

# Tim O'Keefe

Disability Educator  
Disability Educators Group  
Scope Community Educators

Hi I'm Tim  
O'Keefe and my  
disability is  
Cerebral Palsy,  
which I was born  
with.



I live with my parents in Traralgon and  
attend Scope Day Service in Warragul, 4  
days a week.

I love to swim, horse ride, bowl and work out.



I also like going to dinner with family and friends.

I am Community Educator for  
Scope.

I have been doing this for 12  
years.

I didn't think that I would be  
capable of working out there in the  
real world, but I love doing what I  
do now.

I feel confident now in the training sessions. People with disabilities such as mine need a mentor and physical support at least until they get their confidence.

Everyone needs support at work that's suitable to their personality and temperament and disability.

My work is something I enjoy  
because it helps people to  
understand people who are  
different.



It gives me the chance to hear peoples' thoughts on disability.

There is always so much to learn about people's attitudes and awareness about myself and others who have disabilities. The support I get is great and I'm sure it breaks down barriers.

It is good to see how people's  
views change after I speak to  
them.





When I first arrive, my audiences sometimes seem like they don't know what they are there for, because they don't know me from a bar of soap.

By the end, they are asking questions,  
and they look more relaxed and more  
friendly.

I reckon the next time they meet  
someone with a disability, they'll have  
more confidence in themselves. Then  
they'll talk to the person, not look  
away.

That's is why I do this job.

I became a disability educator  
so that I could get my  
message out there.

I would like people to  
understand how it feels to live  
with a disability.

People with disabilities just want  
to fit in, like everyone else.

We need to tell people about  
who we are.

That's what a support scheme  
should help us to do.



I believe that people are starting to get there. We just need to talk to more people.