

# MOBILITY SCOOTERS IN THE WILD: USERS RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION

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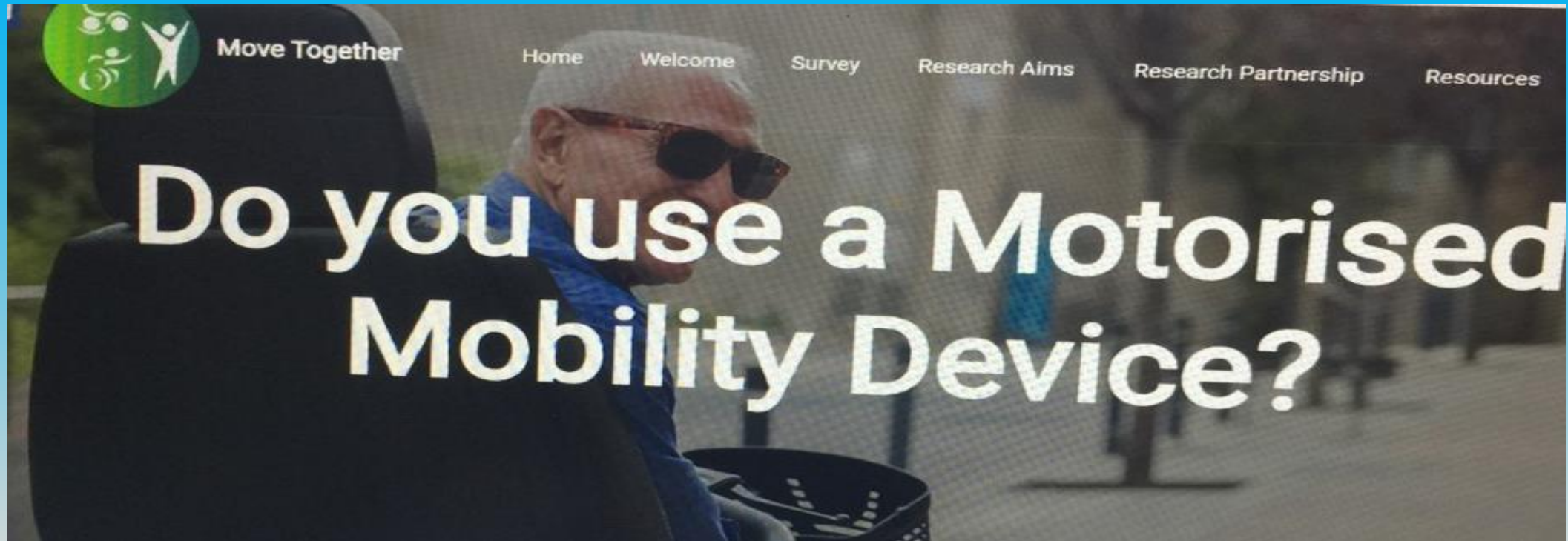


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## RESEARCH WEBSITE

WWW.LETSMOVETOGETHER.COM.AU

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Multi stage –

- Online survey for people who use electric wheelchairs and mobility scooters
- In depth interviews
- Video and follow up interviews
- Working reference group of people with disabilities
- Consultation with health professionals and industry professionals
- Consultation with planners and government

# MULTI-SITE

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- South Western Sydney, Wollongong, Northern Rivers NSW
- Different demographics: age, ethnicity, SES, urban/rural

# WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE WHO USE ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS AND MOBILITY SCOOTERS?

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# DESIGN IS IMPORTANT- BUT IT IS ONLY PART OF THE ANSWER

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- How we perceive disability- wide range of abilities and capacities
- Understanding enabling or disabling environments as felt intensities through the body
- How people make sense of themselves and their lives

# CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

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- Feminist embodied approach
- Narratives of the choreographies of everyday journeys
- Reciprocal socio-material relationship that co-constitute urban spaces and subjectivities

## JASMINE, 67, SINGLE MOTHER

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- *Everyone was really patronising as soon as I was in that wheelchair, Oh, it feels awful. You sense and feel the pity. Oh, little disabled, little person. Someone would go, "I'll push you Jasmine." And then they push you really slow.*



- *But it's really difficult when you're in a car park and, they have two accessible parking spots on every floor and you end up on the sixth floor, because there's no parking. And then you got to use the lift and then everybody else wants to use the lift. So, in terms of infrastructure, if you go to the shopping centre, it's going to take you hours to get to your car. There's a big queue and you haven't got priority.*



*It's really interesting how people see a wheelchair compared to these funky travel scooters. With a TravelScoot, they're very funky looking and people stop you and chase you..."Oh, that's awesome." I bought a travel scoot out of my own funds and it was the best thing ever, because suddenly I was able to do things that I'd missed out on like, go into the city to shows with my daughter and grandchildren and friends. And I could go around Darling Harbour and I could go through the city.*



*I always have it in the boot of my car. I got a hoist put into the back of my car, which now I'm completely independent. So I can park. I don't have to go and find the closest car park when I'm going into the shops. I'm able to use my scooter, get it out of the car, lower it down. And often people, when they see me come along, sometimes someone will be really kind and say, "Do you need help to get that in your car?" And I'll say, "Thank you very much. That's really kind of you, I have a hoist. I'm fine. Thank you. Have a lovely day."*



*It makes me feel like I don't count. It makes me feel like people are really stupid and haven't... they've overlooked or they've made decisions about something that they know nothing about. Working in local government I'm very aware of that. I just got so exhausted and tired talking about mobility issues constantly. I'm like a broken record and no one would listen. I also feel that I'm second class citizen and I don't count, I feel, why are you making it harder for me? It's tokenistic.*



# INSIGHTS FOR MOBILITY JUSTICE

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- Understand how *environments* are felt as enabling or disabling
- Recognise that the flows and interruptions to journey-making help make, re-make and undo subjectivities
- Not just material but also social and cultural inclusion of people with disabilities