## Tim O'Keefe

Disability Educator

Disability Educators Group

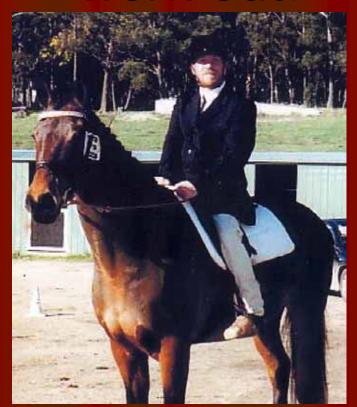
Scope Community Educators

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.