

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

Cockburn Celebrating International Day of

People with a Disability

Cockburn Aquatic and Recreation Centre

Friday, 3 December 2021

Kaya, Wonju

Hello and Welcome

I am delighted to be here this morning to join with so many others in celebrating International Day of People with a Disability and to see the various sports events unfold.

I acknowledge and thank Mitchel Garlett for his inspiring 'Welcome to Country' and for his continued sharing of the Nyungar language and culture that brings a greater understanding of how the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have and continue to thrive as the world's oldest culture.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we have gathered today and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who here today.

I acknowledge:

Mr David Scaife, MLA, Member for Cockburn;

My wife Patricia;

Ben Rowe, Disability Access & Inclusion Officer and inductee of the City's Sports Hall of Fame in June 2021 (Goalball);

Other members of staff here today;

Adam (Cockburn ARC);

Hayden (WA All Abilities Football);

Ian and Dwayne (Tennis)

Anne (Netball)

Adrian (Basketball)

Jason (Volleyball WA)

Thanh and Claudio (Health Check)

Stephanie (Explorability information table)

Session facilitators;

Cockburn ARC Staff;

One and all.

It certainly has been a hive of activity here this morning much like most mornings with the members of Cockburn ARC arriving for their various daily activities.

Today is also a day where we celebrate International Day of People with a Disability and reflect on the amazing athletic talents of those who will showcasing their skills today with opportunities to watch & learn or try some of these amazing sports yourself- indeed it is a chance to experience the challenges people with disability overcome to achieve in sport.

Sport is about community, friendships, health & wellbeing and overcoming challenges – it can be very competitive or based around personal or team achievements

Cockburn aims to be a more accessible and inclusive community and we all play role in making this happen.

I take this opportunity to wish all the participants in today's events an enjoyable and competitive time as you showcase your skills and abilities and thank everyone in the organisation of the celebration.

I know that Ben Rowe is very passionate about achieving having heard him speak at several forums and to see how he inspires all present.

Thank you.