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Okay, we might get started.

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Good morning. Everyone

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Thank you for joining us here today. Really appreciate you taking the time to register and to attend this morning before I begin. I'd like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land. In all the many lands.

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That we're all joining from today, and I'd like to pay our respects to Elder's past, present, and future, and extend.

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That respect to all 1st nations. People participating in this webinar today.

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I'd also like to acknowledge the lived and lived living experience of people with disability and their family member's carers and supporters. I'm delighted today to introduce my Co. Presenter. Dr. Lisa Stafford, the project manager of the Gordons Center of Excellence. The disability inclusion. Lisa, is an applied.

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Researcher, educator.

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And plan our inclusive communities and disability, justice.

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She has a Phd. And 20 years experience across academia and professional practice. And together today we are excited to share our experience in developing a vision.

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For our centre of excellence in disability, inclusion.

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And I, I admitted to say my name is Joe, and I'm the chief executive officer here at the Gordon.

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Apologies for that. Can we? To the next slide, please?

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Thank you. So what is a center of excellence? And there's a quote in there that I really love from a workshop participant.

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A place where people can meet others, share their experiences and see what's possible.

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So imagine a place where the best minds in disability and education come together, a place that's buzzing with new ideas.

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That has cutting edge technology and real world training.

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A place that's not only about learning, but about making a real difference in people's lives. And that's what we are trying to build here at the Gordon, a center of excellence that will transform.

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How we support people with disability to reach their full potential. It's not a lot to ask.

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Can we go to the next slide? Please.

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So you might be asking yourself, why do we need a dedicated center of excellence for disability, inclusion.

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Well for us. It's simple. It's everybody deserves the chance to succeed.

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Regardless of their ability.

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But the reality is, as we know, here in Victoria and across Australia, people with disability, more barriers when it comes to education and employment.

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So you see, on that slide we have some key facts.

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So 17% of Victorians that live with a disability. That's a significant.

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Only 38% of Victorian Tae students with a disability, their studies compared to 47% without a disability.

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And even after these students graduate.

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Type graduates with a disability are less likely to be employed. 62, 81% for those without a disability.

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And we say a 12.2% unemployment rate for Victorians with a disability which is significantly higher.

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More than double the 4.5.

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For other Victorians. So these for us, statistics, playing a clear picture.

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We need systemic change.

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We need to break down those barriers and create a more inclusive and equitable system that empowers people with disability to reach their full potential. And that's exactly what we're trying to do with this center of excellence. And what this center of excellence.

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Is all about.

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Next slide, please.

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So as we embark on this journey of the center, it for us it's like it is uncharted territory navigating through this.

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But as we've progressed it's become incredible to see how the team at the Gordon for the center of excellence to life.

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And firstly, I'd like to thank the Victorian Government, who's helped us invest in it in a building that will embody that inclusive, universal design principles.

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And it isn't just about creating a space. It's about modeling the very principles of inclusion and accessibility that we are teaching here at the Gordon.

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And at the heart of our approach are 5 core principles that are guiding everything we do.

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They're on those principles on the slide.

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So we are centering the voices of people with lived experience. So this is fundamental to ensuring that our center is truly relevant and meets the needs of those it.

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Then it embraces that co-creation. We are looking to work together, to co-identify co-design and co-produce solutions and good practice in equity and inclusion.

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We're building a collaborative vision and model. So we're fostering a strong community of practice grounded in evidence to drive that lasting change.

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And it's focused on real world impact. So aims to bridge the education employment gap and create a tangible opportunities for people with disability.

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And we are committed to future focused learning. So we're redesigning our educational approach and spaces that will be more innovative and responsive to the ever evolving needs of the disability sector.

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Next slide, please.

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So the center of excellence is not. Is it sorry? Is about action, not just words. And what action will we be taking? Is the question that I guess a lot of people have. So for us. 1st and foremost, it will shine a lot on what works. So we want to find we want to document and share the very best practices.

