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### **Disability, Democracy & Listening**

In recent decades there has been concern with the importance of giving voice to people with disability. This emphasis within disability movements and scholarship has significant emancipatory potential, given the extent to which the perspectives and knowledge of people with disability have been marginalized by professionals and public institutions (Newell 2006). There are also, however, important limitations with the politics of voice. Most notably, it places responsibility for “speaking up” or “speaking back” to social structures on people with disability. This paper seeks to shift the onus of responsibility for change to incorporate the disabling institutions, cultural norms and practices that shape whose voices can be heard at the intersection of disability and democracy.