# Creating a respectful environment

Address disabled people in the same way as you talk to everyone else.

Speak directly to a disabled person, even if they have an interpreter or companion with them.

Never patronise the person or attempt to speak or finish a sentence for the person you are talking to.

Respect boundaries: Some people may be comfortable talking about their disability, while others prefer not to. Respect their wishes and don't pry or ask invasive questions.

If a person uses a wheelchair or other assistive device, do not lean on it, use it for support or push someone's wheelchair without their explicit permission first.

Don't make assumptions about what a disabled person can or cannot do. Everyone is an individual, with different experiences and needs.

When describing someone, only mention their disability if it is relevant to the discussion.

Focus on the person, not the disability, as a person's disability is just one aspect of who they are.