



Physical Disability Council of NSW
Ordinary People Ordinary Lives

ANNUAL REPORT

2011/12

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

To ensure the rights of people with disability are realised, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted in December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters and was opened for signature on 30 March 2007. There were 82 signatories of the convention on that day, including Australia.

A principal role of the CRPD is to demonstrate how traditional rights are to be applied in respect of people with disability. Australia ratified the Convention in July 2008 and has therefore joined other countries around the world in a global effort to promote the equal and active participation of all people with disability in society and community life. These are identified in the Articles of the Convention.

The work of PDCN in 2011-2012 has contributed to this work and responsibility, within the objects of PDCN's Constitution, including.

Object One:

To educate, inform and assist people with physical disabilities in NSW about the range of services, structures and programs available.

Article 9:
Accessibility

Article 21:
Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

Object Two:

To develop the capacity of people with physical disability in NSW to advocate for themselves

Article 11:
Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

Article 21:
Freedom of expression and opinion

Article 24:
Education

Object 3:

To educate and inform stakeholders about the needs of people with physical disabilities

Article 8:
Awareness-raising

Article 9:
Accessibility

Article 19:
Living independently and being included in the community

Article 20:
Personal mobility

Article 24:
Education

Article 25:
Health

Article 28:
Adequate standard of living and social protection

CONTRIBUTORS

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE WORK OF PDCN DURING 2011-12

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**Ageing, Disability and Home Care,
NSW Department of Human Services**
for financial support

St George Foundation
for a grant to develop and conduct a mentoring program
Mentors Matter

NRMA
for a grant to deliver 6 Emergency Preparedness Workshops,
across NSW

Council of the City of Sydney
for support through their Accommodation Grants program,
and a grant to distribute copies of the PDCN publication
Words Matter to high schools and libraries in the Sydney
Local Government Area

Community Care (Northern Beaches)
for financial support to deliver 5 Working with People with
Dementia and Physical Disability workshops

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Members of the Committee of Management
for their time and governance of the organisation. The
names and roles of Committee Members are identified in the
following section.

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Sophie Marmont, Ya'el Frisch and Victoria Pearce**
for their roles in the Mentors Matter program

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for work associated with policy review, Annual Report, and
submissions

Sara Coutinho
for catering assistance before and during the 2011 Annual
General Meeting

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for the layout of the 2010-2011 Annual Report, The Impact of
Ageing report and Mentors Matter artwork

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Helen Woodward**
for disability workshop presentations at RailCorp

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for his role in organising a workshop and community
consultation in Dubbo

Kevin Finlayson
for his role in organising a workshop in Penrith

Bill McKee
for his role as the Returning Officer for the 2011 Annual
General Meeting

Yasmin Fraser
for her work associated with office support

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

(as at 30.06.12)

Ann-Mason Furmage
President

Andrew Longhurst
Vice-President

Peter Simpson
Secretary and Treasurer

Kevin Finlayson
Public Officer

Ya'el Frisch
Member

Jenny Kapp
Member

Caroline Daley
Member

EMPLOYEES

Ruth Robinson
Executive Officer

Lachlan Hazelton
Communication and Education Officer

Jordana Goodman
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Alison Vella
Accounts and Membership Officer

Ben Williams
Assistant Policy Officer
(left the organisation in March 2012)

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Researcher

Jodie Were
Website design and support from 'Sanifu Designs'

IT team
Computer support from 'Bootstrap'

David Fearnley
Auditing services from 'DA Fearnley & Co'

Diana Orr
MYOB support

2011-2012 has been a proactive year, with significant achievements.

WE HAVE...

Strengthened the capacity of people with physical disability to have more control over their own lives:

- Received a grant to deliver six 'Emergency Readiness and Response' Workshops.
- Received a grant to again conduct a mentoring initiative 'Mentors Matter' for students with physical disability.

WE HAVE...

Strengthened the capacity of people who work with individuals who have physical disability:

- Received funding to conduct five workshops for people who work with individuals who have dementia and physical disability.
- Gave twice weekly presentation to RailCorp Train Crew and Station Staff.

WE HAVE...

Reflected person centred approaches in all of PDCN's work.

WE HAVE...

Made more specific use of volunteers in areas such as community development and community consultations.

WE HAVE...

Explored the impact of ageing on people with physical disability across NSW and have used the report, informed by the survey, in the work of PDCN.

We Have. We do.

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PHYSICAL DISABILITY COUNCIL OF NSW

ORGANISATION PROFILE

The Physical Disability Council of NSW is the peak body representing people with physical disabilities across New South Wales. PDCN is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation.

MEMBERSHIP

Individual membership of PDCN includes people with a range of physical disability issues, from young children and their representatives to aged people. Members live across New South Wales, from the Greater Sydney Metropolitan area to rural NSW, and are from a wide range of socioeconomic circumstances.

Organisational membership includes community organisations, human service providers and other organisations who have a commitment to people who have physical disability and to the work of PDCN.

GOAL

As an organisation we want to grow the financial and non-financial capacity of PDCN to represent people experiencing physical disability.

VISION

As people living with physical disability we strive to ensure that our human rights are protected, our equality of opportunity is assured and our full participation is a reality.

MISSION

Using a community development approach, we will...

- 1 Educate, inform and assist people experiencing physical disability to access services.
- 2 Develop the capacity of people living with physical disability to advocate for themselves.
- 3 Educate and inform stakeholders about the needs of people living with physical disability.

VALUES

As we implement our vision, we will be guided by our values...

Integrity
Inclusion
Independence
Commitment
Communication

CONTACT PDCN

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E: Admin@pdcnsw.org.au
F: (02) 9552 4644

National Relay Service
TTY users:
133 677 then ask
for (02) 9552 1606
Speak and Listen users:
1300 555 727 then ask
for (02) 9552-1606

REPORT

FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It is our pleasure to provide the annual report to you for the year 2011-2012. This has been a year when we have again built on developing strengths and sought new ways to meet the objectives of the organisation: as a peak body; within the strategic plan developed for 2011-2015; and also with consideration of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN,CRPD).

For the second consecutive year, PDCN has been successful in attracting financial grants and financial support from non-government sources. These have enabled PDCN to conduct specific projects that focused on the development of capacity for people with physical disability, and on educating and informing stakeholders about the needs of people with physical disability. The grants and support were received from: The St George Foundation; NRMA; RailCorp; the City of Sydney; Community Care (Northern Beaches). Each of these projects/initiatives are discussed later in this Report.

As with last year, the communications we have received from our formal and informal consultations have informed a sustained body of work on person centred planning and individualised funding for people with physical disability. The most consistent message we receive from people with physical disability from across the state is that they want to be in control of their lives: make their own plans and gain the consistent, reliable support that they identify as essential to enable them to be ordinary people living ordinary lives. PDCN has worked collaboratively and proactively to inform discussion for both the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and person centred planning and individual funding in NSW (in both disability services and HACC services).

