

Enabling a 'good life' through leisure travel for people with intellectual disabilities

Oral Presentation Working Paper

***Dr. Brielle Gillovic*¹, *Prof. Alison McIntosh*¹, *Dr. Cheryl Cockburn-Wootten*², *Prof. Simon Darcy*³**

1. Auckland University of Technology, 2. University of Waikato, 3. University of Technology Sydney

This working paper explores the ways in which people with intellectual disabilities ascribe meaning to their leisure travel experiences, as well as the significance of them. An interpretive phenomenological approach was applied in this exploratory qualitative study, which draws upon in-depth interviews with nine people with intellectual disabilities. Thematic analysis defined the leisure travel experience as both significant and meaningful, one that is largely sought in the pursuit of, and with potential to contribute toward, enabling a 'good life'. As such, the leisure travel experience is one of dignity and wellbeing, provides a sense of living and learning, and can strengthen relational connections with carers. At a conceptual level, this paper positions itself as contributing preliminary insights into the leisure travel experience, by way of sharing the authentic voices and embodied experiences of people with intellectual disabilities. This lens of intellectual disability addresses a scarcity of representation in the existing scholarship, augmenting and advancing current understandings of the accessible tourist experience for this group of travellers with disabilities.