



COMMUNITY

DISCOVER CONNECT CONTRIBUTE

22 July 2019, 9am to 5pm

Thornbury Bowls Club,
27 Ballantyne Street, **Thornbury** Vic

13 August 2019, 9am to 5pm

ONE Community Church Inc
184 Surrey Road, **Blackburn** Vic

What is this workshop about?

There still exists considerable concern that although people with a disability are physically present in our communities, they're still disconnected and living lonely lives of isolation and segregation (Shut Out Report, 2009). Although we may hold the goal for more inclusive lives for people with a disability, we're often unsure how to go about it! This workshop is a learning event for those who are *serious* about exploring and discovering opportunities for welcome, contribution and connection that are around within our communities for people with a disability.

Topics covered in this workshop:

- Belonging and social inclusion—What is it and why is it important?
- Possible dis-connectors and connectors!
- Building a context for a full, meaningful and inclusive life,
- Discovering and harnessing potential, gifts, interests and passions,
- The importance of typical pathways and valued roles,
- The art of asking,
- Making the most out of community,
- Practical strategies that enhance, enable and strengthen belonging, connection and relationships,
- Facing struggles and challenges with creativity, and
- Sharing stories.

This is a practical workshop and will use interactive exercises, reflection and discussion!

Who is this workshop for?

People with a disability, family members, support workers and others interested in developing socially inclusive lives for people with a disability and other marginalised people. It would be of particular interest to families who have sons/daughters leaving school and are seeking more typical and inclusive pathways.

Feedback from Previous Participants

Transformational. I have developed a clear idea of what social inclusion is. Anything is possible. Vision. Challenge! Real life stories. Fantastic. Inspiring, refreshing and wonderful. Changed my mindset about planning for my daughter's future. It's a progressive thinking and empowering way of action. Motivating. Thought provoking. I will look more and try harder! Open minded. Concept of asking. Working towards people's vision and values. Social inclusion is not paid involvement! Opened my mind to an understanding that there is a lot out there. Importance of identifying roles. It has challenged me to look outside the square and focus on my daughter's strengths. Diverse ways to reach inclusion. I thought my workplace was all over inclusion but can see how we can improve.

Mariam Issa's refugee experience is a powerful and positive one.

Mariam shares her stories passionately about exclusion, holistic integration, social justice, women's issues and strengthening communities. Mariam is the distinguished author of the book, "A Resilient Life," a story of resilience in the face of hardship and the spirit of determination, optimism, and understanding of all that makes us human. She was awarded the Ambassador of Peace award from the Universal Peace Federation in recognition of her on-going work promoting social cohesion amongst Melbourne's culturally diverse population and she is regularly invited to speak to large organisations and conferences and featured in national Australian TV and radio.



Lauren will share her story of how her interests and passions have opened many gateways in her community for connection and belonging. Stemming from a passion for football, she became a shop assistant at the Carlton Football Club and also assists the physiotherapist. Lauren also works as an office assistant at a local college and has recently started a dog walking business. She is also very much involved in her local Jewish community and volunteers at a local football club.

Deb Rouget is the CEO of Belonging Matters. For nearly 30 years, she has been involved in the lives of people with a disability and their families and has gained much practical experience and wisdom about imagining and designing supports that enable people with a disability to have typical opportunities in the community. Through her work at Belonging Matters, she has led a number of initiatives including the Building Community Networks project which facilitates Circles of Support, 19 Stories of Inclusion and Talks That Matter. She also mentors and consults with people with a disabilities, families and others in regard to community and belonging.



Ticket Information

Thornbury workshop, please [CLICK HERE](#) - Blackburn workshop, please [CLICK HERE](#)

Ticket prices include GST. If you're paying from your NDIS Plan, tickets are GST free. The ticket price includes a one day workshop, handouts, morning/afternoon tea and lunch.

Registrations are only available online. Please read our ticket [terms and conditions](#) and [refund policy](#) before booking your ticket.

Ticket Description and Price

NDIS Plan: This rate is for people with a disability and families/carers paying out of their NDIS plan (this ticket price is ex GST) \$27.27

General Concession: This rate is for people with a disability, families, and Health Care Card holders who are paying as an individual (not from their NDIS Plan). \$30

Standard: This rate is for professionals or people with a disability and families who are attending who are employed by or represent a service, support or advocacy organisation, company or corporation. \$60

Agency Sponsored: This rate is for agencies who wish to either sponsor people with a disability or families who use the services of their organisation. \$40

Student (Full-Time): This rate is for students who are studying full-time. A copy of a current student card must be provided. \$30

Student (Part-Time): This rate is for students who are studying part-time. A copy of a current student card must be provided. \$40

Companion Card: Must be produced if supporting a person with a disability to attend. \$0

Bursaries: A limited number of bursaries for people with a disability and families are available on application. For further information and application form please email: info@belongingmatters.org or phone 03 97398333



Phone: 03 9739 8333
Email: info@belongingmatters.org

These workshops are financial supported by the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and State Government of Victoria in collaboration with Belonging Matters

www.belongingmatters.org