PDCN conducted, and reported upon its second survey into the impact of ageing upon people with disability, and some of the early findings were part of a presentation at the 2011 Annual General Meeting. PDCN has continued to contribute to discussion, policy making, attitudes and education impacting on the lives of people with physical disability. The areas where we have maintained particular focus include: the impact of increasing electricity prices for people with physical disability; dementia and physical disability; and issues associated with access and inclusion. Further information is provided within the body of this report.

PDCN's work during 2011-2012 has been supplemented by an increase in the number of individuals who have provided their skills and expertise to the organisation, primarily on a voluntary basis. Their work has enabled PDCN to be more effectively involved in various strategies and initiatives, including a long term education initiative. Their professionalism and the standard of the work they have contributed has certainly enhanced the reputation of the organisation, and we thank them for their time, effort, enthusiasm, and professionalism.

Once again we thank the members of the Committee of Management for their work in the governance of the Physical Disability Council of NSW and for the time and effort they give to this vital role. We thank employees, and contractors who continue to assist in putting into action the PDCN vision through their skill, commitment, and plain old-fashioned hard work.



ANN-MASON FURMAGE

President



RUTH ROBINSON

Executive Officer

OBJECT 1

TO EDUCATE, INFORM AND ASSIST PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES IN NSW ABOUT THE RANGE OF SERVICES, STRUCTURES AND PROGRAMS AVAILABLE.

One of the objects of The Physical Disability Council of NSW (as identified in its Constitution) is to educate, inform and assist people with physical disabilities in NSW regarding the range of services, structures and programs available that enable their full participation, equality of opportunity and equality of citizenship. During 2011-2012 PDCN has continued to use a number of tools and strategies in relation to this objective.

E-BULLETINS

This is a resource and information service through which PDCN provides accurate, up-to-date, and timely information, comment and analysis on disability sector issues. It is also a tool to seek comment from people with disabilities to inform the work of PDCN. During the last year, 12 e-bulletins were sent. They included information about workshops, community consultations and research conducted by PDCN; information about and promoting opportunities to providing input into government initiatives (the National Disability Insurance scheme at a federal level, and Living Life My Way at a state level). Also included were issues impacting on people with physical disabilities including the effect of increasing electricity prices for people with physical disability.

E-MAIL DISCUSSION GROUP

During the year, the discussion group primarily provided a vehicle for sharing information between people with physical disability. Approximately three quarters (77%) of the discussion by group members was to share information about products and events. The use of the email discussion groups diminished each year over the last few years, as the use of other social media tools have increased (ie facebook and twitter) and through proactive management of the website.

EXPOS

PDCN provides information to people with physical disabilities by participating in Expos, by speaking and providing information to people, and by distributing PDCN Info bags. The Info bags contained copies of newsletters, publications, and brochures about the work of PDCN and other information (e.g. related to electricity). During 2011-2012 PDCN also participated in a Disability Expo at Central Railway Station

INFORMATION SERVICE (Figure 1)

During the 2011-2012 year PDCN provided an information service to people who contacted us. The requests were received by telephone, email and fax. The service operates from Monday to Friday, during business hours.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In February 2010 PDCN launched its Facebook page. It was considered that a Facebook presence would enable the organisation to use this social networking strategy to reach a broader group of people. PDCN's Facebook page contains information about workshops, community consultations, specific-issue consultations, and provides opportunities for interaction via discussion/comments.

PDCN built on its social networking initiatives by establishing a Twitter presence in May 2011. By the end of this financial year it has 22 followers.

NEWSLETTERS

During the year PDCN prepared and distributed four newsletters PDCN Live to its membership via email and post. It provided: information about new initiatives (e.g. the Supported Living Fund); detailed information regarding some of the work of PDCN (e.g. Survey about the impact of ageing for people with physical disability); invitations for people with disabilities to provide comment on particular issues to inform the work of PDCN (e.g. country train links) and an opportunity to promote PDCN initiatives (e.g. the Mentors Matter program, and Emergency Readiness and Response workshops). The newsletters were also made available on the PDCN website, distributed when PDCN gave presentations, and included in Info Bags at Expos and community consultations.

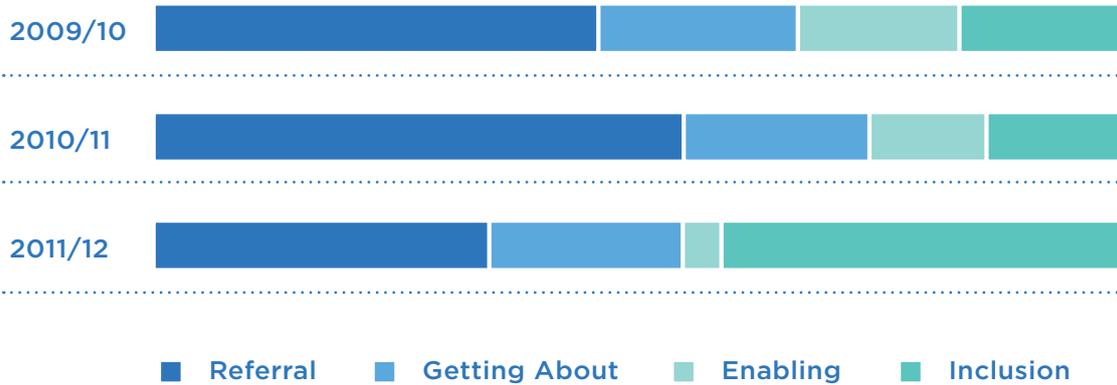
WEBSITE ACTIVITY (Figure 2)

The Website is an important tool of the organisation, and has W3C ranking for disability (as identified under the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines).

The Website contains information about services, structures and programs available and provides an opportunity for contribution to the work of PDCN via electronic surveys. The Website includes an education section for students and holds copies of materials prepared by PDCN including submissions and newsletters. During 2011-2012 the website received over a million hits. Within the publications section the area most visited was for the PDCN newsletter PDCN Live, and the most frequently areas in the online guide were for transport.

