**Banana Jim & Dad… Living with a disability. 2019. Transcript**

**Everyone benefits when communities are inclusive**

**Dad:** I’m the new treasurer of the Banana Festival So, um, I conned my son into being ‘Banana Jim’. [laughs] You right Banana Jim? It’s good for him because, y’know being an autistic child it allows him to be in a crowd without feeling that he’s actually in that crowd. And being around people. So, it allows him to break the barriers down a little bit. And that’s very good for him. And that’s the way we see it. It’s good to get him out there and socialising with people. And in a crowd where he normally wouldn’t be comfortable. And that’s what we are trying to … that’s what we’re doing. Y’know, if you had a disability thirty years ago it just wasn’t there, people didn’t know about it. And they just treated you like you were a lepper basically and pushed you off to one side. You either had to try to become normal like everyone else, or … you just got left behind. And that’s the way it was. I know, I’ve got a disability too. So, you know, I’m just used to this. And to me … sorry, this is getting … to me it’s very hard. It has changed, yeah probably in the last ten years or so. People are becoming a lot more … welcoming to people with disabilities. It’s only because it’s been put out there a lot more. The Government’s pushing it a lot more and trying to get people with disabilities to be part of the normal world. The NDIS has been very good to allow the people with disabilities to become part of that normal Australian public that we’re not a hundred per cent part of yet.

**Inclusion is everybody’s business.**

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