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For supporting learners with a dis.

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That means for us highlighting the strategies that help students access their education fully in their chosen fields, and ultimately complete their training and ready to take on the world of work.

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And it's not just about the Gordon we are committed to spreading this knowledge throughout the entire Taf network in Victoria.

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And right across Australia where we can. So we're going to boost that disability, equity, and inclusion across the board.

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We want to empower educators and staff to create a welcoming and supportive learning environment for everybody.

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But we're not going to stop there. We will explore how to best shape the future workforce training to meet those evolving needs of the disability sector we want to ensure our graduates are not just qualified, but truly prepared and empowered to make a really a real difference.

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And of course actions will always speak louder than words. We're putting these principles.

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Into practice right here at the Gordon by updating our sitting campus, learning environments with universal design principles at the forefront. So we we are strong for this to to ensure that our facilities reflect the values of inclusion and accessibility that are at the heart of a center of excellence.

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So it gives me great pleasure now to hand over to Lisa, who will delve deeper into the key elements of the center, and how these principles are being brought to life.

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Up to you, Lisa.

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Thank you. Joe and Tom. Welcome everyone.

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So I think as next slide, please jess

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I think, as as Joe's pointed out, you know, excellence can be anything and everything. It seems to be a bit of a buzz word at the moment as well when we're talking about it. But for us.

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As Joe mentioned is.

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It's about that bringing together. This is so essential is that collaborative approach.

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Where we're bringing together such diverse experiences and knowledge that we know are existing.

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To actually help us create the center for accents. That's what's central.

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You know. It's not possible to to realize this without that.

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And that's about not just about what's possible. But how do we innovate those solutions? You know. Often the case.

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We'll talk about outcomes and ideas. But how do we make that.

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Into solutions and promoting the good practices that we know are there. How do we bring those together.

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How do we share that knowledge? Translation much better.

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And importantly, how do we embed that in practice, so that.

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Whatever Tafe, you go to, this would be the ideal world. Wouldn't it be whatever, Tafe, that you, getting that same experiences.

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That would be the ultimate goal. But how do we get there?

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So Joe mentioned next slide. Please.

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At the core of our approach, so obviously that, adopting that.

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Idea of center, for instance, as that collaborative hub, and bringing together that knowledge is our part. Is the.

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Type, a centre for excellence. We're going to.

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But how do we actually do that? What is driving our approach is cocion.

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And that's essential. If we're gonna have a fit for purpose model. That's not just now, but particularly for the future. It's gonna be adaptable.

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And that's what's really central to that. And you can only do that by having.

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Diverse stakeholders working collaboratively together.

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And ensuring that at all steps. We actually not just talk inclusivity, but we model it.

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And I think that's really essential for us.

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You know we we know these words that they talked about a lot, but.

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Essentially for us. That's really the co-design will help us identify these solutions to known problems.

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We talk about problems. We know the barriers often. But how do we? What is the solutions? How do we move this forward? And that's often.

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Tricky the difficult spaces that we're in, but it's critical for helping.

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Achieve those aims, and that Joe talked about.

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But then it's not just leaving it at that design. It's actually, then how do we produce.

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The solutions. How do we then, innovate practices.

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The know-how by bringing people together that knowledge.

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Essence. So that's that's why for us.

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Where? Where? It's not just central to the center for excellence. But how we're going to do it.

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So there's multiple ways that we're embedding. Firstly, we're establishing a cocration team.

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Of students with disabilities.

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It will also be

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Not just our future current students, but future students.

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But also, importantly, our recent graduates. We learned so much from past, like their experiences.

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But also identifying this.

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Incredible stakeholders there important display advocates, leaders.

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Whole range of educators.

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And display inclusion. Specialists in this space that you know combined will help to identify.

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Solutions, but also help us.

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Because this is one of the realities we've talked about. This could be really.

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The scale and scope. And how do we bring it into focus? Given, there's so much reform.

