UNIVERSAL DESIGN IN SOCIAL POLICY:

addressing the paradox of equality

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HOW DO WE ACHIEVE EQUALITY?

Formal equality: Ignore difference and treat everyone the same

or

Substantive equality: Respect difference and treat some differently

UNIVERSALISING SOCIAL POLICY IS NOT A NEW IDEA

"…an exclusively special needs approach to disability is inevitably a short-run approach. What we need are more universal policies that recognize that the entire population is "at risk" for the concomitants of chronic illness and disability"

Irving Zola, 1989

MAINSTREAMING

"All general policies and programmes must be designed to be as inclusive as possible, in order to not create or perpetuate existing barriers in the environment, be they physical, informational, institutional, attitudinal, and must incorporate a disability perspective into policymaking in all sectors and at all levels of governance"

Devandas-Aguilar, 2016, p. 19

HANDICAP: A HISTORY OF PITY

"As an individual impulse that motivates one personal reaction to human suffering, charity may well be virtuous; but as the governing motivation for social policy it is inherently discriminatory and demeaning."

Bickenbach, 2014, p. 1323

SPECIAL NEEDS

"…development practitioners almost invariably think another specialised agency will address disability issues..."

Lang, et al., 2011, p. 218

TARGETED AND/OR UNIVERSAL POLICY?

1. Non-discrimination

   The Disability Discrimination Act (Cth) 1992

2. Accessibility

   The National Disability Strategy 2010-2020

3. Support

   The National Disability Insurance Scheme

FEASIBLE ASPIRATIONS

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