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EVENT: NDSCC 2011  
SPEAKER: JOHN DELLA BOSCA  
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COMMENTS: LIVE CAPTIONING TRANSCRIPT  
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Access Innovation Media Pty Limited  
5 Thomas Holt Drive  
North Ryde NSW 2113  
Tel: +61 2 9813 6780  
Email: [info@ai-media.tv](mailto:info@ai-media.tv)

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JOHN DELLA BOSCA:

Thank you very much, Bruce, and thank you for that warm welcome. I would like to acknowledge first that we are meeting on the land of the traditional Aboriginal people, and I extend my courtesy to any elders present and acknowledge the ongoing cultural existence... I acknowledge the fact that Australian culture is tremendously and reached for having its association with the oldest continuous nonhuman culture.

Every Australian Counts is the campaign for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. A National Disability Insurance Scheme represents the best chance we will ever have for achieving independence, choice and opportunity, the joy of an ordinary life for Australians living with disability. This is the opportunity we are poised to take up. Yesterday you heard from members of Parliament, politicians and the Productivity Commission as to what we are seeking with the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Today is about how we are going to achieve that great opportunity, that great chance that is in front of us now. The first thing we have to understand is that what we are doing, what you are doing today, not what I am doing, not Bruce or under or the conference organisers, not what Carers Australia are doing, or what AFDO is doing, but what you are doing and thousands of Australians like you are doing, which is building a movement. We need to find common ground and maintain that common ground.

[Alexandra.Captioner is Live]

Re: of ourselves as bystanders, families, carers. We have to think of ourselves as one. We speak about movements, what does that mean? We know about cultural, social, political movements. What do they have in common? Experience. Everyone in this room, tens of thousands, indeed, hundreds of thousands of people like you across Australia have an experience. They have an experience of disability. I have an experience of disability because they live with it themselves, friends, relatives. People are not getting the joy of an ordinary life. They are being unfairly deprived, that is why every Australian counts. That is an important part of what we're doing. We have an objective, the objective is to achieve NDIS. We have cast around, discussed, we have been creating this movement for a better deal for people with disabilities has been going for at least 100 years or so. It has had some reversals, long periods of time with ignorance and lack of engagement and lack of involvement, that movement is culminating in the direction of a scheme that will change everything for us if we put in the effort.

In order to make sure the movement can clearly explain itself to the general public and reinforce itself to its own supporters of these have a simple, single... unifying message. We're making sure every Australian counts. People have their rights, entitlements. They have the right to enjoy an ordinary life, the right to independence. They have entitlements that have been explained by the shape of NDIS. Yesterday we looked at the complicated reasons of how its going to happen, but we know what we need to do, and why we wanted.

Every Australian counts. Every Australian counts is why we want India AAS. That is the only way that people living with a disability will have the life they are entitled to.

One last thing about this movement. It has been going on for 100 years or more, the movement for deinstitutionalisation, campaigns and struggles have been in very adverse circumstances for people with disability, but this urgency. This is urgent. It is urgent because the problems have always been urgent, it's been urgent for 100 years.

There been a lot of people coming in work from organisations, individuals. This has led to this moment, the moment in history we are living within the moment. That opportunity must be taken up. We have to attach a level of urgency to what we are doing.

Movements have to have a unity. One of the things I have said from the beginning of my role in this organisation is the change in Disability. When I was a minister for disability, it seems like 100 years ago,

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but five or six years ago it was very hard to understand disability.

You have people from advocacy groups, a peak group here... it was very hard to understand what we needed to do to make things change. We all have the same barrier to push. A great deal of effort has gone into building that unity, the alliance that exist between organisations.

Last not least is focus. I could have said discipline, but discipline is not the word for a disability gathering. So I say focus. We will be going and having our breaks and think of 1000 good ideas for disability and change. But we don't have 1000 years to think of them. We only have five months. We need to address that, because our time is now. The way to do that is to organise our movement that addresses the key leaders. That is the way this objective is known to occur. The executive government with the Commonwealth position, their attitude and position in five months time will decide our fate and our future. What is the best way to implement this? Sure we can be pals, have a cup of coffee with Julia Gillard, Mitch Fifield, Tony Abbott. That's good, we can do that. But we need to demonstrate there is strong support in the community for this. They need to know that. They need to sense that, because that is what the job is.

I used to be a politician, and that is the political craft. It is like new sense, they need to go through the rationale, the concepts. They know, we will get to the point where they know that in NDIS is a big issue.

10,000 people have signed up to our campaign. Many are in the room right now, and to the person next to you and ask them if they have joined the campaign? "Have you turned the campaign?"

JOHN DELLA BOSCA:

That is your voice. See how quickly that happens. That is your voice. Everyone could have that. 1000 people speaking at once. "Have you join the campaign?" I hope everyone has. We need to be signing people up. 1000 people are committed enough to come here to support the campaign. I challenge you to listen to your voices, that is what our campaign has been about. Our campaign is delivering a message about the experience of people. What needs to happen for people with a disability to have their voice. Voice that has not been heard. Let them see your voice, led 50 people you know who your voice. Get them to join the campaign. If you don't have 50 personal friends, you have got 50 relatives, 50 people you work with, 50 people on your contact list in your address book. Somewhere there are 50 people that you can ask. If you ask 50 people to make three clicks on their computer and type in a name and postcode I bet you will get at least 20 of them. I think that is something that you can all commit to do. Follow the campaign on Twitter and make sure you follow the website. Think of all the other key campaign events, whether it is a forum or a rally, or som that ething Bruce and brother have done, something that Kim Baker has done, or Leslie Hall. Something any of us have done. We need to structure the activities we put in place. We are already visiting MPs, nice to have a cup of coffee, a cup of tea with them. That make your voice heard. I ask you one thing, if you're going to do that, ask other people in your organisation is to do that, give your state coordinator at call and talk to them about the best way to approach that. They're our approaches we want to take with MPs, I went elongate my address by talking about this, we don't want to be just protesters are complainers, we want to recruit MPs are champions. It could make a key difference. We need to take an approach to that. We need to recruit them as champions. We do have is structure, coordinators in most states.

We do have a focus, we want to make sure we recruit people, more people, the benchmark for our recruitment in our campaign - 17,000 people since Australia day.

This manner people is very good. But the bad news is the most successful campaign in recent time with a political objective was the 'Your Rights at Work' campaign. We have five months to make sure every Australian chance.

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I'll say one thing on the area of campaigns. Everybody is always keen on this. That is advertising. The voice of people with disabilities to the lounge room of everybody in the country. Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott can hear that very clearly. Not from their backbenchers, or from emails at from their televisions.

I don't want to miss speaking about this, during the coffee break there was something distributed on your chairs, I set about donations. I ask you to read it and see what you can do because all of that cost money, and we can only do that if we can reliably and sensibly spend the money. We are not talking about a blockbuster day and night campaign, we're talking about the campaign that would speak to Tony Abbott and Julia Gillard directly, and show the voice of disability across Australia.

I can conclude by saying to make every Australian count we need to hear voices like Mary, Robert, Bill and clear. People who have been on the website you might be familiar with.

(Plays clip)

(Applause)

– END OF TRANSCRIPT.