# Video transcripts

## Compilation video, why accessible education matters

My name is Layla and I'm a student at Deakin University, studying a Bachelor of Business. This work matters to me because having online accessible education makes me feel included. It gives me a purpose and something to strive towards. And I believe that having education that is accessible and having educators that are knowledgeable about the lived experiences of people who are blind or low vision will be beneficial for future generations.

I'm Dr Sheelagh Daniels-Mayes, I am an Aboriginal woman and a Lecturer in Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne. I am vision impaired, I use a guide dog, so accessible education for me, seems fairly obvious, is really important. For me to be able to do my work as a teacher, as a researcher, means that I need to be able to access online materials all day, every day, and I also need to be able to make teaching and learning and research accessible to colleagues and to students. And I believe very passionately that higher education has a responsibility in this space to make education equitable for all.

Hi, I'm Francois Jacobs, I completed a Graduate Certificate in Disability and Inclusion at Deakin Uni last year. So that gave me a really good student experience, but also I work at Deakin in a capacity as a staff member, doing marking and also seminar tutoring. I remember from my own student experience the main thing that I struggled with was navigating different systems, with varying levels of accessibility. So I think it's super important for us as academics to ensure that students are set up for success.

Hi, I'm Jodie Hoger, and I have worked for over 25 years as a TAFE New South Wales Teacher Consultant supporting students who are blind or have low vision. I am currently in the role of implementing the Disability Inclusion Action Plan right across TAFE New South Wales, and I am totally blind myself. This work matters to me because it's about how can we support our students and our teachers who are blind or vision impaired, maximise the engagement of working in an online environment with the technologies that we are required to use and that we need to use so that we have access to this space.

My name is Rene Hahn and I'm a Senior Educational Designer at Deakin University. This work matters to me because I think it's very important to provide equitable education to everyone and to recognise what we can do from the beginning of planning what we're going to teach to make it as accessible as possible.

Hi I'm Danni McCarthy, I'm a Lecturer of Inclusive Education at Deakin University and I work with the Teaching Capabilities Team which means that I work with educators and faculties, to promote and support and advocate for more inclusive practice. You know, as an educator you can do this we're not asking you to spend millions of hours re-educating yourself. These are simple measures that you can take to improve exponentially the experience of all students. This is very important work and it's important work that has great consequence to follow along with all the technologies that are new and emerging and coming.

Hello, I'm former Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes. When I started the second year of my law degree, braille textbooks were delayed for about six to eight weeks so while other students worked away I sat with an empty desk. I spent most of my university break in my room at home, catching up. If you really want to include students with disabilities, equal and on-time access is critical. ADCET's new resources to assist students who are blind or vision impaired can help you deliver equality in your classroom or faculty.

## Layla, Bachelor of Business

Why accessible education matters to Bachelor of Business student, Layla.

This work matters to me because having online accessible education makes me feel included.

It gives me a purpose and something to strive towards. And I believe that having education that is accessible and having and having educators that are knowledgeable about the lived experiences of people who are blind or low vision will be beneficial for future generations.

## Dr Daniels-Mayes, Indigenous Studies Lecturer

Why accessible education matters to Indigenous Studies Lecturer Dr Daniels-Mayes.

Accessible education matters to me because I'm an academic with a vision impairment, I work with a guide dog for mobility, but online I work with software – screen-reader software, that enables me to navigate and do all those digital things that we have to do on a daily basis. I also believe that accessible education is important for all colleagues and all students. It enables us to succeed at university, and that's what university should be about.

## Rene, Educational Designer

Why accessible education matters to Educational Designer Rene.

Many of the academics we've worked with have looked at diagrams that are very complex they just can't imagine how they would possibly make those accessible. 'Do I have to translate everything that's in that diagram or that image and explain it?' And helping them to understand the approach of 'what are you really trying to get across to that student?' 'What do you need them to know from this?' Takes the pressure off and gets them out of that mindset that accessibility is a burden 'oh I don't have any students that are vision impaired'. It's not an acceptable approach anymore

that students should have to and an extra, and ask for a special dispensation to be able to learn in the same way that their fellow students learn.

## Francois, Tutor and Former Student

Why accessible education matters to Tutor and Former Student Francois.

I remember when I started out as a student in postgrad at Deakin last year, it was a long time since I'd previously studied so I immediately had to really deep dive into a digital environment which was quite unfamiliar to me and also not necessarily uniform. And I know that a number of students, way too many students, actually fall off. They don't necessarily complete their degrees simply because of accessibility barriers. So if we can have a situation where unit sites are uniform, where digital content has been designed with accessibility in mind, we can ensure that students are totally set up for success to actually pass their degrees and reap the benefits from it.

## Graeme Innes, Human Rights Activist

Why accessible education matters to Tutor Human Rights Activist Human Rights Activist.

When I started the second year of my law degree, braille textbooks were delayed for about six to eight weeks so while other students worked away I sat with an empty desk. I spent most of my university break in my room at home, catching up. If you really want to include students with disabilities, equal and on-time access is critical. ADCET's new resources to assist students who are blind or vision impaired can help you deliver equality in your classroom or faculty.

## Jodie, Disability Practitioner

Why accessible education matters to Disability Practitioner Jodie.

This work matters to me because it's about how can we support our students and our teachers who are blind or vision impaired maximise the engagement of working in an online environment with the technologies that we are required to use and that we need to useso that we have access to this space.

## Danni, Inclusive Education Lecturer

Why accessible education matters to Inclusive Education Lecturer Danni.

You know, why is this important to me? It's important to me because I've always had a strong sense that I don't like seeing people left out. I've never liked or felt comfortable ever seeing someone miss an opportunity that they should have or have a chance to realise who they could be in this world and education is the strongest place that we can move people forward in their life in ways that that they want to move forward. So I think the guidelines are sort of where we begin in the higher education sector, we begin building off very solid sandstone blocks and really starting from a place of equity and social justice.