



# Scope 1 in 4 Poll information sheet

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## Introducing the Scope 1 in 4 Poll

The Scope 1 in 4 Poll began in 2010 and aims to:

- Capture the voices of Australians with a disability and their carers.
- Understand the views and needs of people with a disability and their carers.
- Increase the power of people with a disability and their carers to influence social and political processes.

Researchers from Deakin University and Victorian disability service provider Scope are collaborating on the project. To date, the project has developed two surveys that explore the experiences of people with a disability.

## Why 1 in 4?

People with a disability represent a significant proportion of the Australian population. Approximately one in five Australians has a reported disability and the prevalence of disability is increasing. There are more than 2.5 million Australians who are carers of people with a disability. Together, one out of every four Australians either has a disability, or is caring for someone with a disability.

It is acknowledged that the exclusion of people with a disability is a human rights issue. People with a disability are among the most marginalised of our population. The Scope 1 in 4 Poll surveys people with a disability whose voices would otherwise not be heard, as traditional research methods exclude many disability types. Each poll gathers first hand experiences of people with a disability on issues of importance to them. This is then used to tell their stories.

## Accessible research design

Many people with a disability are excluded from participating in research because of the research design. To create an accessible survey, Scope 1 in 4 Poll researchers considered available off the shelf website design tools and evaluated these against national and international standards, and ease of use with Assistive Technology. In the process, it was determined that only a custom built online survey would meet the highest number of accessibility standards. This was developed by a website developer who worked closely with researchers.

Easy English versions of each survey and supporting materials were developed. Easy English translations are designed for people with low literacy skills and use pictures to support the written content. Working with Scope's Communication Resource Centre with speech therapy and communication expertise, these versions were developed, trialled with people with a disability and revised in response to their feedback.



## Ethical research

The Scope 1 in 4 Poll project is approved by the ethics committees of both Deakin University and Scope. Participants complete the polls anonymously.

Where surveys are completed on behalf of a person with a disability, these are identified as proxy responses.

## Relevant research

Once a topic is suggested by a number of people with a disability, existing research is considered to develop survey questions against which the Scope 1 in 4 Poll results can be reported. Each survey asks a range of demographic questions such as disability type, postcode, and age group, in order to segment responses. Questions related to the topic are asked, and participants rate how easy the survey was to complete.

The first poll focused on social inclusion of people with a disability. Participants told us attitudes of other people were the main barrier to their social inclusion. The current poll explores the attitudes towards disability as experienced by people with a disability.

## Future topics

Future survey topics will respond to suggestions from participants.

## Partners

Deakin University and Scope are partners in this project. This research was supported under Australian Research Council Linkage funding scheme (project number LP0883843).

## Scope 1 in 4 Poll contacts

Information on the project can be found at [www.1in4pollaustralia.com](http://www.1in4pollaustralia.com) or by contacting the Scope 1 in 4 Poll office on **03 9244 6705** or emailing [1in4poll@deakin.edu.au](mailto:1in4poll@deakin.edu.au).

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