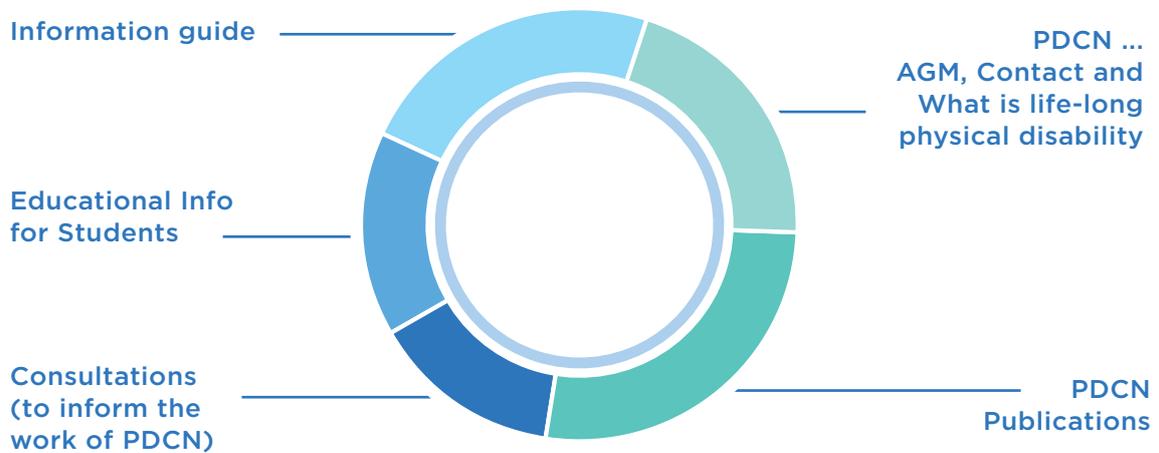
(Figure 1)

INFORMATION SERVICE



(Figure 2)

WEBSITE ACTIVITY



OBJECT 2

TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY OF PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITY IN NSW TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES.

CONSULTING WITH PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITY

The strategies PDCN used in 2011-2012 to ensure that the work of the organisation was informed by current state-wide information included: community consultations; specific issue consultations; and the PDCN Forum of Organisations.

Community Consultations

Each year PDCN conducts a number of Community Consultations in metropolitan, rural and regional New South Wales to help inform the work of the organisation. These are attended by people with a physical disability, providers of services, local government representatives and elected officials. Each consultation provides PDCN with valuable insight into the issues concerning people with physical disabilities in each of the geographic areas. During the 2011-2012 financial year Community Consultations were held in Charlestown, Tamworth, Bathurst and Dubbo.

Specific Issue Consultations

To ensure the input provided by PDCN to government and other stakeholders was informed by people with physical disability from across New South Wales, Specific Issue Consultations were conducted using a number of different avenues including: newsletters; e-bulletins, surveys, expo bags, targeted conversations with members, PDCN email discussion group and facilitated consultations by telephone conference link-up. Examples include bus usage, impact of increasing electricity prices, discrimination and country link train usage.

Forum of Organisations

PDCN holds two Forums each year with its organisational members. The purpose of these Forums is to provide a vehicle for PDCN to seek input from organisational members on issues relevant to PDCN, and to explore opportunities for joint partnerships and possibilities for collaborative work. For example, exploring the impact of increasing electricity prices for people with physical disability is an initiative by PDCN in partnership with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

WORKSHOPS:

'Getting Ready'

As part of the Physical Disability Council's policy to develop the individual capacities of people with physical disabilities, a workshop was developed in 2008-2009 through the collaborative skills of PDCN employees who have a lived experience of physical disability, and PDCN members who have particular skills in education development. The workshop developed was known as 'Defining Pathways'. At least one of the facilitators at each workshop has a physical disability.

The focus of the workshop is individual empowerment, person centred planning and mainstreaming. The workshop is designed to provide people with physical disability with the skills and strategies to guide participants towards achieving personal goals. The workshops provide opportunities for individuals to identify and focus on issues which are important to them and to assist them in defining skills they may need in developing strategies as they work towards attaining a specific goal. The workshop gives time for personal reflection and provides support and the opportunity to celebrate success as they achieve their objectives. This process fosters greater self awareness and confidence in participants. Workshops were conducted in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Evaluations were completed by participants at the conclusion of each Workshop. Evaluations indicated that: the majority believed the Workshop was relevant to their needs; they had identified a goal that was important to them; and had developed a pathway to achieve their goal. Follow-up evaluations occurred with each participant some four months after they had completed the Workshop which indicated all participants had found their confidence and knowledge had increased as a result of the workshops. All participants also felt more able to make decisions about their own lives and felt they had more control over their own lives.

It is clear that this workshop has utility for individuals to develop preparatory skills prior to implementation of individualised funding and person centred supports. The workshop previously called Defining Pathways is now known as Getting Ready.

'Emergency Readiness And Response'

NRMA previously provided a grant to develop, and facilitate, an educational program to increase the capacity of people with a physical disability in NSW to identify their own risks in an emergency situation, and develop a plan to manage those risks in an emergency/ disaster. The workshop was developed by people with physical disability, and at least one of the facilitators at each workshop has physical disability.

The workshop focuses on: increasing participant's awareness of their needs in an emergency/disaster situation; how participants can, through proactive planning ensure that their emergency/disaster needs are met; how participants can raise awareness and make the community safer as a whole; and encouragement for participants to formulate an individual emergency plan.

In 2011-2012 NRMA provided another grant to conduct six additional workshops around NSW. The workshops were conducted in Charlestown, Tamworth, Penrith, Bathurst, Dubbo and in Tumby Umbi.

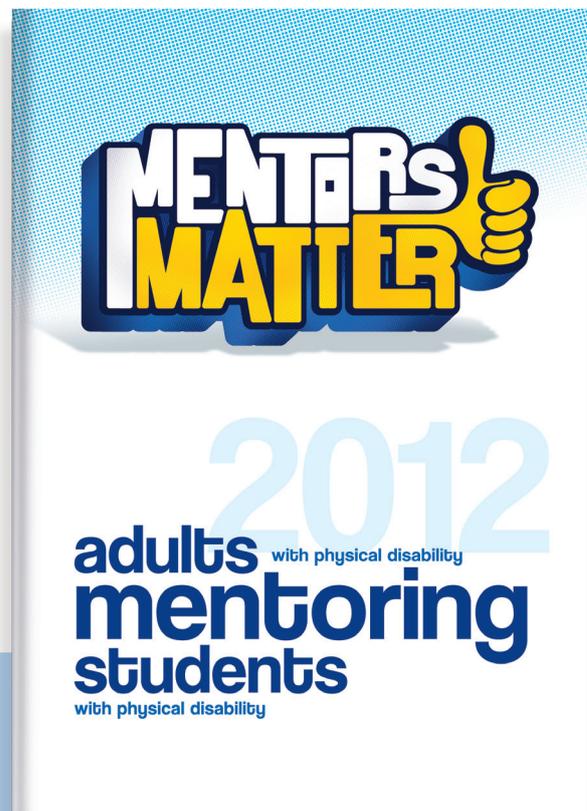
Participant evaluations were conducted and all participants: stated that the workshop content was relevant to their needs; reported they felt better able to prepare for an emergency situation; stated they had developed a plan, so that if implemented, they would be better prepared for an emergency.

In this financial year PDCN has been nominated for an award for this particular workshop in the NSW Disability Industry Innovation Awards: recognising excellence in the sector. The Category where PDCN was an award finalist was "Innovation in Independent Living Award".

