

# STORIES OF IMPACT AND RESILIENCE

FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

*Sharing lived experiences gives planners and policy makers valuable insights into the needs of those impacted by their decisions.*

I'm a father and a carer to our son Mathew. He was born with multiple impairments.

## BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

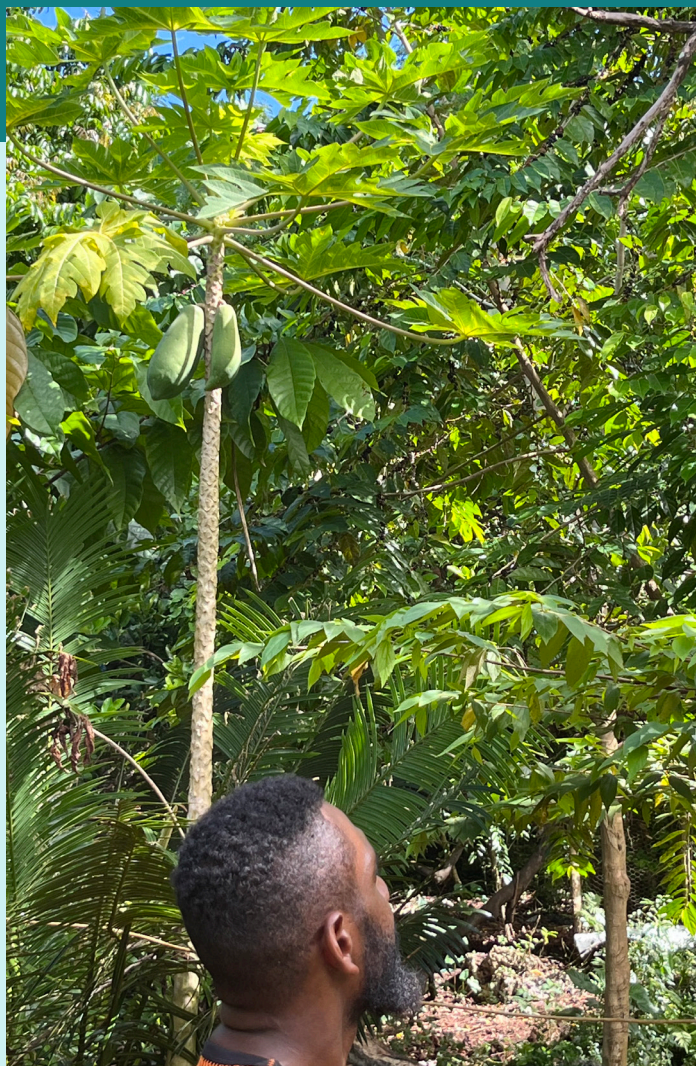
Before the pandemic it was easy to access the local market and grocery shops. Prices were low, at home everything ran as normal, every evening my wife prepared evening meals for the kava bar customers, she made really good money out of it. We had enough to share with our relatives and neighbours. My wife and I made sure that Mathew was provided with all he needed to stay healthy and happy.

## DURING THE PANDEMIC

During the pandemic local farmers were not allowed to sell their crops at the main market. The Ministry of Health advised everybody to stay home. Most grocery shops closed their doors. We could not sell any kava or meals – so our income stopped. This made life harder than expected.

We had to adjust our life, especially with Mathew's condition. We ate a lot of fruit that we grew, and we got some assistance from the local member of parliament, who provided families with 9kg of rice.

## RON P, VANUATU



During the pandemic I helped to collect firewood and distribute it across the village for cooking and boiling water.

## AFTER THE PANDEMIC

Since the pandemic life has returned to normal but it is still difficult – our road market and kava stall is not as good as it used to be because people are still not moving around much, so we have fewer customers than we used to have.

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