



# Rachel Nolan MP

Member for Ipswich

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### Share your story and make a difference: Minister

The search is on for twelve inspiring Queenslanders with a disability to feature in the heart-warming and colourful *Share Your Story* calendar for 2009.

Local State member for Ipswich Ms Rachel Nolan today called for entries for next year's *Share Your Story* calendar, which will showcase twelve individual and unique stories about living with a disability.

Ms Nolan said the calendar encouraged people with a disability to share their stories and to help build a more welcoming and inclusive Queensland.

"The *Share Your Story* calendar enables people with a disability to express their individuality, personality, opinions, hopes and dreams and I would encourage any local residents who feel they have a story to share to get behind the project," s/he said.

"It is our individuality that makes us interesting; by sharing who we are, we can all learn to appreciate our differences and our similarities."

Acting Minister for Disability Services Margret Keech said the calendar challenged stereotypes of people with a disability by focusing on their abilities and contributions to their communities.

"I encourage Queenslanders with a disability, their families, friends and carers to get involved and share their experiences and perspective."

Ms Keech said entries should tell a story, in 200 words or less, relating to one of several themes:

- Just like me
- Overcoming a challenge
- Work and education
- Making our community a better place for everyone
- Focus on ability
- Working with people with a disability
- Breaking down the barriers
- Family and friends
- My story / our story.

Stories should be sent to Disability Services Queensland, Strategic Communications Services, GPO Box 806, Brisbane, 4001, together with a completed entry form by **Friday 22 September**.

For an entry form and further information visit: [www.disability.qld.gov.au](http://www.disability.qld.gov.au) or call 1800 177 120.