

Submissions for The MHS Awards

Entrant: Robyn Scott-Vincent, Attitude Pictures Ltd, 32 Monmouth St, Grey Lynn
Auckland. rsv@attitudepictures.com

Entry 1 Attitude : Surviving Schizophrenia

Full programme can be viewed at:

<http://attitudelive.com/documentary/surviving-schizophrenia>

10 March 2016

To whom it may concern

Tackling issues of stigma and discrimination against people with experience of mental illness is important for the Human Rights Commission, and for all of New Zealand. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which includes rights for such people, states raising awareness through the media is a means of realising disabled people's rights. It places a strong emphasis on the voices of disabled people as change agents.

The "Attitude" TV series has been an important part of awareness raising. It leads the way giving disabled people, including people affected by mental illness, a platform to tell their own stories. Their stories are surrounded by families and other support context, but it is their voices that lead viewers into new awareness.

In particular, recently it has tackled some of the most challenging issues in disability rights, such as seclusion of people with multiple disabilities including mental illness, and surviving schizophrenia. To ensure the voices of people most excluded and shut away "out of sight out of mind" are heard, the Attitude team at times have had to challenge systems and have been threatened with legal action. The resulting program has been a quality piece of work, inspiring and provoking viewers to action.

I would like to recommend and support the work of the "Attitude" team.



Paul Gibson
Disability Rights Commissioner/ Kaihautū Tika Hauātanga