MENTORS MATTER

PDCN received a grant from the St George Foundation in 2010-11 to develop and conduct a program Mentors Matter: Young adults with physical disability mentoring high school students with physical disability. PDCN received an additional grant to conduct this program again in 2012.

PDCN sought out people who had physical disability, who it believed had the skills and attributes to be mentors. Individual characteristics sought included: had a physical disability; aged 20-40; completed at least one tertiary qualification. The program was advertised through individual high schools, radio, PDCN's social media and newsletters, the Department of Education, Catholic Schools Offices and the Independent Schools Association. The mentoring sessions (called Gatherings) occurred at four events that were scheduled over a period of about 7 weeks. Feedback received from students, mentors and people significant to the students has been extremely positive, and it is clear that the mentoring program has made a difference to students in terms of their short term goals and longer term aspirations.



OBJECT 3

TO EDUCATE AND INFORM STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITY.

One of the objects of The Physical Disability Council of NSW (as identified in its Constitution) is to educate and inform stakeholders about the needs of people with physical disabilities so they are able to achieve and maintain full participation, equality of opportunity and equality of citizenship.

During 2011-2012, PDCN has used a number of strategies in relation to this objective:

- PDCN built on previous work and sought equitable outcomes for people with physical disability through research participation, working collaboratively with like-minded individuals and organisations, participating in advisory committees and working parties, attending forums, giving presentations and participating in interviews.
- During 2011-2012 PDCN continued to provide input into the considerations, policy and legislative developments at local, state and commonwealth government levels, and to service providers in New South Wales. As discussed in the previous section of this report, the input that PDCN provides in this area as is informed by advice from our membership. PDCN asked members from across the state (as part of the Strategic Planning process) to identify the most important issues affecting their lives, and the lives of the majority of people with physical disability in NSW. The issues identified were: financial health; access to the built environment; transport; and education and employment.
- PDCN develops working relationships with service providers, community organisations and peak organisations to develop programs and strategies that may positively impact on services and supports available for people with physical disability.

ACCESS TO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Access to the built environment refers to all man-made physical components of human settlements such as buildings, streets, open spaces, and infrastructure, telecommunications particularly in terms of whether it promotes or discourages physical activity/access.

PDCN believes that is essential for everyone to be able to access the physical environment in order to participate and be included members of the community. PDCN in 2011-2012 used various strategies to work in this area, including:

Forming alliances with other organisations/groups/alliances to promote accessible built environments, through:

- Australian Network on Universal Housing Design
- Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

Participating in Forums, consultations and meetings to champion the development of accessible built environments, including:

- Willoughby City Council Access Committee
- Marrickville Town Council Access Committee
- Think Parramatta: planning
- Sydney New Years Eve Accessibility Action Plan Consultation
- City of Sydney: 2030 planning meeting
- City of Sydney consultation regarding access maps
- City of Sydney meeting regarding way-finding at Town Hall station
- Musica Viva Australia - Disability Action Plan
- Willoughby Access Committee- Preview of the Concourse
- City of Sydney: Opening of Chinatown works program
- City of Sydney Light Rail: consultation
- City of Sydney, Wayfinding Project: External Reference Group

Preparing the following submissions and reports:

- Blacktown City Council: Disability Inclusion Plan 2012-2015
- Amendments to Local Environmental Planning Policy (affordable rental housing)
- NSW Human Services, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care NSW Department of Human Services- Ageing, Disability and Home Care: Review of HACC Funded Home Modifications Scheme
- NSW Department of Planning: System Review

Housing issues were the theme of PDCN Live newsletter in June 2012.

Somewhere to Sit

The Physical Disability Council launched 'Somewhere to Sit' as part of the Liveable Communities panel presentation in October 2010. The focus of Somewhere to Sit is to create inclusive local communities through the availability of public seating (both indoor and outdoor). The initiative encourages individuals to consider how lack of somewhere to sit affects them and others in their community. Seating is one small way a community can become more accessible and inclusive for all. It is one way to address the isolation that comes with reduced mobility, allowing people to continue to enjoy being part of their community by contributing to it. In 2011-2012 PDCN has facilitated presentations and discussions about Somewhere to Sit.

Telecommunications

PDCN's Communication and Education Officer was appointed to the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) on the The Standing Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (SACDI). This is a forum to assist ACCAN to identify consumer communications issues for people with disabilities.

During 2011-2012 PDCN was also represented at the Telecommunications Conference: Our Broadband Future. Submission prepared by PDCN:

- Review of Access to Telecommunication Services by people with disability, older Australians and people experiencing illness
- Regional Telecommunications Review 2011-2012

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Education and employment refers to equitable opportunities for personal, social and academic growth and development, and sets the stage for later life experiences, most especially in employment.

PDCN believes that students with disability must be provided with opportunities to realise their potential through participation in education and training. It is through education and training that opportunities for employment occur, and employment is a key to an independent life.

PDCN contributed to the area of education and employment during 2011-2012 by involvement in the TAFE NSW Industry Networking Group, by conducting the Mentors Matter program, and through community education.

Mentors Matter

For some high school students with physical disability it can be difficult to: recognise their own attributes and skills; see academic opportunities and future employment opportunities; or identify people who can be role models. PDCN received a grant from the St George Foundation in 2010 to develop and conduct a program Mentors Matter: Young adults with physical disability mentoring high school students with physical disability.

Additional funding was provided from the St George Foundation to conduct the program again in 2011-2012, and initial evaluation of the program suggests that it was valuable to the students, and met the objectives of the program.

Community Education

PDCN understands that learning communities exist where there is a community of common purpose. This organisation has been proactive in building on the synergies of individuals in common locations, or with common interests, as we work towards sharing understandings, skills and knowledge. Resources are used to educate and inform stakeholders about the needs of people with physical disabilities to promote full participation, equality of opportunity and equality of citizenship. Activity in 2011-2012 is detailed on the next page.

OBJECT 3

Continued

Words Matter Language Guide

Words Matter was originally developed in the 2006-2007 financial year and PDCN found it attracted a much wider readership than was originally envisaged, in myriad organisations working with or focused upon people who have disability, as well as organisations which simply wish to use appropriate language to and about persons with disability. The third edition was produced by PDCN and launched on International Day of People with Disability in December 2010.

The authors of this resource are people who have disability; however, while reviewing this publication, the Physical Disability Council of NSW has sought and integrated the advice of industry professionals and experts in ethics. Words Matter is available on the PDCN website, distributed at Expos and community consultations, and 'reference print quality' copies are available from the PDCN office.

In this financial year an educator and trainer approached PDCN, requesting permission to include materials from Words Matter in learning tools and aids for students in primary and secondary schools.

In the 2011-2012 Financial Year a financial grant was received from The City of Sydney to gift copies of the publication to each of the public libraries within the City of Sydney, and also copies to each high school in the area. The publication is now listed on the catalogue for The City of Sydney libraries, and in the libraries and staff rooms of some of the high schools.

