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# Physical Disability Council of NSW Annual Report 2005—2006

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Physical Disability Council of NSW

St Helen's Community Centre  
3/184 Glebe Point Road  
Glebe NSW 2037

Telephone (02) 9552 1606  
Fax (02) 9552 4644  
Freecall 1800 688 831  
Email [admin@pdcnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@pdcnsw.org.au)  
Website <http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/>

Frontpage Graphic by Tom Deniston  
([TDaccess@aol.com](mailto:TDaccess@aol.com)), the logo of Accessible  
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# Presidents' Message

The new Constitution which we are planning to present at this Annual General Meeting has been completed by **Baker & McKenzie**, the firm of solicitors who have been aiding us in our travels through the niceties of tax and corporation law. PDCN thanks Baker & McKenzie for all of their assistance and advice in our efforts to bring our Constitution into line with newly changed tax regulations, while respecting the necessity for PDCN's Constitution to maintain the integrity of the aims and goals of our organisation.

With the hard work of our Executive Officer, Robyn Chapman, and the ever-valuable help of our auditor, David Fearnley, we have waded through and solved almost all of the problems that we faced at our last Annual General Meeting. Thank you, Robyn and David!

## **PADP**

We were happy when the *Department of Disability, Ageing and HomeCare* made a non-recurrent grant of \$2 million to reduce the list of children waiting for essential equipment.

We await the outcome of the PADP review by *Price Waterhouse Coopers* with great interest. We continue in our efforts to convince the Minister for Health that a properly funded PADP program would not only provide appropriate equipment in a timely manner to people with disabilities, but would also permit more people with disability to contribute to the community in many ways which are not open to them so long as they cannot gain access to the equipment that they clearly require.



## **Attendant Care Program**

We are pleased that the new \$1B package announced by the state government has provided for increased number of places in the Attendant Care Program.

We are disappointed that the increased number of places fails to meet the current need for five years or more. We will continue to work on convincing the state government that there is no benefit, in either human or financial terms, in making people with disabilities wait for the care that they need.

## **Accessible Transport**

The state government seems to be making a serious attempt to comply with the December 2007 DDA deadline for accessible transport.

For those of us who have to negotiate the various barriers that exist in every sort of public transport, it sometimes appears that the spirit of the law is not a priority and that the least effort that can be expended in order to comply is the amount of effort being expended.

I hope that, as more and more buses become accessible and more and more train stations become accessible, bus and railway staff receives more training to enable them to accept people with disabilities as an important part of the community they are paid to serve.

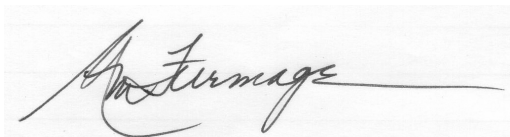
### Advocacy Network

Thanks to John Moxon for giving his time and effort toward the re-vitalisation of the Advocacy Network. John's plans for 2006-2007, so far, include trips to Dubbo and Coffs Harbour - but he could turn up anywhere, so look out for John. This is what John thinks of as "retirement"!

In summary, we are now operating with a full staff, reviving old projects and launching new ones. This has been a challenging and exciting year at PDCN!

Our mission continues. Equity is our focus and our goal.

People with disability deserve to be accepted and respected as valuable members of society and PDCN continues to work to achieve equity, acceptance and respect for people with disability.



Ann-Mason Furmage

# About PDCN

The Physical Disability Council of New South Wales Incorporated (PDCN) is the peak body representing people with physical disability across the state. Our members live in all parts of New South Wales. They are the foundation of our organization. It is their interests that we exist to forward and promote.

This Annual Report provides a summary of the work and activities of PDCN during the 12 months to 30 June 2006.

PDCN's overall purpose is to advance the notions of equality of citizenship and equality of opportunity through effective systemic advocacy.

- Lobbying decision-makers on behalf of people with physical disability;
- Campaigning effectively to challenge injustice against people with physical disability and in support of equality of opportunity for all;
- Representing the interests of people with physical disability to government, non-government and private sector organisations;
- Developing policies which promote equality of opportunity, based on the experience and aspirations of people with disability;
- Preparing written submissions which promote the interests of people with physical disability;
- Presenting the interests of people with physical disability through media interviews, articles and features in newspapers, magazines, radio, television and the Internet.

