

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.

Discussion about response from Minister for Education to letter 29 January 2015

Minister Piccoli's response provided details of the Department's activities related to Smart and Skilled and the support provided to students with disability under the program. The DNF discussed the need to gain more information from Minister Piccoli on particular steps the Department is making to meet its obligations under the NSW Disability Inclusion Plan.

NDIS implementation update and post-election wrap up

Members noted that the Premier's announcement about the rollout of the NDIS in Penrith and the Blue Mountains included the availability of Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) services from 1 July and packages from 1 September 2015 (for people under the age of 18). It was hoped that advocacy, within and beyond the ILC framework would be discussed at the COAG Disability Reform Council meeting on 24 April 2015.

Update: The Disability Reform Council communique can be found [here](#).

Delegation to address the Disability Council

Members chose representatives to address the Disability Council of NSW at its meeting on 26 May 2015 on the importance of independent information, representation and advocacy services in NSW.

Action: Ace Boncato, Andrew Wiltshire, Serena Ovens and either Tracy Howe or Carolyn Hodge from NCOSS will attend the meeting on 26 May.

NDIS Quality and Safeguards discussion

Members discussed key issues in the NDIA discussion paper, ensuring balancing choice and quality and safeguards in provider registration and selection, and restrictive practices.

The DNF Submission to the Quality and Safeguards Framework can be found here:

<https://engage.dss.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/15.04.29-DNF-submission-quality-and-safeguards-final.pdf>

Guest speaker Leonie King, Executive Director, Service Delivery Programs (FACS)

Ms King explained the Transfer Unit in Treasury is now responsible for the transfer of disability services to the non-government sector, including timelines and approach. Members discussed issues related to the transfer of group homes, including how the asset base could impact on service costs and ultimately client's packages. The importance of separating services and accommodation in the market was discussed by DNF members.

NSW DISABILITY NETWORK FORUM

Strategic planning session in May

The DNF conducted a strategic planning session at its meeting on 5 May 2015.

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:

Aboriginal Disability Network NSW	Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW
Association of Blind Citizens of NSW	NSW Consumer Advisory Group - Mental Health
Brain Injury Association NSW	NSW Council for Intellectual Disability
Deaf Australia NSW	NSW Disability Advocacy Network
Deaf Society of NSW	People with Disability Australia
DeafBlind Association NSW	Physical Disability Council of NSW
Deafness Council (NSW)	Positive Life NSW
Information on Disability and Education Awareness Services	Self Advocacy Sydney
Institute For Family Advocacy	Side By Side Advocacy Incorporated
Intellectual Disability Rights Service	Council of Social Service of NSW