

MEDIA RELEASE

**Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
The Hon. Paul Lynch MP**



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International Day celebrates people with a disability

The outstanding contribution of people with a disability will be celebrated this morning at an International Day of People with a Disability event at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Ambassadors for the NSW Government's Don't DIS my ABILITY campaign – including singer-songwriter Krystel Keller and Paralympian Kurt Fearnley – will attend the event.

Guests will be taken on a fully-accessible tour of the Gallery's Rupert Bunny exhibition which was Auslan-interpreted for people with a hearing impairment and audio-described for people with a vision impairment.

Minister for Disability Services Paul Lynch said the day celebrated the diversity, achievements and abilities of people with a disability.

"People like Kurt Fearnley show that disability is not a barrier to feats of remarkable physical endurance," Mr Lynch said.

"Krystel Keller is blind but that hasn't stopped her from reaching her potential as a singer-songwriter," he said.

In Australia, one in five people have a disability. About 1.4 million people in New South Wales have a disability while 800,000 people in Australia care for people with a disability.

Globally, there are about 650 million people with a disability.

Guest speaker at today's event was Vision Australia board member and *Dancing with the Stars* performer Gerrard Gosens.

This year's United Nations theme is "*Empowerment of persons with disabilities and their communities around the world*".

Don't DIS my ABILITY events continue in some locations this week. Further details are available at www.DontDISmyABILITY.com.au

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