

## **Bill Zhao profile**

My name is Bill Zhao. I am 27 years old and I have a mild intellectual disability. I have been with Diversity & Disability Alliance ( DDA) for about 2 years.

I have good personal qualities and I am often described as hardworking, focused, loyal, friendly, honest, kind and very flexible person to work with.

I have recently become a peer mentor. Before to starting to work with DDA, I became intrigued about becoming a peer mentor and I really wanted to develop peer mentoring skills to support peers. To achieve this I completed several training courses at DDA: the Introduction to Peer Support, Facilitation training on running a peer group, and the 8 week course in Peer Mentoring.

As a peer mentor, I am able to support peers find appropriate resources that assist them to gain independence.

I am passionate about public transport and I can support peers getting from point A to B. As a mentor, I support peers to access different public transport routes across Sydney and within the Opal networks. I also have been on several interstate trips across Australia, like Melbourne, Brisbane and Tasmania. In the near future after Covid, I would like to travel to Perth and Darwin. For international countries I would like to travel to New Zealand.

As a peer mentor I can support peers in their search of employment and further education. Before I started my role at DDA, I studied aged care and I worked in retail and hospitality. I completed my Certificate III Commercial Cookery at TAFE and completed a few months of work as part of my skill development as a cook. I then worked in an office as a scanning and mail clerk. All these jobs provided me the skills and expertise to complete office related tasks.

These jobs gave me the skills to apply in the Admin work which I now do at DDA and Futures Insight ( FIS) .

Mentoring is a new thing for me. My biggest achievements I feel is that I have gained many skills in administration and now as a peer facilitator and mentor , Through the DDA training in facilitation I now also facilitate a peer café.

## Bill Zhao Peer Mentor Profile

As a peer mentor I have the ability to support fellow peers to find the freedom to travel, gain independence, build communication skills, find educational opportunities, and use strategies to find employment.

You will find me a person keen to learn and work with peers in achieving their goals. One of the most important thing I think is that you need to believe in yourself as no one knows you better than yourself. In peer mentoring you will reflect, explore and learn. Remember, failure is not a bad thing. It is all about the learning experience and learning from mistakes as this can make you better in the future. Remember Act, Reflect and Learn

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