# Ben Bischof

Hi, my name is Ben. I work for the Department of Human Services in Port Macquarie in a recruitment role. And I have a disability.

From the point of view of myself, I’m a person with a disability. So it means just accepting us first and foremost, or accepting me and everyone else I guess with a disability. For the people that we are, for who we are first and foremost as a person.

I’ve been working here for 13 years in various roles and I find that I’m treated like any other employee and that’s all you can really wish for; that you’re included, that you’re part of the team, that you feel valued.

What they did with that was they just said “ok, well basically is your workstation set up correctly, not too dissimilar to what they would say to anyone, saying you need to make sure your workstation is set up correctly. But I guess with me they spent a little bit of extra time saying “ok just make sure everything’s there and everything’s comfortable and you’ve got everything at the right height, and you know, you’ve got everything positioned. That makes me feel valued.

With me it was obviously the adjustment was a lot less, you know, the workplace adjustment that I needed at the time, but just to know they could accommodate that and it wasn’t a problem or you know that they actually wanted to do it, they want to make you the best person you can be and the most productive worker you can be in the office. And that makes me feel valued, it makes me feel part of the bigger team.

My disability doesn’t change my ability to do my work.