NSW DISABILITY NETWORK FORUM

UPDATE DECEMBER 2011

Initiated in June 2011, the **NSW Disability Network Forum** comprises non-government, non-provider peak representative groups whose primary aim is to promote the interests of people with disability. The aim of the **NSW Disability Network Forum** is to provide a new avenue to build capacity within and across all organisations and groups so that the interests of people with disability are advanced through policy and systemic advocacy.

The November meeting of the Forum was packed with information and presentations. First up was a report on the Joint meeting of Representative and Advocacy organisations for People with Disabilities in Canberra on 22 November. At this joint meeting, the NSW Disability Network Forum was represented by NCOSS, who provided feedback on the worthwhile and intense meeting. The National Disability Insurance Scheme was discussed in detail, its planned participatory and consultative mechanisms for people with disabilities, its inclusion of all people and the projected implementation assessed against the proposed non-negotiable elements required by people with disability. Senator McLucas presented on consultation processes for the national Disability Strategy. This meeting resolved to convene a number of working groups to progress priority issues between national joint meetings.

The NSW Disability Network Forum received presentations from Department Family & Community Services, Ageing Disability and Home Care (ADHC). The first presentation involved the National Disability Strategy. See http://www.facs.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/Pages/nds.aspx ADHC provided detailed information on the National Disability Strategy (NDS), explaining about the development of an NDS Implementation Plan which, after input from states and territories, will go to COAG in February for sign off. Additionally, each state and territory will be expected to develop a jurisdictional implementation plan in response to the NDS. ADHC approached the NSW Disability Network Forum for real and practical ideas on how to kick off the NSW implementation plan.

ADHC has released the Sector Planning Framework Policy (see http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/planning_and_service_delivery). After a detailed presentation, the Disability Network Forum engaged in robust discussion on how this Policy relates to the roll out of the person-centred approach for people with disability, the role of service providers and the definition of local community. The Forum wanted more time to consider the Policy and Guidelines and referred this for further discussion next year.

The NSW Disability Network Forum received packs for the week of action of the Every Australian Counts Campaign for a National Disability Insurance Scheme and decided to request alternate formats for signing up on the website.

The NSW Disability Network Forum will be convening a working group in December to meet feedback deadlines. The NSW Disability Network Forum meetings in 2012 will be bi-monthly.

Happy Festive Season to all from the NSW Disability Network Forum…..

NCOSS

*The **NSW Disability Network Forum** can be contacted through the NCOSS secretariat Christine Regan chris@ncoss.org.au ph 92112599 ext 117 or Val Kors (Wed – Fri) val@ncoss.org.au ph 92112599 ext 123*