

# Lions and advocacy of disabled people

Presentation of 10 October 2015

9:00 – 10.30

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This contribution aimed at making Lions more aware of a topic that is rarely addressed but might affect at some stage any of us or our families.

The issue of disability is becoming a more pressing matter, due to the following factors:

1. Ever increasing life expectancy → ageing population
2. Break-up of traditional family structures
3. Growing number of people with an addiction (alcohol, illegal drugs and increasingly also gambling addiction)

These are among the primary reasons why many people are no longer in a position to earn a living and look after themselves.

Old people often find little support within their families, as increased mobility has led to a situation where relatives live far away from each other. They are therefore dependent on aid and support from others.

This also applies to addicts, whereby gambling addiction has become a real problem lately, due to the rapidly growing number of people affected by it.

These groups are also relying fully or partly on assistance provided by people and organisations outside their families.

They are often assigned social workers or carers.

What can Lions do to help?

For Mr. Ferraretti, "We serve" means that Lions must not stay immune to these problems in our society.

As is already the case in many places in Italy, Lions organisations should find people among their members who would be willing to take on the job of a "carer", enabling people to gradually return to a normal life so that they can again look after themselves.