Working with People who have Dementia and Physical Disability

The life expectancy of people with disability has increased dramatically. The associated incidence of dementia, an age related illness, has increased for the population of people with disability. During 2010-2011 PDCN was involved in the development of a training package (initiated by Community Care, Northern Beaches) that targets service providers who work with people with physical disability who have dementia. The two-day education package developed is known as Working with People who have Dementia and Physical Disability

During 2011-2012, the two-day Package was delivered five times, with funding provided by Community Care (Northern Beaches), under a contract with PDCN as the lead agency and co-facilitator with Alzheimers NSW. The workshops were held in the Metro North region. Participants indicated that their knowledge and skills area had increased in each of the learning areas on both days of the Workshop.

RailCorp Education

During 2011-2012 PDCN has been involved in a long-term education initiative with RailCorp, by providing twice-weekly presentations to their employees who work on trains and stations.

Overseas Delegations

During the 2011-2012 year PDCN met with overseas delegations from China and Thailand.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

Financial health, a term used to describe whether a person's actual or potential financial resources are adequate to meet costs associated with: housing, motor vehicle acquisition, modification and maintenance, medical treatment and health fund coverage, personal care, the purchase and associated costs of assistive aids and equipment, support services, clothing, leisure and retirement.

PDCN continued to represent the interests of people with physical disability by participation in the Fair Go for Pensioners Alliance.

Electricity Prices

As reported in last year's Annual Report PDCN has been aware of the significant impact on many groups in the community of increasing electricity prices. PDCN understands that many with a physical disability, on fixed incomes, are significantly disadvantaged by large rises in energy prices. PDCN has strengthened our collaborative work with other organisations on this issue.

Survey

In 2011 PDCN and the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) Energy and Water Consumers Advocacy Program spoke to a group of people with physical disability about their energy use. People told us they were concerned about rising electricity costs. In some cases these concerns were especially strong because their physical conditions meant that they relied heavily on electricity to help them with the essentials of daily life. In 2011, PDCN and PIAC jointly conducted a state-wide survey on the impact of electricity costs for people with physical disability.

Panel Presentation

The Panel Presentation "Keeping the lights on: the impact of increasing electricity process for people with physical disability" was held before the AGM in October 2011. The Panel Presenters were: Ann-Mason Furmage (Physical Disability Council of NSW), Carolyn Hodge (Public Interest Advocacy Centre), Jim Connolly (Financial Counsellors' Association of NSW) and Christine Regan (Council of Social Service of NSW).

Prepared submissions and participated in public discussion, including:

- Changes in Regulated Electricity Retail Prices as of 1 July 2012: submission
- Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC,) Energy + Water Consumer Advocacy Program: Reference group member
- Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Electricity Forum: attendee
- Sydney Morning Herald: interview
- Radio National: interview
- ABC TV, 7.30 report: interviews
- Articles and related materials in PDCN's newsletter PDCN Live

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The health and wellbeing of people with physical disability is impacted by many factors, and in 2011-2012 PDCN has involved itself in some of those areas. In particular: the impact of ageing and people with physical disability: the importance of assistive devices and equipment, and in community education. Each of these areas is discussed within this section of the Report.

PDCN has also worked to inform discussion and consideration in other health and wellbeing areas where it was important ensure that the informed opinions of people with physical disability were considered:

Access to medical services

- South Eastern Sydney Division of General Practice: Community Engagement Workshop and
- Network of Community Services and Non Government Agencies

Access to community health services and disability health services

- Ageing, Disability and Home Care: Rural and Remote Working Group regarding therapy initiatives

Impacting health policy

- Health NSW, NGO Reference Committee: appointed member
- Health Peaks Advisory Group (facilitated by Council of Social Service of NSW).

Accessing support at home

- Home and Community Care Peaks Forum: Participant
- Attendant Care Industry Association (ACIA), Quality Steering Committee: Member

Assistive Devices and Equipment

Assistive devices and equipment are terms for any device or system that allows individuals to perform tasks they would otherwise be unable to do, or increases the ease and safety with which tasks can be performed. PDCN takes the position that all people with physical disability must be provided with the essential aids and equipment they need to achieve a quality standard of living which facilitates maximum participation within their community.

In NSW the Program of Appliances for Disabled People (PADP) was established to assist people who have a life-long or long-term disability to live and participate in their community by providing equipment, aids and appliances. In recent years the program has been centralised under EnableNSW.

In 2011-2012 PDCN continued its involvement in the Assistive Technology Community Alliance of NSW (previously PADP Community Alliance). The Alliance prepared a joint paper related to Equity and Co-payments, and conducted a review of ENABLE's complaint processes. Also, and a member of PDCN's Committee of Management continued her appointment on the EnableNSW Advisory Council as a consumer representative.

Ageing and people with physical disability

During 2011 PDCN used a state-wide survey to consult on the Impact of Ageing on People with Physical Disability. The aim of this survey was to better understand the everyday lives of people living in NSW with a physical disability, who are aged over 50 years. This will build on previous research undertaken by PDCN. The data gathered through the research survey was collated and a comparative analysis undertaken of both the 2008/9 and 2010/11 results. A paper was developed based on these findings. This report is available on the PDCN website and the Minister for Disability Services distributed copies to Ministers in the NSW Parliament. The survey findings inform PDCN's work to bring about change to support the needs of older people living with a physical disability.

PDCN has continued to work during 2011-2012 to ensure that the concerns/issues of people with physical disability are considered during all of their lives. This is achieved by continuing to highlight concerns of people with physical disability who are ageing, by providing input in discussion in a number of ways including: participating in: Creative Ageing presentation NSW Parliament House; consultations and submissions on the development of a NSW Whole of Government Ageing Strategy; Ageing consultation with Federal Minister; Meeting and consultations with NSW Office of Ageing.