This Annual Report draws attention to the key activities of PDCN during the last year. There is much, however, that goes on but which one does not find in place in the pages that follow. For example:

- The advice of PDCN was sought by many throughout the year, reflecting the status of PDCN as an influential peak body.
- PDCN continued to work-on, develop and maintain links between the disability sector and other community organisations sectors, seeking to create and sustain mutually supportive networks with the potential to enhance the lives of all disadvantaged citizens.
- PDCN gave information to anyone who asked for it: from school students preparing for the HSC to Ministerial Advisors and Senior Public Servants.

People with physical disability, in particular, value the knowledge, information and insight acquired since PDCN was established.

The direct experience and knowledge of the realities of the lives of people with physical disability makes it possible for PDCN to act as a pivotal referral service in the lives of many.

## **PDCN People & Resources**

PDCN relies heavily on the commitment of committee members, volunteers and supporters. Those voluntary contributions combine with and supplement the work of our staff team to promote the interests of people with physical disability in NSW.

PDCN is enormously grateful for every contribution received during the period of this Annual Report.

## Committee of Management

During 2005-2006, the Management Committee has had 11 members who met every two months. The committee sets the overall policy for PDCN, oversees the financial, administrative and organisational resources of PDCN and acts as the main engine for debate, discussion and development within PDCN between Annual General Meetings.

In addition to bi-monthly meetings of the full Management Committee, members participate in working parties and policy groups organised around our key priorities. These working groups also involve participants who are not members of the PDCN Management Committee.

In 2005 - 2006 as in previous years, the contributions of individual members of our committees and working groups have been invaluable.

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is elected by and from the members of the Committee of Management.

In the year to 30 June 2006 the members of the PDCN Executive Committee were:

President	Ann-Mason Furmage
Vice-Pres	John Moxon
Secretary	Sonia Markoff
Treasurer	Stewart MacLennan

The Executive Committee meets regularly. It is responsible for implementing policies agreed by the management committee.

## PDCN Staff

This year has seen much change from within.

Robyn Chapman joined as Executive Officer on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2005, with Sharon Smith leaving PDCN on the same day. Sharon's efforts to keep the work of PDCN going, as Acting Executive Officer, are much appreciated.

Anastassia Chechoukova left us in December 2005 to a full-time position in the accounts department of a major company. We miss Anastassia's commitment and hard work.

Sharon Maher continued in her role until January 2006, assisting with the PADP campaign and in anything else that was required of her. Many thanks, Sharon.

Craig Andrews, Publication Officer, has been the one constant in the office this year, and the Executive Officer recognises and appreciates Craig's loyalty and commitment to PDCN. New staff have appreciated his knowledge and support which has contributed to the cohesion and development of this small, new team

Two new staff commenced in the new year:

Lachlan Hazelton joined in a new role as Media Officer on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2006. Lachlan's role is to implement the PDCN Media Strategy, ensuring an increased media presence for PDCN and the promotion of public debate and awareness on issues of importance to people with physical disabilities.

Jordana Goodman commenced on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 as Project Officer. Jordana has special interest in the areas of Transport, Education and the Built Environment and shares the policy portfolios with Robyn Chapman.

The Staff team are:

Robyn Chapman	Executive Officer
Jordana Goodman	Project Officer
Lachlan Hazelton	Media Officer
Craig Andrews	Publications Officer

### **PDCN Volunteers**

In addition to members of our committees and working parties, PDCN receives very welcome and much valued support from a team of regular volunteers, without whom we would not be as effective as we are.

The value we place on the contribution of volunteers, whether as committee members, activists, supporters or participants in our activities, cannot be over-stated. The people who give their time willingly and enthusiastically to PDCN make possible and worthwhile much of what we strive to achieve.

We are especially grateful to those 'regulars'. They are:

### **John Moxon**

John has always served PDCN with energy and thought. John had taken on the task of redeveloping the Advocacy Network. John will also be taking charge of the re-emerging rural consultations/forums being held over the next financial year.

### **Bronwyn Moye**

Bronwyn works tirelessly in coordinating the ongoing parliamentary presence activity, designed to ensure that each sitting Tuesday politicians from all sides of politics "see" people with physical disabilities in Parliament House. Bronwyn's commitment is much appreciated.

### **John Raymond**

John has provided valuable assistance vital administrative tasks such as filing, mailings. Unfortunately for PDCN, John's other commitments mean that he will no longer be able to give us his time and energy. We will miss his valuable support.

