

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.

September

DNF Housing Event planning

Members discussed the parameters of the housing event to be held by the DNF. It was decided that the event should highlight to decision makers that people with disability want real choice in their accommodation, and present 'visionary' innovative solutions beyond what is currently on offer.

Key elements of the event which were agreed upon include:

- **Key elements of the vision of housing for people with disability:**
An overview where speaker should set the scene, outlining current housing policy in NSW and the DNF vision for choice in housing options, which are all unattached to service provision. The opening should also mention the importance of consultation with people with disability taking place before solutions are developed.
- **Consumer Panel – Where do you live and what makes it work for you?**
Q&A Panel session about good housing options, featuring people with a range of disability discussing their varied housing experiences.

Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Framework

Ya'el discussed he recently released Framework and how it responded to the points raised in the DNF submission to the discussion paper. A major concern is that there is no information about the operationalisation of the Framework, leaving it unclear how it will work in practice, what will be funded or how organisations apply for funding under the Framework. Some detail on implementation is needed.

Members agreed a guest speaker should be invited to the next meeting to talk about the ILC Framework.

NCOSS Disability Inclusion Fund Proposal

Carolyn discussed the NCOSS proposal for a \$5 million Disability Inclusion Fund, which would allow organisations to design projects that foster inclusion and align activities within Departments to their Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

The Fund will facilitate partnerships between the NSW Government and people with disability and their representatives to deliver programs that boost mainstream services' capacity to respond proactively to the needs of people with disability. Activities should also be aimed at improving access for people with disability to mainstream services delivered by the NSW Government, such as Education, Health, Justice, Child Protection, Domestic Violence and others.

NSW Inclusion Planning Update

Members discussed their attendance at disability inclusion action planning workshops.

Contact the **NSW Disability Network Forum** through the NCOSS secretariat

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NSW DISABILITY NETWORK FORUM

NCOSS Pre-Budget Submission – What people are saying about disability?

Ya'el discussed the main themes of the PBS consultations. Those were;

- Services for people not covered by NDIS; who will be left out?
- Greater focus on the National Disability Strategy
- The intersection of disability and mainstream services;
 - The need for accessible transport and the subsidy scheme; suggestion of \$2.50 taxi fare for people with disability;
 - Domestic violence refuges not being accessible;
- Rural and remote areas don't have enough choices in terms of their services.

October

Beyond Accommodation: Housing that works for people with disability

Event planning progress

Carolyn explained that the idea behind the event is to broaden the number of decision makers who are aware of disability and access issues beyond the usual FACS and Disability contributors. Consequently, decision makers in Planning, Finance and Treasury (for example) are to be included as invitees. This is also the reason for inviting the Minister of Planning to open the event.

While there are a number of other Housing forums and events, the intent is for this event to provide something different, exposing other relevant decision makers to disability and access issues in housing, and the views and experiences of people with disability. It is important to try to impart this understanding before decisions are made around the parameters of housing infrastructure for people with disability.

KPMG has kindly donated a (fully accessible) room for the event.

Launch of the NDIS NSW Website

Members had a discussion about the newly launched [NSW NDIS website](#), which is now live, and had been circulated to the group. Members were positive about the site, but questioned whether enough consultation had taken place in the development of the resources, and whether feedback had been appropriately incorporated.

Guest Speaker: Nick Chiam, Director, Community Development Authority, NDIA

Key points covered on the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Framework include:

- ILC is intended to be an enabling support, operating as part of the broader access and inclusion framework. It is not intended to replace existing responsibilities of jurisdictions.
- There is a danger that ILC is considered to be a 'fix-all' that fills all gaps and does everything, which is an issue that will need to be addressed through the implementation process.

NSW DISABILITY NETWORK FORUM

- A key benefit of ILC in the advocacy space will be in the widespread national collection, sharing and collation of comprehensive and comparative data relating to services and outcomes. This information is currently only available on an organisational, regional or local basis. Systemic advocacy will not be covered within the ILC.
- The ILC Commissioning Framework would be outcomes based and would seek to describe what the future state of the ILC will be and who will be involved. The Commissioning Framework will be released by the end of the year. Members expressed disquiet about the inaccessibility of the co-design workshops to design the Commissioning Framework, particularly for people with intellectual disability, or from rural and regional areas.

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