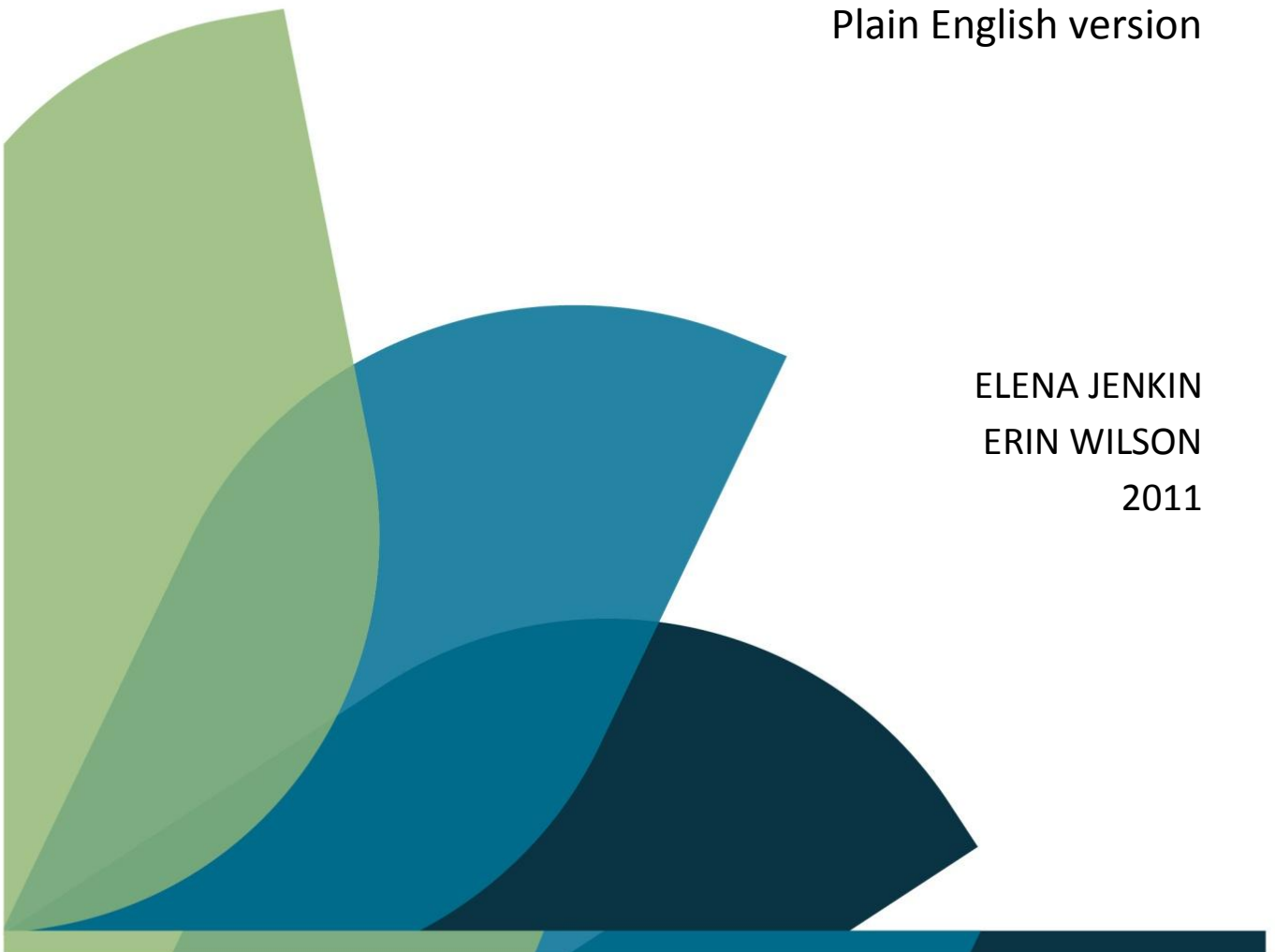


**Disability inclusion practice: Research findings in
Australia and thoughts for future research and
practice in the Pacific and Asia.**

Plain English version

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Plain English version:

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) talks about inclusion.

But what does inclusion mean? Everyone has different ideas.

This means organisations that work with people with disabilities are doing inclusion work in very different ways. That is not good news for people with a disability.

We don't know much about how inclusion happens in the Pacific and Asian region because there is no research being done. So now we will look at some research that has happened in Australia.

This research is called *'Inclusion: making it happen. Key elements for disability organisations to facilitate inclusion'* (Jenkin and Wilson 2009).

Deakin University and a disability organisation called Scope did the research together.

The researchers felt inclusion work was supporting people with a disability to do and be who they wanted. So the person with a disability is the expert and inclusion workers should listen and help them in areas that are important to them.

The researchers noticed that there were 3 different types of inclusion work happening. These are:

- 1. Workers listen to people with a disability and support them to live lives that are important to them.*
- 2. Workers make opportunities happen in the community that people with a disability may be interested in.*
- 3. Workers work with governments and policy to make inclusion happen for everyone.*

Then the researchers asked workers from disability organisations these questions:

-Think of a successful story you were involved in where you saw inclusion happen

-What made it successful?

-What made things harder?

-What was the result of the story?

The researchers put all the information from the interviews together and came up with some suggestions (or advice) for government, organisations and workers so that they can make inclusion happen more often. They are listed below:

1. Suggestions for government

-Work out what inclusion means. Organisations need some good advice from the government so they can do a good job in supporting people with a disability.

-Look at how organisations and government are doing inclusion work. What's good? What needs improvement?

-Inclusion work takes a long time. The government needs to share money and resources to make this happen.

-Work with others. The government is the leader but they need to work with people with a disability, families, organisations and communities to make inclusion happen.

2. Suggestions for organisations

-Be serious about doing inclusion work. That means all the people in the organisation need to agree to work together to make inclusion happen. Organisations need to plan the work.

-Staff need to be given skills and support to do inclusion work.

-Be flexible.

-Support people with a disability and families to become leaders.

3. Suggestions for workers

-Always think about your work, can your work be improved?

-You are not the expert, people with a disability and their families are. Listen to people with a disability and respect their wishes.

-If you find barriers, work together to remove them.

-Inclusion work takes a long time.

-All people are different so you will need to work differently with everyone.

What about inclusion in the Pacific and Asian region?

Inclusion work is a very big job and there is a lot to do. We don't know much about how people are supported to be included in the Pacific and Asia.

Hopefully the recommendations from this research will help. But we also need more research.

Research will help us understand this big job of inclusion and how to do it better.

We all need to work together so we can make inclusion happen and people with a disability can enjoy their rights.

Jenkin, E and Wilson, E (2009), 'Inclusion: Making it Happen. Key elements for disability organisations to facilitate inclusion.', (Melbourne: Scope).