Thank you, as ever, to our volunteers.



# Advancing Equality of Citizenship and Opportunity

For a number of years now the focus of PDCN's work has been the following key priority areas of:

- Personal Assistance
- Aids and Equipment
- Transport
- Built Environment

In addition, we respond to any issue that promotes or advances equality of citizenship and equality of opportunity. A summary of our activities for the 2005-2006 financial year follows.

## **1. Personal Assistance**

Consultation regarding the ongoing development of the *HomeCare* High Needs Pool and the Attendant Care Program is undertaken through the work of the Department of Disability Ageing and Home Care's Physical Disability Expert Advisory Group, which comprises a variety of representatives from across the sector (service providers, community representatives and service user representatives). PDCN is represented by Robyn Chapman. Management Committee members Kim Rowles and Ross Turner also sit on the group, in their capacities of service user representative, and service provider representative.

I am pleased to report that the direct funding pilot for the Attendant Care Program will commence during the next financial year. The ATO and *Centrelink* approvals have been received and the appointment process for the evaluating agency is almost complete. The initial phase of the pilot will run for twelve months.

During the year, the *HomeCare* High Needs

Pool and Attendant Care Program application processes and waiting lists became integrated – a much smoother process for service users.

The Attendant Care Guidelines have been reviewed, and PDCN will have the opportunity to comments on these draft guidelines.

During 2006-2007, 70 of the 320 new Attendant Care Program places, announced in the *Stronger Together* package will become available. Whilst these places are welcome, and we look forward to the roll out, the number of places are inadequate in terms of meeting need.

## **2. Aids and Equipment**

The long awaited review of PADP by *PriceWaterhouse Coopers* (PWC) commenced at the end of 2005.

During December a range of consultations were held. Robyn Chapman and Ann-Mason Fumage attended the consultation for PEAKS and state-wide organisations. PDCN was also able to follow this up with a written response to the consultation.

The PADP review focussed on Access, Eligibility, Management and Administration.

The PDCN response advocated the following:

- Universal access for children must be maintained;
- The income bands to determine eligibility must be maintained except that they need to be indexed to reflect changes to wage levels and increased cost of living;
- Administrative and allocation

procedures must be made consistent across NSW;

- Funding must be allocated to meet the demand and be distributed equitably across the state; and
- PDCN would support the quarantining of the provision continence aids to avoid the erosion of funds for equipment.

The PWC report has not yet been received by the NSW Department of Health. PDCN does not believe that there will be much change within PADP prior to the state election next March 2007.

In April 2005, The Premier, Morris Iemma announced that the *Department of Disability Ageing and Home Care* would be making an additional \$2m available to PADP for children's equipment, specifically to clear the paediatric waiting list. Unfortunately at June 30<sup>th</sup> 2006 there was at least \$900,000 worth of paediatric equipment still unfunded.

The position of PDCN remains clear: Until PADP is adequately funded, people with physical disabilities will not receive their much needed items in a timely and consistent manner. PDCN estimates that the PADP budget need a recurrent injection of \$15.5m.

### **3. Transport**

Jordana Goodman maintains PDCN's commitment to the NCOSSE Transport Policy Advisory Group, feeding into NCOSSE policy.

#### **Taxis**

The report of the *NSW Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Taskforce* was finalised in November 2005, but to date there has been no response. Unfortunately, if adopted as it is, NSW will not have a universally accessible taxi fleet. PDCN will continue to advocate on this point.

Additionally, PDCN submitted response to the Ministry of Transport regarding the *Draft Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) Taskforce Review* recommending the re-adoption of the WAT Taskforce to provide ongoing consumer input. This response included additional comments on proposed recommendations proposed by the Taxi Council of NSW. The central theme of this response once again focused on adopting a universally accessible taxi to be available to all members of the community.

PDCN submitted a response to the IPART review of Taxi Fares. The following recommendations were made as part of this review:

- The 15 minute upper limit on waiting time for wheelchair accessible taxis be retained and a Smart Card regime implemented for passengers entitled to the TTSS
- The NSW Ministry of Transport obtain additional data to determine why response times are unacceptable for 30% of wheelchair passengers
- Taxi networks in country networks are identified
- Increased regulation of taxi drivers with WAT plates to ensure that M50 jobs are equally distributed
- The level of TTSS subsidy to be increased from 50% to 75% of the metered fares
- IPART to support the current subsidies provided by the NSW Ministry of Transport, but consider increasing the TTSS
- New performance standards for WAT services be introduced before 2007, in accordance with the Commonwealth Accessible Public Transport Disability Standards.