OBJECT 3

Continued

INDIVIDUALISED SUPPORT

Human rights refer to the legal recognition of the inherent value, dignity and equality of all people. Following the preparation of a paper for the National Human Rights Commission in 2008, the Commonwealth Government sought feedback on human rights compliance as part of a United Nations four yearly review, and PDCN's contribution in 2011-2012 included:

- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD): consultations
- National Disability Strategy Exposure Draft: consultation
- Australia's National Human Rights Action Plan Exposure Draft 2012: submission
- National Human Rights Action Plan Baseline Study
- National Cultural Policy: submission
- NSW National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan: input regarding NSW implementation

PDCN has continued to advocate actively on issues regarding human rights. PDCN has been represented in discussions, consultations, representation on Boards, preparation of submissions and involvement in campaigns. The involvement of PDCN in 2011-2012 has been heavily focused on individualised support for people with physical disability (discussed later in this section) and also included:

Value of people with physical disability

- Forum of Non-government agencies (engagement with the government sub-committee)
- Representative on Board of Association for Children with a Disability in NSW

Equity for people with physical disability

- New South Wales Advocacy Network: member
- Self-report instrument for assessing needs: involvement of 3 members in the development of this reporting instrument
- NSW Disability Network Forum
- Restrictive Practices for Women with Disabilities
- Attended a Forum of Organisations working group developing a charter for the community sector
- NSW Ombudsman Disability Roundtable quarterly meetings
- Working Party on materials related to Social Inclusion (NCOSS)
- Fourth Review of the Lifetime Care and Support Authority
- NSW Disability Forum (an NCOSS Forum): member

Since late 2008 PDCN has worked for individualised support and self-directed funding for people with physical disability. This involvement has included; participation in service reforms to services in the home and community sector through IMPACT, support for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, promoting the Every Australian Counts campaign; participating in collaborative work as part of In-Control; and involvement in forum, research, and preparing submissions. During 2011-2012 PDCN involvement in each of these included:

- Legislative Assembly Committee on Community Services Outsourcing Community Service Delivery: submission
- Attendant Care Industry Association, Quality Steering Committee: member
- Research on the Need for Two Care Workers in a Community Setting: Steering Committee Meeting

Having an IMPACT

PDCN has been an active participant in the work of the NSW IMPACT Forum, which was the inspiration behind The Better Practice Project (BPP) for Home and Community Care (HACC) in NSW. In 2011-2012 PDCN received a grant to co-ordinate a project, with the guidance of a Steering Committee, to develop and maintain a new website (launched in June 2012) to:

- Continue to support change to think differently from within services, organisations, and by people within the broader community
- Capture what is happening in the wider aged and community care sector (including those under the age of 65) and
- Provide links to person centred, strengths based, enabling initiatives, papers, projects, training materials, and tools that are available

Stronger Together 2

Stronger Together is the Government's plan to deliver better services for people with disability in NSW, and includes a commitment to introduce a person centred approach in which the person with disability is supported to become the primary decision maker about his/her own support needs. PDCN in 2011-2012 has contributed in the following ways:

- Participated in NSW Government 'Person Centred Approaches' initiatives (summits, consultations and discussions)
- Living Life My Way Discussion Paper, submission
- Meetings with Minister and ADHC government officials
- Active participation with In Control (see following detail)

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Over the past year PDCN has continued to contribute extensively to this national campaign for personalised planning and self-directed funding mechanisms. PDCN provided support to the Every Australian Counts Campaign by: organising and/or attending DisabiliTeas in Penrith, Albury and Marrickville; issuing a press release; involvement in a radio interview, giving presentations about the NDIS and promoting activities/events on the PDCN website and facebook.



In Control

In Control Australia is a collaboration between a number of individuals and agencies around Australia. The common use of the term signals a shared interest in the rights of people living with disability, the importance of such people being at the centre of decision making about their lives and the importance of supporting people into valued roles as citizens.

In NSW, a collective of individuals has been meeting since 2010. This includes representatives from PDCN, and the NSW focus is on stimulating systemic policy change to enable people with disability and their families to direct their supports and to advance and uphold the rights of people with disability. During 2011-2012 In Control has:

- Organised Seminars for those responsible for designing and introducing individualised (self-directed) funding in NSW to explore the key issues associated with designing and implementing a resource allocation system
- Living Life My Way: collective submission prepared
- In Control BIG Event in the Northern Rivers: planning for event to occur in late 2012

TRANSPORT

Transport relates to access to private transport (own vehicles), public and privately operated public transport (rail, taxi, buses, planes), and community transport.

PDCN understands that people with physical disability have comparatively high difficulty in accessing transport and support services, which has a significant impact on the capacity of a person with disability to work and be social, demonstrating the compounding effect of disability. PDCN in 2011-2012 has promoted the advantages to the whole community when transport can be used by everyone. We have focused on the following areas:

Wheelchair accessible taxis.

- Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WATS): Stakeholder meetings
- Annual release of taxi licences in Sydney in 2012/13: Stakeholder Forum
- Annual Taxi Licence Release 2012/13
- IPART: Annual Taxi Fare Review

Mobility parking for cars

- North Sydney Council: accessible parking
- Parking: Interview by Channel 9
- Parking: Media Article Sydney Morning Herald
- Parking: Interview 2UE
- Parking: Interview ABC Radio 702
- Parking: Interview with Channel 9

Rail

- RailCorp: Stakeholder Forum
- Education with RailCorp Train Crew and Station staff
- Intraregional Public Transport (inquiry)- submission
- RailCorp Corporate Plan 2012/ 2013- submission

Light rail

- The City of Sydney: George Street light rail

Transport

- NSW Transport: NSW Long Tern Master Plan Discussion Paper: submission
- Transport NSW, Transport Advisory Committee: member
- Transport Standards: Interview by ABC West.
- NSW Transport : Electronic Ticketing
- NCOSS. Transport Policy Advisory Group

GOVERNANCE

ORGANISATION PROFILE

Over the previous financial year PDCN began to implement the PDCN Strategic Plan 2011 – 2016. As part of our governance role the Committee of Management received a written report detailing the organisation's performance against the strategic plan twice during this financial year. In addition, monthly reports from the Executive Officer provided the Committee of Management with an opportunity to monitor the organisations performance and effectiveness. A summary of the strategic initiatives identified in the plan are available on PDCN's website.

The development of the Strategic Plan included the elements of: a survey of individual and organisational members; a multi-stakeholder perception study; a strategic planning working committee (25 people with physical disability, and representatives of young persons with physical disability). It is clear that the developed plan reflects the views of people with physical disability in NSW, and in its first year of implementation it has provided PDCN with a solid framework.

In terms of risk, one of the most pressing dangers to the work of PDCN continues to be its financial viability. In an environment where the work of a peak body requires a proactive approach to its peak obligations balanced against increasing costs (salaries, insurances, rent etc), and despite growing demand for engagement on an expanding number of issues, the financial resources of PDCN have not kept pace with rises in costs. To address this situation PDCN continued to develop strategies to reduce costs, and during the 2011-2012 year further reduced the number of paid employee hours per week.

PDCN in recent years sought, and gained, Tax Gift Recipient Status, and during the 2011-2012 year gained financial grants/support to assist with both the capacity development role, and the education of stakeholder roles of the organisation:

- The St George Foundation provided a grant for the program Mentors Matter: young adults with physical disability mentoring high school students with physical disability
- NRMA provided a grant for Emergency Readiness and Response: an educational program to develop the capacity of people with a physical disability in NSW to identify their own risks in an emergency situation, and develop a plan to manage those risks in an emergency/disaster
- RailCorp: provided financial support for the presentation of personal experience sessions by people with physical disability, as part of its education program for employees working on rail station platforms and trains
- City of Sydney provided a grant to enable multiple copies of the PDCN publication Words Matter: Language Guide to be distributed all of the public libraries and all high schools within the City of Sydney area
- Community Care (Northern Beaches) provided funding, under a contract with the Physical Disability Council as the lead agency, and co-facilitation by the Physical Disability Council of NSW and Alzheimers NSW, for a series of workshops Working with people who have dementia and physical disability

The Committee of Management, met regularly through the year (see Appendix A for details of meetings and the attendance of individual members). During 2011-2012 financial year the Committee of Management met monthly, but has decided that from the calendar year 2013 to, meet 11 times each year.

