for a better tomorrow.

Fishability QLD is often that organisation responding to crisis' free of charge. There is a defined trend in individuals benefitting from the income generated by the NDIS and forming businesses purely for their own personal financial gain. Fishability QLD *does* generate income from the support packages of NDIS participants, however this money is absorbed back into the community by our free advocacy and support. How can you charge someone for services when they have nothing to give?

Many of our participants have psychosocial conditions that are invisible to the everyday person. These participants are often a danger to themselves and society if they do not receive support from qualified services such as Fishability QLD Inc. One day in the life of someone living with a psychosocial disorder, can be unimaginable to the everyday person. Factors, and the surrounding social environment have on their physical and mental wellness and their ability to function can mean the difference between hospitalisation, involuntary orders, frequent presentations to emergency services, or living somewhat peacefully in a supported environment if they have adequate supports.

Overnight stays in QLD hospitals are extremely costly to the taxpayer. We provide this support to our participants who are refused funding from the NDIS because of their "invisible condition", because we feel that no child, woman, or man, should live without community support. I often wonder why there are so many questions around "value for money" as to whether Psychosocial supports are considered reasonable and necessary, when clearly, they are and yet the NDIS approves items for NDIS participants such as sky diving, elaborate hotel accommodation, cruises, jet skiing, overseas trips, and other items most everyday people cannot afford.

We also need to think about that elderly woman living with her husband who has been living with Dementia or Alzheimer’s, she cares for him constantly and is on the pension, and never gets a break because of her dedication to the man she married. She calls and asks our organisation if we can take him out fishing for a day, but he doesn’t have NDIS because he is over 65. Fishability QLD says YES.

Without support and assistance, social isolation can impact on people’s ability to participate in the community; it can contribute to or exacerbate depression, anxiety and loneliness and further impact people’s lives leading to homelessness, suicidal ideation, and substance abuse.

We have recently lost funding from the QLD Government, and this has impacted our benevolent organisation enormously. The funding has decreased, and the service demands have increased beyond our capacity to deliver as generously as we did previously with this funding.

We remain proud of what we do, we will pivot where we must, and we will continue to appeal to the government and funding bodies to receive the recognition and necessity of our services.




VOLUNTEER
DONATE
FISH & FORGET



Fishability Qld is a not-for-profit organisation committed to breaking the impact of social isolation and loneliness by offering a broad range of fishing-related activities for participants to enjoy.