



Ms Joy Cairns OAM

Joy's unique work is the foundation for successful disability services in Tasmania today. Mother of two children born with severe disabilities, Joy was traumatically thrown into the unknown world of disability, associated complex health conditions, grief and despair, facing insurmountable odds, and a community's disregard for inclusion.

Believing it unjust to treat disabled children as lesser value due to birth lottery, Joy commenced harnessing and training hundreds of volunteers to establish specially designed programs improving quality of life for disabled people, families and carers. Immensely important in the evolution of services she was architect of Australia's first Commonwealth fully funded Recreation Service.

With growing demand, unmet need and discrimination, she called a public meeting drawing attention to the neglect of successive governments. Joy was a member of the Minister's Disability Advisory Council that recommended de-institutionalisation.

Joy is currently Managing Director of Aurora Disability Services, whose mission is to create innovative, positive social roles minimising the negative effects of impairment, to raise public image, contribute to community and the Nation's economy, and ensure people with disabilities be valued accordingly.