The individuals who have been members of the Committee during 2011-2012 have brought a range of skills and experience, and personal experience of physical disability to the organisation. Information about Members of the Committee as at the 30 June 2012 appears on page 19.



ANN-MASON FURMAGE

President

Ann-Mason was born and grew up in the United States of America. In 1950, she contracted polio, which caused paralysis of her left hand, arm and shoulder. In 1959, she had a radical mastoidectomy of her right ear and has been hearing-impaired since that time.

In 1968, Ann-Mason migrated to Australia. She attended the West Australian Institute of Technology (now John Curtin University) where she attained her Bachelor of Business in Accounting in 1980. She became a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) in 1983. Ann-Mason has been an accountant or financial controller for a number of organisations in Australia and the United States.

In 1996, physical problems associated with the late effects of polio resulted in Ann-Mason leaving full-time employment, although she continued working on a part-time basis until 2000. Ann-Mason now uses a motorised wheelchair. She currently serves as President of the Physical Disability Council of NSW and is a member of: the EnableNSW Advisory Council; the Board of Directors of the Independent Living Centre of NSW; the External Advisory Committee to the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Sydney; the Community Advisory Council of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the Access Committee of the Town of Marrickville.



ANDREW LONGHURST

Vice President

Andrew Longhurst is the currently Vice President of the PDCN Committee of Management. Andrew has Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI or Brittle Bones) and he uses a manual wheelchair for mobility.

Andrew works as a Community Worker with the Adult Outreach Team at Northcott Disability Services. The Adult Outreach team is a multi-disciplined team which assists adult clients with primarily physical disabilities to pursue goals they have for their life. In the past he has worked in the Open Employment sector with people who have acquired disabilities and for DADHC with people who have intellectual disabilities.

Andrew has a Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) and a Graduate Diploma in Counselling from Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, as well as a Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training. Andrew is also a current board member of the OI Society of Australia, and a current board member of Community Connections Australia (CCA).



PETER A SIMPSON Treasurer and Secretary

Peter A Simpson has a physical disability and is currently the Treasurer of the PDCN Committee of Management. Peter's main area of interest is issues associated with access to the built environment. He has also been involved in wheelchair sports, where he competed in wheelchair rugby for over 12 years. Throughout his life Peter has advocated various issues on behalf of people with disabilities, from built environment issues, transport, to participation in sport/recreation. Sitting on various community/access committees, Peter loves being able to contribute his knowledge/experience to help facilitate chances in policy and organisational development. Peter has previously served as a Director of Wheelchair Sports NSW.



KEVIN FINLAYSON Public Officer

Kevin was born with Multiplex Congenita, in Armidale in 1952. He has worked for Australia Post and Telstra. Kevin moved from Sydney to Yamba where he was involved in access issues and successfully lobbied the local council in Maclean Council for, access ramps and a wheelchair mooring to fish from. Kevin returned to Sydney in 1999. Kevin joined Penrith Disability Resource Centre Inc and held several positions (Information Officer, Fundraising, and Chairperson, Secretary, and Committee member). He raised access and equity issues for people with a disability, and in July 2006, Penrith City Council acknowledged his work in the local community by recognising him on the Wall of Achievement within the Council. Kevin has previously been involved in a number of other organisations including: Penrith City Council Access committee, Sports Council of NSW, Penrith Disability Action Forum (PDAF), taking on such issues as wheelchair access for Penrith Plaza, lifts for Penrith Railway Station, Hoyts access, MLAC keys for accessible toilets, laybacks in pedestrian footpaths in Penrith LGA. Kevin has completed courses relating to disability advocacy, and access auditing at TAFE, and has presented disability awareness training within schools. Kevin's current roles are Vice President of Police Citizens Youth Club, and the Public Officer for the committee of management of PDCN.



YA'EL FRISCH Member

Ya'el is a young lawyer who uses a wheelchair. She has a passion for social justice and inclusion and spends her life challenging the societal barriers which form the worst part of her disability.

After two great years working in policy in Canberra, Ya'el once again calls Sydney home and has a new appreciation of its accessible taxis. She looks forward to a national system so that all Australians with disability can access the support they need to live the life they want, no matter where they live.

Ya'el is a self-confessed coffee addict, and loves live music and hanging with friends. She is also on the Boards of the Australian Centre for Disability Law and the Disability Council of NSW, and contributes to ABC RampUp.



CAROLINE DALEY Member

Caroline is the mother of two school-aged children. Her daughter, who has cerebral palsy requiring the use of a powerchair and communication device, attends their local high school with the assistance of a full-time teachers' aide. When she finishes school her current goals are to become a published author and to compete for Australia in the Paralympic sport of boccia.

During their 10 years living in a rural NSW town, Caroline and her husband owner-built a wheelchair accessible home.

Moving to Newcastle at the end of 2009, Caroline and her family are enjoying the coastal lifestyle with long walks along the harbour and beach fronts.

Caroline has a Bachelor of Business, worked as a training designer and developer for nearly 5 years, and is currently an Active After School Communities Coach introducing boccia to school-aged children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to be involved in sport.

Surviving on caffeine, Caroline allocates her time between boccia, helping out at her children's schools, programming her daughters communication device, and making the most of the beautiful walks around Newcastle



JENNY KAPP Member

Jenny Kapp is an educator and writer with over ten years experience in researching, writing and presenting and facilitating workshops for a range of community and government organisations.

She currently works as a Part-Time Communication and Media Teacher with the Open Training and Education Network (OTEN), which is part of Western Sydney Institute of TAFE.

In recent years, Jenny has been a trainer and project consultant for organisations including NSW Adult and Community Education (ACE), the Centre for Continuing Education (Sydney University), WEA Sydney, Sydney Community College and the School of Volunteer Management (Volunteering NSW).