## Parking

As a result of the media attention on the abuse the Mobility Parking Authorities, the RTA called a meeting of peak agencies to discuss potential solutions to the problem. The following are the primary outcomes and possible solutions to come from the consultation:

- It is not the RTA's intention to restrict the parking of legitimate users
- People with "Recognised Disabilities" will not need a medical certificate at each renewal and their MPAs will be extended to 5 year permits.
- As 65% of MPA holders are also licensed drivers and it may be possible tie in the two renewal processes together.
- Means of tightening up the medical certification process were also discussed
- There is a need for better enforcement strategies within local government.

## 4. Built Environment

### Draft DDA Access to Premises Standard

Once again there has been no decision on the adoption of the draft standard. The concerns of PDCN remain as last year: lack of access to small buildings and the application of unjustifiable hardship.

PDCN once again raised the issue of access to the upper floors of small buildings, as an access to employment issue, through the Human Services Minister, Jo Hockey and Employment Minister, Sharman Stone. The question raised was further sent on to Attorney General, Phillip Ruddock, and we await his response.

During 2006-2006, PDCN maintained its commitment to the development of the Australian Network for Universal Housing Design and the Home Modification Information Clearing House.

### Australian Network for Universal Housing Design

ANUHD will be holding its first forum/conference in Sydney on the 8th November. An interesting array of speakers is being developed. For further can be obtained from the PDCN website or the ANUHD website, [www.anuhd.org](http://www.anuhd.org)

### HMMInfo Clearing House

The Home Modification Information Clearing House continues to develop, becoming a wonderful source of information. This service has a new web address, and you can visit this site at [www.homemods.info](http://www.homemods.info)

### Health

The Department of Health held a number of consultations across NSW in May 2006, informing the development of its 25 year strategic plan, "Fit for the Future". Ann-Mason Fumage and Robyn Chapman attended.

The NSW Ombudsman's Office is conducting research into access to health services by people with disabilities, with a focus on Allied Health, Oral Care and Specialist services, including Dementia Care and Mental Health. A consultation was held in June 2006 and Robyn Chapman attended. We await the results.

### The Arts

In May 2006, Jordana Goodman developed a response to the *Accessible Arts: Cultural Access Plan*. PDCN's response focussed on the need for Accessible Arts to consult with people with disabilities, to increase the representation of people with disabilities on its management committee and the need to develop strategies and networks to facilitate access around the state.

### State Electoral Office

In December 2005, the State Electoral Office released its discussion paper "Access to Democracy". The SEO held a series of workshops/ consultations one of which

"NOTHING ABOUT US—WITHOUT US!"

Robyn Chapman and Ann-Mason Furmage attended. This PDCN followed with a written submission.

Of major concern throughout both the consultation and the workshops was the planned introduction of “special voting centres for the disabled”, a plan which I am pleased to report will not go ahead.

The position expressed by PDCN is that as voting is a fundamental right and responsibility of citizenship in this country, there is no excuse for not providing:

- Accessible polling centres and polling furniture;
- Accessible enrolment processes
- Accessible voting processes
- Accessible information on this fundamental part of societal membership.

## Campaign 2006

### “Creating the Decent Society”

Our 2006 campaign commenced on the 28th of February when the Physical Disability Council of NSW lead a quiet dignified parliamentary presence at Parliament House at Macquarie Street with the aim to highlight core issues of **simple decency** for people with physical disability in NSW as well as offer people with disabilities access to democracy.

**Decency Day**—as it was called, attracted between 40 and 50 people. Politicians received a dossier of “Decency Day” covering the three main issues of the campaign: PADP, Personal Assistance and Transport. Below is the cover page, which can also be used alone.

### Creating the Decent Society

*“My point of passion and conviction is to commit myself to...care and assistance for the disabled...**these are matters of simple decency.***

*We have allowed these issues to slip off the broad political agenda. We need to put them back there.”*

*Morris Iemma, Premier of NSW –  
2 August, 2005*

The new Premier of NSW, Morris Iemma in his inaugural speech on the 2nd of August 2005 made this statement about his focus on “matters of simple decency” for disabled people.

