

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.

February

Presentation by Brian Woods and Alan Roberts (on behalf of Rochelle Waterhouse), NDIS National Design & Transition, FACS

Quality and Safeguards

Consultation on the drafting of the Quality and Safeguards Framework is being undertaken. The intention is for the safeguards to strike a balance between being nationally consistent, and flexible and responsive to local and individual circumstances. During transition to implementation of the NDIS, the current NSW safeguards has remained in place in the Hunter trial site, with some minor changes made in response to information received during implementation of the Hunter, and Nepean/Blue Mountains sites.

ILC

The ILC Commissioning Framework was released on 18 December 2015. This Framework relates to how the ILC will operate in full scheme (2019/20), rather than the transition period.

The speakers informed the group that NSW intends to fund specific interim activities during the transition, which are aimed at improving community engagement and capacity building. The NSW investment will phase out as the NDIA investment increases, but NSW will attempt to fund services during the transition period, until the funding is required to resource individual packages (Year 3 onwards).

The NDIA is undertaking a round of ILC related consultations around the country, with at least one in each capital city, plus one regional site in NSW to be determined. They will be sending specific invites to any ILC related organisation (an organisation currently undertaking ILC type activities). These consultations will be open to the public.

Operational Plan for transition to full implementation of NDIS in NSW

Brian noted that a lot of work had been done over recent years in NSW and the desire was for the transition process to ensure that this was taken account of, and that the NDIA could build on the progress already made.

Members discussed the streamlined process for transition to the NDIS, whereby anyone who has been within the ADHC system within a defined time period would have automatically satisfied the disability requirement of eligibility. Approximately 50 000 people are expected to be 'deemed' to have a disability in this way. Specific strategies will be used enable Aboriginal and CALD people with disability, to overcome disadvantage faced through not having previously used services.

Pleasingly, the transition process is currently operating at or below the actuarial projections in the bilateral agreement.

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Housing

Ya'el reiterated a summary of the DNF housing event, attended by over 50 people across the housing and disability sectors, and receiving ongoing positive feedback, including from the Housing Director, NDIA. [The submission informed by the event is available here.](#)

Members discussed their attendance at the consultation on the NDIA's Specialist Accommodation Framework. The major focus of the consultation was around how the formula for the price of supported accommodation assistance would be determined. A formula dividing the cost of dwelling by number of occupants seeming to be favoured, with the concerning implication of congregate living. While this model was well received by some potential providers, it was heartening that many others were keen to expand beyond these limited 'group' models. There was an indication that Phase 2 of the Specialist Accommodation Framework would have greater scope for more innovative approaches (for example shared equity), subsequent to the price method being set on July 1.

Members discussed the possibility of doing a follow-up to the housing event targeted at community housing providers.

Current process and updates/DNF priorities

Members discussed developing common positions for upcoming inquiries such as the ILC Framework and the Senate inquiry into Accommodation for people with disability and the NDIS. The group brainstormed suggested speaker for 2016 DNF meetings.

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
Association of Blind Citizens of NSW

Brain Injury Association NSW
Deaf Australia NSW
Deaf Society of NSW
DeafBlind Association NSW
Deafness Council (NSW)
Information on Disability and Education
Awareness Services
Institute For Family Advocacy
Intellectual Disability Rights Service

Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW
BEING Mental Health and Wellbeing Consumer
Advisory Group
NSW Council for Intellectual Disability
NSW Disability Advocacy Network
People with Disability Australia
Physical Disability Council of NSW
Positive Life NSW
Self Advocacy Sydney
Side By Side Advocacy Incorporated
Council of Social Service of NSW