Jenny originally trained as a journalist and has produced a selection of radio documentaries for ABC Radio National and Triple J. She also coordinated training for a Sydney-based not-for-profit organisation. She has a particular interest in e-learning and creative instructional design and enjoys working with disadvantaged learners. Jenny has also recently completed a Master of Education (Adult Education) degree at The University of Technology, Sydney

APPENDIX A

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT: ATTENDANCE OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INDIVIDUAL ATTENDANCES (July 2011- June 2012)	MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS
JOHN MOGAN Member (Resigned July 2011)	0 (of 00)
PATRICIA DAVIES Member (Resigned September 2011)	2 (of 02)
NEIL VON SCHILL Vice president (Resigned September 2011)	2 (of 02)
ANN-MASON FURMAGE President	12(of possible 12)
ANDREW LONGHURST Vice President	10(of possible 12)
PETER SIMPSON Treasurer and Secretary	10(of possible 12)
KEVIN FINLAYSON Member	8 (of possible 12)
YA'EL FRISCH Member (Appointed to Committee in November 2011)	8 (of possible 08)
JENNY KAPP Member (Appointed to Committee in January 2012)	4 (of possible 05)
CAROLINE DAVIES Member (Appointed to Committee in April 2012)	3 (of possible 03)

APPENDIX B

FINANCIAL REPORTS ABN: 26 858 845 702

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE INCOME TAX	5,214	(18,575)
Income tax expense attributable to operating profit	-	-
PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER INCOME TAX	5,214	(18,575)
Retained profits (Accumulated losses) at the beginning of the financial year	42,562	61,137
RETAINED PROFITS (ACCUMULATED LOSSES) AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	47,776	42,562

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30th JUNE 2012

	NOTE	2011 \$	2011 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	61,378	42,501
Trade and other receivables	3	20,591	23,427
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		81,969	65,928
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	4	11,165	7,804
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		11,165	7,804
TOTAL ASSETS		93,134	73,732
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	26,186	17,180
Provisions	6	16,637	13,990
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		42,823	31,170
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	6	2,535	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,535	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		45,358	31,170
NET ASSETS		47,776	42,562
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained profits		47,776	42,562
		47,776	42,562

		2012	2011
		\$	\$
1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES			
<p>This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.</p> <p>The financial report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.</p> <p>The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:</p>			
Income Tax			
<p>The association is exempt from income tax under Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.</p>			
Property, Plant and Equipment			
<p>Property, plant and equipment are carried at cost or independent valuation. All assets are depreciated over their useful lives to the association.</p>			
Employee Benefits			
<p>Provision is made for the liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with benefits arising from annual leave and long service leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at their nominal amount. Other employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.</p> <p>Contributions are made to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.</p>			
Economic Dependence			
<p>The association is dependent upon the NSW Department of Family & Community Services for the majority of its operating revenue. At the date of this report the committee has no reason to believe the Department will not continue to provide funding to the association.</p>			
2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
St George Bank		6,808	6,569
ING Business Optimiser A/c		35,582	30,332
Westpac Banking Corporation			
Cheque A/c		17,736	4,999
Westpac Banking Corporation			
Reserves A/c		58	56
Westpac Banking Corporation			
Gift Fund A/c		1,194	534
Westpac Banking Corporation			
Corporate Mastercard		-	11
		61,378	42,501
3. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES			
CURRENT			
Trade Debtors		1,820	842
		16,726	20,756
Other Debtors		2,045	1,829
		20,591	23,427
4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT			
Plant & Equipment		51,321	42,921
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		40,386	35,395
		10,935	7,526
Office Furniture & Equipment		10,009	10,009
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		9,779	9,731
		230	278
Total Property Plant and Equipment		11,165	7,804
5. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES			
CURRENT			
PAYG withholding payable		2,711	2,286
Trade Creditors & Accruals		4,937	1,570
Superannuation Payable		1,398	1,929
Income In Advance		9,625	5,205
GST Payable		7,515	6,190
		26,186	17,180
6. PROVISIONS			
CURRENT			
Provisions for Holiday Pay		16,637	13,990
NON-CURRENT			
Provision for Long Service Leave:			
Conditional		2,535	-

The conditional long service leave provisions relates to employees with between 5 and 10 year's service.

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of The Physical Disability Council of NSW Inc. as at 30th June 2012 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Physical Disability Council of NSW Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

President: 

Treasurer: 

Dated this 18th day of September 2012.

Report on the financial report.

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of The Physical Disability Council of NSW Inc (the association) which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2012, and the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

The financial report and committee's responsibility.

The management committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend upon the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the management committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the management committee's financial reporting obligations under the constitution. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

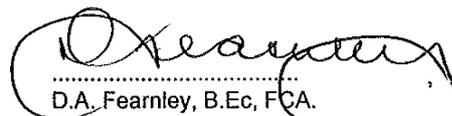
Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of The Physical Disability Council of NSW Inc presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as of 30th June 2012 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 in the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

DA Fearnley & Co,
Chartered Accountant



.....
D.A. Fearnley, B.Ec, FCA.

Dated this 18 day of September 2012.

30/1-7 Jordan Street
Gladesville NSW 2111

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2011

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Donations - Public	116	-
Ageing & Disability Dept	236,105	225,435
Members' Contributions	3,286	3,432
Workshop Income	24,608	3,295
Other Income	685	2,574
Community Grants	15,520	9,169
	<u>280,320</u>	<u>243,905</u>
OTHER INCOME		
Interest Received	2,885	2,895
	<u>2,885</u>	<u>2,895</u>
	283,205	246,800
EXPENDITURE		
Advertising	676	2,081
Auditor's Remuneration	4,000	4,000
Bank Charges	1,349	1,182
Bookkeeping Fees	1,555	903
Computer Expenses	7,819	6,987
Consultancy Fees	3,010	1,006
Committee Expenses	2,554	4,705
Depreciation	5,039	8,519
Grant Expenses	8,387	12,433
Holiday Pay Provision	2,646	1,459
Insurance	7,011	6,795
Internet Expenses	998	899
Long Service Leave	2,535	-
Media Releases	-	251
Permits, Licences & Fees	467	89
Postage	1,204	1,475
Printing & Stationary	4,134	4,301
Rent	13,478	12,731
Repairs & Maintenance	-	285
Salaries & Wages	128,530	120,224
Staff Training & Amenities	617	3,168
Strategic Planning	5,189	5,189
Subscriptions	335	325
Superannuation Contributions - Compulsory	7,882	8,274
Superannuation Contributions - Salary Packaged	49,799	50,000
Telephone	4,128	5,529
Travelling Expenses	1,274	868
Volunteer Expenses	1,309	1,064
Workshop Expenses	12,066	633
	<u>277,991</u>	<u>265,375</u>
Net Profit/(Loss)	5,214	(18,575)



Physical Disability Council of NSW
Ordinary People Ordinary Lives

St Helen's Community Centre
3/184 Glebe Point Rd. Glebe 2037

T: (02) 9552 1606
1800 688 831(freecall outside
the Sydney metropolitan area)

E: Admin@pdcnsw.org.au

F: (02) 9552 4644

National Relay Service

TTY users:
1800 555-677 then ask
for (02) 9552 1606

Speak and Listen users:
1300 555-727 then ask
for (02) 9552-1606