The Physical Disability Council of NSW has taken up this focus for 2006 in support will focus on the theme of **decency** on three support service types—

- The NSW Program of Appliances for Disabled Persons (PADP);
- Personal Assistance services, The **Attendant Care Program** and the **Home Care Service of NSW** (especially the *High Need Pool*);
- **Public Transport.**

For people with physical disabilities in NSW the application of this simple decency means the creation of a “level playing field” in which people with physical disabilities are able to attain equality of opportunity and equality of citizenship.

The creation of this level playing field requires, for example, equal access to education, employment and health and an accessible built environment. Appropriate support services must be available. The ability of a person with a physical disability to participate in all their chosen activities of life and citizenship is limited by the availability and sustainability of the services and the supports they need. The “level

playing field” is therefore limited by the availability of those services and supports.

If an individual has the equipment they need and access to an accessible bus service but their personal assistance service fails and they cannot get out of bed, go to the toilet, eat a meal, the whole system for them has failed and participation is impossible.

The Physical Disability Council of NSW asks the NSW Government to act upon its promise of simple decency by:

- Increasing the **NSW PADP** budget to \$37.5m recurrent – an increase of \$15.5m;
- Increasing the number of places within the **Attendant Care Program** to 700 (from 314);
- Increasing its contribution to the **Home Care Service of NSW** enabling 350 new places within the High Need Pool;
- Increasing its commitment to provide an accessible **public transport system**;
- Adopting a **universally accessible taxi fleet** for all members of the community.

## State Government News

### Stronger Together

The State government released it's *Stronger Together* package in May 2006. The government needs to be congratulated on this commitment of and additional \$1.3b into disability services over the next five years, and in particular the development of a program for young people with disabilities leaving foster care; an increase in therapy places for both children and adults; a commitment to the Young People in Nursing Homes and an increase in places available in the Attendant Care Program.

PDCN is disappointed that:

- .....
- The plan provides for an increase to

“NOTHING ABOUT US—WITHOUT US!”

the Attendant Care Program of 320 places over the 5 year period. It is our belief that this will not meet the demand for places in 2006. Therefore, whilst welcome, there will still be a significant number of people with physical disabilities waiting for a place on this valuable program at the end of 2011.

- The plan does not address DADHC's role in a whole of government approach
- Particularly there is no mention of a change in funding to PADP, which is administered by the Department of Health. DADHC gives \$2m each year specifically for equipment for children with physical disabilities.

Of concern is the development of disability specific nursing homes. People with physical disabilities should have access to regular aged care services.

The development of disability specific nursing homes, will need to be watched carefully, so as to prevent the re-development of institutionalisation.

### Sector Reform

The much awaited sector reform did not eventuate again during 2005-2006. DADHC was to release its reform “blueprint” in February 2006, but has delayed this yet again.

The direction thus far can be summarised as:

- Information services to provide specialist disability information only
- A strengthening of individual advocacy
- Systemic advocacy to be derived from individual advocacy
- A clearer role for peak agencies.

As a result of the delay in releasing the blueprint, PDCN has received yet another one year extension to funding, to take the work of the organisation to the end of 2006/2007.

# Advocacy Network

Over the past several years PDCN has visited many rural centers to explain what PDCN does and to provide some training in advocacy skills.

As a result of these visits, many PDCN members have put their names forward as being interested in being part of a network of people who keep PDCN informed of the problems faced by people with physical disability in their local area. These problems might be individual – like someone being denied a piece of equipment from PADP, or more general – like the lack of accessible taxis.

PDCN undertakes what we call “systemic advocacy” by which we mean taking action to try to improve policies and procedures (of Government or businesses) so that many people with physical disability benefit.

PDCN has not been involved in “individual advocacy” where action is taken to assist an individual with their personal situation. And, unfortunately, we don’t have the funds to provide this kind of service.

PDCN has, however, decided to offer a training program to people who would like to assist people with physical disability who are advocating on their own behalf. That is, these “support people” would be trained to assist a person with physical disability to analyse their situation so as to choose the best course of action.

This training program for support people is being developed and it will be piloted in Dubbo and Coffs Harbour in September and October.

If you would be interested in being part of this initiative please send an email to John Moxon <[admin@pdcnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@pdcnsw.org.au)> or telephone PDCN and leave a message for John to get back to you (John is in the office only one day per week).

# Media Report

In February this year PDCN adopted a Media Strategy. This strategy focuses on increasing PDCN's Media presence through press releases and designated spokespersons on a range of issues.

