

# Jesse Johnson

LIVED EXPERIENCE: Disability, Acquired Brain Injury (Stroke)



*In 2018, at only 25 years old, Jesse suffered a severe stroke because of a ruptured AVM (Arteriovenous malformation) and was left in a coma on life support. During his recovery Jesse had a tracheostomy (meaning he was non-verbal) and fed via a PEG tube. He spent 6 months in rehabilitation to improve his nutrition after extreme weight loss, learn how to stand, move, walk, swallow and improve his motor function and speech. Still in weekly rehabilitation, Jesse is navigating the ways of life as someone with a disability due to acquired brain injury (ABI), and accesses NDIS support. His insights through his experiences in health care and outside of hospital, as well as his perspective as a young man in the LGBTQIA+ community, are very valuable to organisations. Jesse hopes to continue to improve his own capabilities through his rehabilitation, whilst improving the health, education, social and housing systems to better adapt for people with disability and ABI.*

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Got his licence back after numerous OT driving hours, while learning to use car modifications to suit his disability
- Getting accepted into university, after a major stroke
- Weaned off a tracheostomy tube and Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG)
- Re-learning gait training, this is still currently an ongoing experience.

## KEY INFORMATION

Place of Birth: Adelaide, SA, Australia  
 Current location: Adelaide, South Australia  
 Age: 28 years (1993)  
 Language/s: English only  
 LGBTQIA+: Yes  
 NDIS Participant: Yes  
 Diagnoses: Severe stroke due to AVM rupture (2018)  
 Healthcare Access: Primary Health Care, Mental Health, Allied Health, Secondary and Tertiary care

## LINKS

- ['Man, 26, was given an hour to live after suffering stroke in shower'](#) - Metro UK News
- ['Jesse Johnson of Victor Harbor overcomes the many hurdles'](#) - Victor Harbor Times
- ['Healthy Twenty-Six Year Old Took Days To Blink After Being Struck Down By A Stroke'](#) - Media Drum World