

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.

In March and April, members had in-depth discussions about submissions to be made by the group. These submissions are outlined below.

Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Commission Framework

[The DNF submission is available here.](#)

The main points raised in the submission included:

- Outcomes and outputs in the Commissioning Framework need to be operationised, giving services guidance about how to achieve them. Outcomes and outputs also need to be written from the perspective of the person with disability, and be specific and measurable.
- There is a need to ensure the ILC delivers for cohorts who would otherwise miss out. In relation to Aboriginal and CALD organisations, there is a need to assist organisations with expertise to 'scale up', while still maintaining a variety of services so that choice and control was facilitated. "People on the fringe", deafblind people and people with mental illness were discussed as specific cohorts.
- Funding periods should be matched to the aim an organisation is trying to achieve. For example, over two years, peer supports may only be beginning to achieve results.
- In terms of training for outcomes measurement, it would be helpful to outline the NDIA's expectations by using a hypothetical example to demonstrate what evidence would be needed at each stage of the process of outcomes measurement (including the acquittal process). The NDIA could also provide a technical support function for the first two years of transition.
- Independent information, disability support organisations and well supported volunteers are crucial strategies to retain and grow social capital.
- It is important that the ILC sourcing process emphasise collaboration, and an organisation's knowledge of the local community.

Review of Guardianship Act 1987

[The DNF submission is available here.](#)

The submission argues that the review presents an important opportunity to align NSW guardianship legislation with person centered, rights-based developments occurring in relation to people with

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disability at the international, Commonwealth and State levels, including the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)*. The submission comments on the Terms of Reference using a human rights based approach.

Response to the Specialist Disability Accommodation Position Paper on Draft Pricing and Payments

Following on from its [response to Specialist Disability Accommodation Pricing and Payments Framework](#), the DNF is pleased that the position statement incorporates; a clear statement supporting the separation of housing and support; an emphasis on people with disability living in smaller groups and incentives to stimulate investment in the Specialist Disability Accommodation market.

[The DNF response to the position paper](#) highlights the importance of the NDIS creating incentives for people to live in the community with a mix of formal and informal supports, for example by funding a rent subsidy for a house sharer. This approach is cost effective for the NDIS and improves the quality of life of the person with disability.

Independent Information Representation and Advocacy Campaign

a. Update

Carolyn discussed the progress of the NCOSS proposal of a \$5 million Disability Inclusion Fund. Decision-makers have been interested in the proposal, however it needs to be understood in relation to the responsibility of individual agencies to meet their responsibilities under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)* by creating a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP).

A [register of DIAPs](#) was provided on the website of Disability Council of NSW.

Carolyn suggested that members study the DIAPs and create projects which would assist Departments to achieve outcomes in the DIAPs. This would ensure that activities are targeted towards areas of interest for the Departments.

b. Report back from Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA) Advocacy Summit

Members who had attended gave an overview of the themes discussed at the Summit. [Slides from the summit are available here.](#)

Consultations around the review of the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) will take place June this year. State based organisations and organisations not currently receiving NDAP funding are encouraged to participate,

c. Advocacy event

Members discussed the possibility of holding an expo to promote the value of advocacy. For example, an event might showcase the importance of advocacy, the role played by DNF members and have decision-makers reflect on the importance of advocacy. The event should be targeted at those writing DIAPs, to show how they can be assisted by advocacy organisations.

Members are forming a working group to plan the event.

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Regularity of meetings

Members decided that DNF would now be held bi-monthly, in accordance with the [DNF Terms of Reference](#).

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)