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Already happening in a disability, education and employment, space nationally, and State.

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So these will really help us work that way.

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We also have identified. We want to create some subject matter, working groups.

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To really help and shape us.

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And refine those ideas and models that will come up through the discussions. And so.

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If you, Kate, and interested send us an email and let us know but we essentially framing those working groups.

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Based on the vision workshops we'll be holding shortly. With people.

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We also have importantly a strategic display advisory committee. These are key leaders.

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And disability advocates, not just within Victoria, but nationally.

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And that's really help drive that strategic focus.

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That's not just about the center. But this, as I said, there's so much.

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Happening in the display. Space.

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That's been led by critical work, such as.

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Disbelie Royal Commission for us. It was the learners.

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With disabilities in inquiry into Tafe. There's been huge drivers into this work, so.

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To make sure that whatever we're creating is also reflective of the bigger.

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Work that's happening.

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Training reform. So that's really going to be important. Those key functions of our center.

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Next slide jess.

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And as I mentioned, you know just briefly, it's it's not just about, you know.

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Token the same problems all the time. It really is about, what are the ideas around these problems like.

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How do we improve these consistent.

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Experiences for people from access all the way through the completion.

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How do we identify better ways of doing things? There's good practices, inclusive teaching. So how do we.

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Build from that. How do we share that? How do that.

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And, as I said, that building capacity and sharing knowledge is really critical.

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We know there's so many good examples out there. But how do we bring it together in a way that's gonna work.

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And and the difference, you know, really, with cocration is also it's it's about helping us make those decisions helping us, you know. Come to those.

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Focus and prioritization. So that's why it's it's so essential that we have this right and.

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We take the time to do it right. So.

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The next 12 months is really about creating our vision and model for the center. And that's what we're looking forward to starting in the next week.

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So next slide jess.

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This is just to give you a snapshot of. You know the the timeframe, and, as I've mentioned, it's.

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We're starting with the vision. To sort of just start establishing. What's the change we're trying to make? Really.

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What's an inclusive really about? And what's the resources to realize that? And that's that model that I just spoke about having.

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Both lived experience and the subject matter. Working groups and many people lived experience experts are also subject matter experts as well. So acknowledging that important.

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Process, and then that will help us get to the outcomes that we're to deliver, which is.

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The vision and the model for the Center for excellence in the next 12 years. And at the same time we'll be developing.

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The design for our modernizing of the campus at the same time. So that's it's an integrated approach. We're adopting. So.

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Next slide. Thanks. Jess.

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And it's back to Joe.

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Thanks, Lisa. That was fantastic, and a really great.

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Of our plans, and you know, we're really now team.

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To hear from you. So we want this center of excellence to be a true collaboration. We really wanted to reflect the needs and aspirations of our entire community. So that's why we're kicking those workshops off. You can see on the slide on this on October second, to really try and gather your ideas and your insights to inform the center of excellence.

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Clearly, we can't build this on our own. We really need you to contribute your expertise. You've clearly got energy and passion because you're here today. So we'd love you to be champions for us, I guess, to spread the word invite your networks

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And join us in creating this centre of excellence that will open the doors to skills and training and meaningful careers for people with disabilities. So, as Lisa said, our journey really starts now. So if you want to find out more about our at the vision workshops, you can register your interest by emailing us at coe inclusion at Gordon type.

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Dot edu.au.

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And I'll read that again. Inclusion at Gordon taif edu au.

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We're really excited, as I said, right from the start about what's possible with this center and we're really keen to.

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Have your import and import from as many people as we can, because that will truly make our center of excellence. You know the success that we need it to be for the community. So.

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Together. Let's make the centre a shining example of of what is possible.

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When we work together to truly create an inclusive community and society. So I might take the opportunity to thank you all.

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Half of being part of this webinar today.

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Encourage you to participate. Thank you to Lisa, for sharing your thoughts and and and the plan around our center of excellence, and we hope to see you at one of our vision workshops.

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Thank you.