

Ms Katharine Annear¹

¹Flinders University



TITLE: #CripArmy - Responding to the 21st century challenge posed by the charitable model of disability in neoliberal Australia and beyond.

Author/s: Katharine Annear

Affiliation/s: Flinders University of South Australia

You Don't Get Proud by Being Shit is the name of the facebook group for disabled people who coalesced to respond the TEDX Sydney campaign #StellasChallenge - an ill-informed campaign in the memory of the late Stella Young . This group, whose members are also dubbed the #CripArmy, has become a concentrated space not only to plan a this specific response but a place from which to challenge subsequent campaigns like #Steptember #bubblebathchallenge & #silentselfie. These campaigns continue to emerge despite activist's long standing challenge to the charitable discourse surrounding disability. I argue that charities continue to utilise these approaches because of a 'tightening of the belt' in our neoliberal economies and the ease at which campaigns like the #icebucketchallenge were proliferated via social media. Recent #CripArmy successes can be analysed to further build a picture of how social media can be utilised to challenge dominant discourses and to open up dialogue between disabled people and the charities that raise money on their behalf.