



Olivia Hargroder lives, works and studies in Brisbane. She loves public speaking and the performing arts, having been seduced by the spotlight in her first dance concert as a toddler.

She has studied with NIDA Open Young Actor's Studio and holds a Cert IV in Acting for Stage and Screen with The Canberra Academy of Dramatic Arts-Perform Australia.

Whilst undertaking an Open University course on child development and work experience in childcare, she became aware of a disparity between 'best practice' and 'actual practice' when it came to service delivery for children with Down syndrome. She has been keen to make people aware of her unique perspective and is passionate about improving outcomes for other people with disabilities. She speaks regularly at events to share her views on opportunities for people with Down syndrome.



In March 2017 she was invited to address the United Nations in New York, on *World Down Syndrome Day*. Her speech went live to a worldwide TV audience and has been shared extensively online. During her time at the UN her eyes were opened to the plight of babies born with Down syndrome in some countries. She was also impressed by the amount of positive support there was to include athletes with Down syndrome in the Paralympics. She saw this as a way to promote the profile of Down syndrome and has started her own Change.org petition. She has support from Minister Greg Hunt, Dame Quentin Bryce, Olympic diving legend Greg Louganis and (more importantly according to Olivia), Harry and Niall from One Direction!

Olivia has appeared on TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and podiums across the world. In 2017 she was announced as a finalist in The Young Australian of the Year Awards. She became the 2018 Moreton Bay Young Citizen of the Year and has represented the Premier across central Queensland as an Australia Day Ambassador and as a Queensland Day Ambassador.

Olivia is an engaging, entertaining and eloquent speaker who confronts reflex attitudes to Down syndrome and challenges the current classification model. She is a tireless worker for change, equity, and opportunity. She is living proof of what can be achieved when these are made available.



### Education

Holy Family Primary School Indooroopilly Grades 1-6

Southern Cross Catholic College, Scarborough Grade 7-Completion of Grade 12 Nov 2017

Member of Theatre Sports Team

Member of SCCC Eisteddfod Dance ensemble

Studies Piano and Guitar

Singing, acting and dance tuition age 4-current – accomplished in contemporary and hip hop

NIDA Open Courses:    -Acting Boot Camp October 2015, January 2016, July 2016  
                              -Auditions and Screen Tests, April 2017  
                              -Farce and Furious, July 2017  
                              -Young Actor's Studio Jan- Dec 2018  
                              -Screen Acting, Jan- Covid 19 2020

Brisbane Clown workshop 2017 -Laura Trenerry  
Advanced Clown workshop 2019 – Laura Trenerry

Drama Works Brisbane -Cert IV in Acting for Stage and Screen through Canberra Academy of Dramatic Arts/  
Perform Australia Feb - Dec 2019

#### Further Education Certificates

Certificate II in Retail Services -TAFE Queensland June 2018

#### Employment and Appointments

Team Member Coles Redcliffe - September 2016- current  
Assistant Coach SCCC Theatresports Team 2016-2017  
Board Appointment: The Queensland Down Syndrome Advisory Network 2017- current  
Entertainment Team Member Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Athletes Village. March-April 2018  
National Australia Day Ambassador for Queensland 2019 and 2020  
Queensland Day Ambassador 2019 and 2020

#### Speaking Engagement Highlights

March 2016 *DSQ Education Conference* Brisbane Convention Centre  
March 2017 *World Down Syndrome Day Conference* United Nations Headquarters, New York  
April 2017 Guest Speaker *Catholic Education Brisbane Training Event*  
May 2017 Guest Speaker *Scouting Australia AGM*  
May 2017 Speaker and Panel Member at *Powerhouse of Leaders* Brisbane Powerhouse  
September 2017 Guest Speaker *Down Syndrome Swimming Australia Annual Dinner*- Geelong  
October 2017 Guest Speaker ROPE AGM, Redcliffe  
October 2017 Guest Speaker and Panel Member *Power To Go Conference*, Caloundra  
March 2018 Studio Guest ABC Radio Brisbane, World Down Syndrome Day  
March 2018 Guest Speaker *Endless Possibilities National Education Conference*, BCEC Brisbane  
April 2018 Guest speaker *Women of the World Conference*, Brisbane Powerhouse  
July 2018 Guest Speaker World Down Syndrome Conference, *Glasgow, Scotland*  
*January 2019 Guest Speaker Barcaldine Shire Australia Day Presentation*  
*March 2019 Diverse Learners conference, Victoria Park, Brisbane*  
*January 2020, Guest Speaker Somerset Regional Council Australia Day Presentation*  
*March 2020 Keynote Speaker, Australian Inclusive Schooling Conference, BCEC Brisbane*

#### Stage and Screen Credits

July 2019 Short film *Redeem with Dramaworks Academy*  
August 2019 Played *Brack in I Hate Hedda*- Queensland One Act Play Festival  
June 2020 Juiced TV Live cross to *Carmit Bachar from Pussycat Dolls*  
September 2020 TV Commercial Qld Government *Stand By Me*  
September 2020 'See Me for Who I Am' All Abilities Short Film Festival Documentary Category - starred and co-produced with *Citrine Sun Entertainment*  
Oct/Nov 2020 *Assembly* La Boite Theatre Company

## Awards

National Council of Women of Queensland 2019 Boyce Bursary Award  
Qld One Act Play Festival 2019 Highly Commended -role of *Brack* in '*I Hate Hedda*' Ipswich Little Theatre  
Qld Government Australia Day Ambassador 2019  
Juiced TV 2018 Awards- The Sass Award  
Young Australian of the Year 2018 Queensland Finalist  
Moreton Bay Young Citizen of the Year -Australia Day Awards 2018  
National Team Member of the Year 2018 Runner-up -Coles Supermarkets Australia  
Unicorn Award -Presented by the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games to the most valued volunteer in the GCCG 2018 Athletes Village  
Trainee of the Year SCCC 2017  
Living The Mission Award SCCC 2017

## Sporting Achievements

Swimming- Freestyle, Butterfly and Backstroke

2012 State Rep- Junior National Special Olympic Games, Newcastle: 1Gold, 1Bronze

2017 State Rep - Special Olympic State Games: 1Bronze, 1Silver, 1Gold

2018 State Rep- National Special Olympic Games, Adelaide: 1Gold, 1Silver

2019 Down Syndrome Swimming National Championships 2 Silver 1 Bronze

Equestrian

Dressage Trot B Champion -Special Olympics 2010

YouTube:

**2019 Queensland Day long form**

[https://youtu.be/\\_Or2VDGQ08k](https://youtu.be/_Or2VDGQ08k)

**2019 Queensland Day - Olivia Hargroder**

<https://youtu.be/wAwQws6XkC0>

**Redeem: Short film:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QaYeptbtCI>

**Juiced TV:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QiTWQY2MEss>

From 15:54

