

UPSKILLING THE WORKFORCE ABOUT THE DOUBLE TABOO - SEXUALITY AND DISABILITY

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Background/Purpose: Research shows that family, friends, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and government policy can sometimes be barriers for people with disabilities (PWD) to access adequate sexuality education or information. These barriers may be due to stigma surrounding sexuality and disability, lack of knowledge related to the laws and rights of people with disabilities or a lack of resources that support teaching PWD. This lack of education and access to rights information contributes to the high rates of abuse experienced by PWD, the under screening of sexual health related testing, the under reported abuse cases of PWD and the high incarceration of PWD for sexually related crimes. SECCA provides workforce development opportunities in Sexuality and Disability 101 and how to be a disability inclusive educator/practitioner.

Approach: SECCA has been delivering community workshops for parents, carers and educators in the disability sector for over 20 years, but it is important for the general population, especially health care workers to better understand sexuality and disability. SECCA will provide a short, case based workshop with practical tips and teachings for attendees to feel more informed and aware of how to be inclusive and respectful of PWD in relation to sex and sexual health related topics/issues.

Outcomes/Impact: When health care workers understand the needs of PWD, PWD can more effectively be equipped and empowered to make decisions about their sexual health.

Innovation and Significance: Disability is not often talked about in the sexuality sector, and the disability sector rarely talks about sexuality, yet we know that PWD are sexual beings and entitled to the same education, rights and access to health care as people without disabilities. SECCA's practical workshop will enable attendees to offer more inclusive care and support for PWD for topics related to sexuality and relationships.

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