



Hello!

My name is Pete Donnelly, I'm a social entrepreneur from the UK, founder of The Wheelchair Skills College and a wheelchair user of 17 years.

I am passionate about empowering disabled people and having spent the last 10 years working in the not-for-profit sector believe that so many answers to creating a more equitable and just society can be built from our personal experiences and lessons that we have learned in our daily lives.

I have been awarded a Churchill Fellowship and later this year I will be carrying out research in Australia and New Zealand into 'Innovation through lived experience of disability'.

The focus of my research will be identifying individuals, and the organisations that support them, that have taken aspects of their lived experience and found ways to offer support to other people in similar situations.

In the UK, there is lots of discussion about innovation and coproduction, but in my experience these spaces have very narrow views of how these ideas work and are inaccessible. I would like to understand how we can improve what we offer in the innovation through lived experience space.

My research will focus on 4 key areas:

1. Understand the barriers faced by disabled innovators, and how they overcame them.
2. Identify key characteristics of disabled innovators that enabled them to be successful entrepreneurs.
3. Understand the support mechanisms that are in place from organisations for disabled innovators through their journey.
4. Identify projects that have worked when disabled innovators have attempted to affect system change.

From my research, I hope to identify the key structures of support needed through successful disabled innovation identified and create a pathway that can offer tailored support and enabling disabled innovators to build their ideas to create social change.

I'm reaching out to individuals and organisations in the not for profit, public and private sector who have been involved in any of the areas above. If this is you, it would be great to find out more about your project/story and interview you for my research.

Have a look around my site to find out a bit more about me and what I'm doing.

Drop me a message if you would like to chat!