



Scope 1 in 4 Poll - Poll 2 Attitudes Survey

We believe that people with a disability have the right to have their voice heard by governments, service providers and the community in general. During 2010 and 2011 we asked people with a disability in Australia some questions about their experiences of social inclusion. They told us that changing others' attitudes towards disability would improve their social inclusion. In response to this, we developed a survey to find out what negative attitudes people with a disability experienced and how much difficulty these attitudes caused them. This survey opened in November 2012 and closed in May 2013.

More than 530 people, aged 18 to 82 (average age 42 years), completed the online survey. Participants were people with a disability including those with physical, intellectual, sensory and psychiatric disability and people living with chronic illness or pain. Many people had more than one disability.

The results

Overall, we found that many people with disability consistently experience negative attitudes in relation to disability in a range of settings in the community. These negative attitudes cause difficulty, to varying degrees, in the lives of people with a disability.

The **most commonly experienced** negative attitudes by people with a disability were those of:

- People lacking knowledge and understanding about their disability (87% had experienced this in the last year)
- People not showing them respect (77% had experienced this in the last year)
- People not believing the extent of their disability (75% had experienced this in the last year)
- People not listening to them or ignoring them (71% had experienced this in the last year).

People who said they experienced negative attitudes, like those listed above, then rated **how much difficulty** these negative attitudes caused them in the last 12 months. The list below shows the negative attitudes causing **the most difficulty**:

- People lacking knowledge and understanding about a person's disability
- People not believing the extent of a person's disability
- People not listening to them or ignoring them
- People treating them as less intelligent than those without disability.



The results (cont.)

We also asked about the **common settings** in which people experienced negative attitudes about their disability. The most common settings were:

- At shops, pubs and restaurants (64% experienced negative attitudes here in the last year)
- Using public transport (63% had experienced negative attitudes here in the last year)
- Receiving health services (58% had experienced negative attitudes here in the last year).

In addition, people who were not working experienced more difficulty with negative attitudes than people who were working. Participants who are gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or other, experienced more difficulty with negative attitudes than heterosexual participants. Women reported experiencing more difficulty with particular negative attitudes than men in the survey.

People with a disability were asked to identify **how attitudes about disability could be improved**. Almost half (43%) of respondents suggested education or training programs for the general public or specific populations (e.g., schools, hospitals, government).

Using the results

We are sharing the results of the Polls with governments and service providers to help them with decision making.