

# Connect More: How can services, sectors & communities find a shared vision?

## National Multiple Disadvantage Summit 2025

### MEAM Connections

It isn't fine that we

We live in a time,

Where the cost of dying is cheaper

Than the cost of living.

Where people are fighting

All sorts of battles -

Battles that most are losing,

And battles that lots are winning.



Check out Surfing Sofas' work on [Spotify](#), [SoundCloud](#) and [Instagram](#)

So, what's the best way to address

Multiple disadvantages.

Well, with what I've heard today

I'd say - overall, it's the partnerships.

It's the working together

And the working for better,

Collaborating and co-producing

With purpose - not pressure.

Before I go any further,

I wanna just state -

I haven't had time to practice this,

So expect a lot of mistakes

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I probably sound a mess,  
But bear with me, okay?  
As I (attempt to) share some of what  
Was shared with me today.

A few people said we  
Should get rid of silos,  
Because they lead to people  
Not working from the same page.  
And before - I could say,  
That I did agree.  
One of them highlighted that  
“System change, is game change”

Someone also asked  
“What is engagement?”  
And I think we can all agree  
That like many terms we use  
Engagement has different meanings  
Depending on  
the organisation you ask.

There's been times  
Where my friends and I  
Were pushed into a box

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Of an odd minority,  
I call it odd,  
Cos I find it strange,  
How easily we were  
Labelled - “non priority”.

There should be less complexity,  
When you lend a helping hand  
And we need less use of language  
That most don't understand.  
Wait... Can I just say -  
I'm happy to see us gathered together.  
With the aim of Making Every  
Adult Matter together.

By now, I think we have the  
Experience to see.  
Coproduction - with lived  
Experience is key.  
Those closest to the problem,  
are closest to the solution,  
And they can help us navigate  
Through the confusion

Instead of treating

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people like the  
numbers and stats  
which they are not,  
You should consider  
Treating them  
Like the humans  
Which they are.

We've made progress though,  
I hope you don't think I didn't notice  
With rise of trauma informed,  
Holistic approaches.  
Let's work on finding ways  
To decrease the rejections,  
And build bridges between us to make  
The deeper connections

So to recap - let's...

Decrease rejections,  
Make deep connections  
And let these connections,  
Be MEAM Connections.