



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **DVD highlights how to include people with disabilities**

There are common sets of hurdles that people with disabilities experience when trying to access their community.

To help agencies, local authorities and community groups learn how to include people with disabilities, WA's Senses Foundation has produced a DVD called Getting Out There.

This valuable resource tool explores three stories of people with disabilities engaging in activities with others from their local community.

Senses' Service Excellence Facilitator Mike House says all members of the community share common questions about how to include someone with a disability.

Getting Out There attempts to answer some of these questions and outlines a range of strategies for success.

"People with disabilities are frequently isolated from others," explains Mike.

"Despite living in the community, perceived limitations and fears often prevent them from connecting with others and vice versa.

"In these stories, individual lives are made richer and the community is strengthened. People experience mutual relationships that they did not expect or believe possible. The lives of all concerned are richer as a result.

"Whether you are support or care worker, part of a community group or an organisation working with people with disabilities, Getting Out There will give you a starting point for making connections in the community."

Mike says Getting Out There also explores some of the support requirements that people may need to consider, as well as some of the common fears that people have about including people with disabilities.

In all the stories, people are surprised and delighted at the reciprocal relationships that emerge from their experiences and the contributions that people with disabilities make to their community.

Getting Out There will be especially valuable for:

- ⤴ Agencies providing a service or advocacy to people with disabilities or who are socially isolated;
- ⤴ Community groups who would like to include people with disabilities in their activities, but are not sure where to start;
- ⤴ Local authorities who manage community resources and groups; and
- ⤴ People with disabilities who would like to get more involved in their community.

Getting Out There was funded by the Disability Services Commission. The DVD can be ordered via Senses' website at

[http://www.senses.asn.au/resources/328\\_Product%20Order%20Form.pdf](http://www.senses.asn.au/resources/328_Product%20Order%20Form.pdf). Alternatively please contact the Foundation's office on 9473 5400. The DVD costs \$48.50 incl. GST (P&H is \$5 within Australia and \$10 for international delivery).

Senses Foundation was formed in 2001 when the Royal WA Institute for the Blind - one of WA's oldest charities - amalgamated with the WA Deafblind Association.

Senses is now WA's primary advocate and service provider for people who are deafblind or blind with additional disabilities, providing highly specialised programs and services to improve communication, socialisation, mobility and quality of life for both adults and children.

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