

Six dimensions of 'Disability Accessibility' (DA)

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Introduction: In over view I have been following my friends, familyⁱ and colleagues, in particular Meriel Stanger, who are differently abled and have identified several dimensions of the theme of this issue. Here disability includes mental and physical disability. What I have found from being involved directly in DA with my friends is that even though there can be the physical layout, laws and so forth sometimes when one fronts the reception desk at the hotel there is still no DA. How can that be? Well may we ask and indeed we seek to do just that in this Issue.

To this end on reflection I can identify six types of DAⁱⁱ. There are, no doubt, others and these below overlap somewhat. They are included here more by way of illustration of the dimensions to consider when seeking to include DA in ones activities and considerations – in my view. There is no particular order here and in various situations one can be more important than another. There is an argument that SDA includes EDA and LegDA.

In this issue of CRAFT we have sought to engage all of the following six dimensions of DA in recognition of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Civil Society Report (2006). *In overview then is our hope that in some small way this Issue of CRAFT on Disability Accessibility may contribute to public and private debate, awareness raising, and action in regard to the Convention and its enactment as a living document.* [Paul Wildman and Jim Prentice 10-2014]

Readers' comments welcome.

Six Dimensions of Disability Accessibility (DA)

1. ***Individual Disability Accessibility (IDA)***: Here we have the recognition of the disabled person as having rights. Thus the importance of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the legal counterpart of this in signator states ~ the dignity of the human being whether or not 'differently abled.
2. ***Physical Disability Accessibility (PhysDA)***: The actual accoutrements that allow DA. This includes the technological capability to design, fabricate and provide actual 'concrete' DA in say a building or taxi's or public transport or housing etc.
3. ***Psychological Disability Accessibility (PsyDA)***: Proactive belief of a disabled person in the veracity efficacy and reliability of the above DA dimensions. This is a 'faith in the system' type dimension and includes agency that is can the disabled person be confident that he or she can act in the broader society with confidence and effectiveness while being respected.
4. ***Sociological Disability Accessibility (SDA)***: Intentionality and extentionality of the society to embrace DA, this includes the politics of disability. That is the intention (law governance) and extension (concrete expression). *SDA includes:*
 - 4.a ***Economic Disability Accessibility (EDA)***: The economic capability of the society, when subject to the above forms of DA, to be able to express DA in literally the above concrete terms.

4.b *Legal Disability Accessibility (LegDA)*: Provision in laws statutes and bylaws requiring DA. This includes the political drafting, passing, enactment and enforcement of DA legislation.

5. *Linguistic Disability Accessibility (LingDA)*: the integrity and inclusiveness of language used in LegDA & SDA without getting lost in PCTalk
6. *Governance Disability Accessibility (GDA)*: the incorporation of Disabled Persons into the decision in general and in particular in relation to decision making about them viz. ‘no about me without me’. For instance the inclusion of disabled people on the boards of Disability Service NGO’s.

ⁱ From a personal perspective my father (PW) was disabled/crippled all his adult life (hemiplegia) and so I have seen the need for ‘disability accessibility’ codified in this type of Convention ever since a young child. Furthermore IDP (International Year of the Disabled Person) was in 1981, nearly 35 years ago and still much ground remains to be covered.

ⁱⁱ **Please note:** This Issue and these Dimensions have been developed from, and are related directly to, Australia’s performance under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Civil Society Report (2006): <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml> ; <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf> , & <http://www.disabilityrightsnow.org.au/> . For instance the Articles (of the convention signed by Australia in late 2006) that relate directly to the theme of this issue, are: (**Article 1**) *Purpose: The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.* (**A3**) - **General principles:** *A Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons; B Non-discrimination; C Full and effective participation and inclusion in society; D Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity; E Equality of opportunity; F Accessibility; G Equality between men and women; H Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities;* (**A5**) **Equality and non-discrimination;** (**A6**) **Women with disabilities;** (**A7**) **Children with disabilities;** (**A8**) **Awareness raising;** (**A9**) **Accessibility;** (**A17**) **Protecting the integrity of the person;** (**A19**) **Independent living;** and (**A20**) **Personal mobility.**

The full list of Articles are: (A1) Purpose, (A2) Definitions, (A3) General principles, (A4) General obligations, (A5) Equality and non-discrimination, (A6) Women with disabilities, (A7) Children with disabilities, (A8) Awareness-raising, (A9) Accessibility, (A10) Right to life, (A11) Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, (A12) Equal recognition before the law, (A13) Access to justice, (A14) Liberty and security of person, (A15) Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, (A16) Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse, (A17) Protecting the integrity of the person, (A18) Liberty of Movement and nationality, (A19) Living independently and being included in the community, (A20) Personal mobility, (A21) Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information, (A22) Respect for privacy, (A23) Respect for home and the family- I call this Article ‘dignity of risk’, (A24) Education, (A25) Health, (A26) Habitation and rehabilitation, (A27) Work and employment, (A28) Adequate standard of living and social protection, (A29) Participation in political and public life, (A29) Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, (A31) Statistics and data collection, (A32) International co-operation, (A33) National implementation and monitoring, (A34) UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, (A35) Reports by States Parties, (A36) Consideration of reports, (A37) Co-operation between States Parties and the Committee, (A38) Relationship of the Committee with other bodies, (A39) Report of the Committee, (A4) Conference of States Parties, (A41) Depositary, (A42) Signature, (A43) Consent to be bound, (A44) Regional integration organisations, (A45) Entry into force, (A46) Reservations, (A47) Amendments, (A48) Denunciation, (A49) Accessible format, (A50) Authentic texts.

Retrospectively speaking it may be said and going on to a decade after the signing Australia's performance in regard to this Convention remains wanting.

See also:

Advocacy: <http://www.dana.org.au/> disability advocacy network Australia; <http://www.pwd.org.au/> people with disability, <http://www.qai.org.au/> Queensland advocacy incorporated, <http://www.afdo.org.au/> Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

First Peoples: <http://www.fpdn.org.au/> First Peoples disability network Australia

Housing: Queensland Action for Universal Housing Design <http://www.qauhd.org/>, Australian Network for Universal Housing Design <http://www.anuhd.org/> Liveable Housing Australia <http://www.livablehousingaustralia.org.au/>

Human Rights: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/disability-rights-homepage> Aust Human Rights Comm

Legal issues: <http://disabilitylaw.org.au/> Australian centre for disability law

UN: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>