



INCLUSIVE PRACTICE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT 2010; 2009

REESA SORIN

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AccessAbility Services is a support service for JCU students who identify with temporary or permanent disability, injury, illness or health condition. The Inclusive Practice Acknowledgement Award (IPAA) has been part of JCU's *AccessAbility Services* since 2000. Recipients of the IPAA are recognized for their efforts to be flexible, consultative, proactive and/or innovative. In 2010, students registered with *AccessAbility Services* nominated Dr Reesa Sorin for providing additional support. In this personal account, the second time IPAA recipient reflects on her teaching practice that shows strong commitment to inclusive teaching practice. TLD's Best Practice Project brings you:

IN THE WORDS OF DR REESA SORIN

'I had a broken bone in my foot last year and was incapacitated for months. *AccessAbility Services* provided me with a scooter which gave me mobility to get around and do my job, and for this I am very grateful.'

Some professions have very demonstrable outcomes. For example, bakers bake cakes and you can see and taste the cakes. Dentists fill or extract teeth and you can see the outcome. Teaching outcomes are much less visible. We see students graduate and get jobs, and we read our SFT and SFS feedback, but it is still difficult to determine how much of a difference we've made to students' success. So being nominated for an IPAA award means a great deal. It lets me know that I am doing some things well and encourages me to keep striving to do things better.

My focus for all students is on their ability; what they can do and how I can best support them to achieve their learning goals. To this day I am still not certain which students nominated me, and that's fine.

My teaching is very learner-centred. I teach large classes, but recognize that within them there are students of very different ages, cultural backgrounds, abilities, experiences and motivations. I try to consider this in my planning by offering a variety of learning opportunities, valuing student input and adapting learning based on student feedback. I want students to succeed so I try to be available to them and approachable. In my classes, although they are online, I strive to make them welcoming, fun, challenging and connected to their future careers.