## Athletes Profile





## **Beverly Chin Lai Yen**

Athlete - F

Age: 30 / Chinese - SO Selangor

Sport - Bowling

Event 1 - Women's Singles

Event 2 - Unified Sports\* Double

Event 3 – Team of Four



Beverly, a young woman with dyslexia and learning difficulties, faced challenges from a young age. Her mother, Doris, noticed that Beverly was different and struggled with crying excessively. At the age of two, Beverly received speech therapy and was later diagnosed as short-sighted. Despite early interventions, Beverly continued to struggle and was eventually withdrawn from mainstream preschool. She started homeschooling but faced difficulties in making friends and fell behind academically.

Recognizing the need for Beverly to gain life skills and independence, Doris arranged for her to attend a training center. Beverly's limited cognitive capacities to understand social interactions with strangers highlighted the need for guidance and support. Nevertheless, her achievements and hard work in preparing for the World Games have had a positive impact on her and her family. Beverly's increased stability and participation in household chores have been noticed, and she has shown dedication and leadership skills.

Doris expressed her wish for Beverly to have as much independence as possible and be self-reliant. Beverly's impressive verbal skills and determination in memorizing speech lines have been recognized, and she has shown interest in coaching the Young Athletes Program. The Special Olympics Malaysia Pilot Centre of Excellence training, including the Athletes Leadership Program, is expected to enhance her skills and personal growth.

Creating safer communities and addressing concerns regarding abuse and exploitation is a priority for parents of special needs children, especially girls. It is



crucial to help children understand acceptable and unacceptable behavior and teach them about physical and sexual boundaries. Access to sexuality education is unfortunately limited for many special needs children, highlighting the need for knowledge and skills to handle such situations.

Overall, Beverly's journey showcases her resilience and determination to overcome challenges. With continued support and opportunities, she is expected to make significant strides and embrace exciting possibilities in the future.