

NSW DISABILITY NETWORK FORUM

This Update is designed to provide information on the activities of the NSW Disability Network Forum (DNF). Updates are produced regularly after scheduled DNF meetings. Contact the DNF through the NCOSS secretariat at the contact details listed below.

October

Presentation: Issues in Community Transport — Kate Toohey, Sector Development Manager, Community Transport Organisation (CTO)

Community Transport and the NDIS

- With the roll out of the NDIS, funding that Community Transport Service Providers (CTSPs) currently receive from ADHC will be transferred to the NDIA. Funding for transport disadvantaged communities will continue to be provided by Transport for NSW.
- There is concern that NDIS transport funding is adequate for people's transport needs. This is particularly the case in relation to community transport, because people will be charged (through their NDIS package) the full rate of their trip, when they are used to paying a small contribution.
- People with a disability ineligible for the NDIS will still be able to access community transport through other funding streams of CTSPs.

Members agreed to think about ways to jointly advocate with CTO on these issues.

December

Presentation: Mr Alastair McEwin, Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission, speaking on his priorities and key areas of business

Commissioner McEwin outlined the five priorities of his term, namely:

- Employment - particularly implementing the recommendations in the Australian Law Reform Commission's [Willing to Work](#) report
- Education
- Housing
- The criminal justice system
- Implementation of the NDIS

During the consultations, violence against people with disability (particularly women and children) has emerged as another key issue requiring attention.

Commissioner McEwin informed the group that he is currently undertaking a round of national and regional consultations to shape these priorities. [More information and updates on the consultation process can be found here.](#)

The group discussed issues of concern, including the National Disability Strategy and funding for advocacy. Commissioner McEwin acknowledged the importance of systemic advocacy.

NSW DISABILITY NETWORK FORUM

Discussion of ILC Framework and Program Guidelines

Carolyn discussed the main features of the ILC Framework and Program Guidelines. [These documents are available by clicking on the link.](#)

The ILC Framework clarifies the activities that would not be funded by the ILC, including systemic advocacy and policy advice. This highlighted the increased urgency of working to ensure these activities were funded in NSW.

Members agreed to write t continue to investigate ways to ensure systemic advocacy remained in place to assist people with disability.

Skilled to Thrive-Project

Carolyn outlined the Skilled to Thrive Project, that will work to build the organisational capacity of the 43 organisations funded by ADHC under the Advocacy and Information (A&I) stream. An action research project is also being conducted as part of the broader project, in partnership with UNSW to test models of supported decision-making.

Carolyn introduced Natalie Bishop, Skilled to Thrive Project Coordinator at NCOSS. Natalie explained that she had commenced in August and was currently completing a needs analysis of the 43 organisations based on results of an online survey conducted in October. The needs analysis would inform capacity building activates, to be rolled out from approximately March 2017 onwards.

Other business

The group approved a letter to be submitted to the review of the National Mental Health Plan. The letter endorsed NSWCID's submission to the process, expressing concern that there was no mention of people with intellectual disability in the draft National Mental Health Plan. [The letter is available via this link.](#)

[The DNF response to Question Paper 1 of the Guardianship Act review can be accessed via this link.](#)

NSW DISABILITY NETWORK FORUM

About the NSW Disability Network Forum

The NSW Disability Network Forum comprises non-government, non-provider peak representative, advocacy and information groups whose primary purpose is to promote the interests of people with disability. The aim of the DNF is to build capacity so that the interests of people with disability are advanced through policy and systemic advocacy.

NSW Disability Network Forum Member Organisations:

- Being Mental Health and Wellbeing Consumer Advisory Group
- Blind Citizens NSW
- Deaf Australia NSW
- DeafBlind Association NSW
- Deafness Council (NSW)
- First Peoples Disability Network
- Information on Disability and Education Awareness Services (IDEAS) NSW
- Institute for Family Advocacy
- Intellectual Disability Rights Service
- Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW
- NSW Council for Intellectual Disability
- NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS)
- NSW Disability Advocacy Network
- People with Disability Australia
- Physical Disability Council of NSW
- Positive Life NSW
- Side by Side Advocacy Incorporated
- Self Advocacy Sydney
- Synapse (Brain Injury Association NSW)