This enables PDCN to pursue core priorities through the media, while remaining capable of responding to other opportunities in the media as they arise. Regular releases serve to raise awareness of PDCN and physical disability issues within the Media, the disability sector and the wider community.

PDCN Media strategy also utilises the existing PDCN network of the e-bulletin, Discussion Forum, PDCN website and Advocacy Network. Our flexibility allows PDCN to use any issue in the media which captures public interest eg: Mobility Parking Scheme.

Print, Radio and Television outlets now more actively seek our opinion and/or response on the issues effecting people with disability in NSW.

Since January 2006, PDCN has released several Media Releases, on a variety of issues from PADP through to the abuse of the Mobility Parking Scheme. Spokespersons have been interviewed in the media five times and our information and resources directly sourced by media outlets.

**30 May—People with disabilities grounded**  
*PDCN comment on Virgin airlines' revised 'special service request' passenger policy.*

**24 May—Equipment Please: A little decency needed**

*PDCN comment on the chronic underfunding of PADP highlighting the amount required to meet the needs of people with physical disability.*

**26-April—PADP - A Little Decency for Children**

*PDCN comment on the partial increase to the PADP budget highlighting the amount required to meet the needs of people with physical disability.*

**28-February—Access to Democracy Denied - Where's the decency?**

*PDCN comment on denial to democratic presence at Parliament House to 15 people with severe disabilities.*

**28-February—Decency Day**

*PDCN launch of 'Decency Day' and promotion of the day's priorities and focus.*

**30-January—Where's the Common Decency?**

*PDCN comment regarding the abuse of the Mobility Parking Scheme in NSW.*

**19-January—Affront to Human Decency**

*PDCN comment on widely reported incident in Melbourne in which two men with Muscular Dystrophy were forced to crawl unaided to their vehicle rather than use 'courtesy' wheelchairs.*

All media releases are available for viewing at <http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/press/>

# Publications Report

## Publications

In keeping with the role of resource development, Craig has agreed to take on the responsibility of publishing the PDCN Bulletin on a regular basis and the PDCN Newsletter.

During July 2005 – June 2006 there have been three email Bulletins sent out:

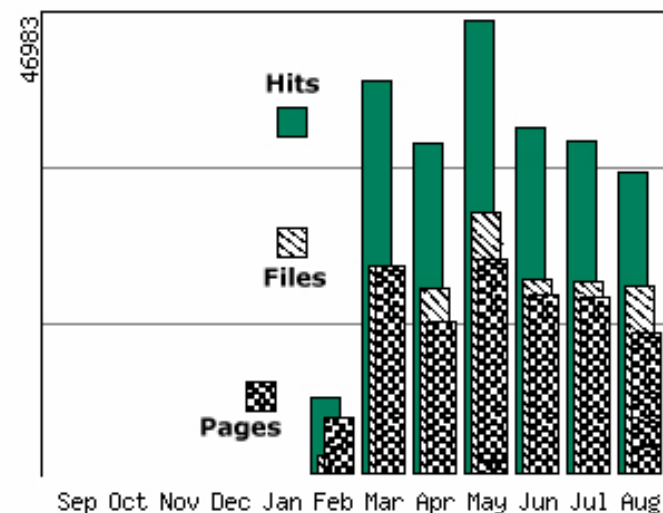
1. December 2005
2. January 20, 2006 and
3. May 26, 2006

And one Newsletter for July 2006

All PDCN publications are accessible through our website by clicking on 'Publications' <http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/publications/index.html>

## Website Report

In February 2006 PDCN changed the website host to [www.rockethost.com](http://www.rockethost.com). This hosting service also provides an automatic and reliable statistical programme



accessible to the general public at <http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/stats/>

The statistics begin from February, at the time of beginning our hosting with this service provider.

“Visits” imply unique visits from a user in each 24 hour period – while “Hits” would be much higher as some visitors return several times a day, or view multiple pages in their visit to our website. You can see from the

Summary by Month 2006										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
<a href="#">Aug</a>	1351	839	630	216	2452	398036	4975	14503	19313	31084
<a href="#">Jul</a>	1107	639	584	236	3338	351073	7331	18125	19815	34338
<a href="#">Jun</a>	1189	664	614	246	3577	395292	7392	18443	19947	35699
<a href="#">May</a>	1515	869	715	281	4001	425710	8718	22187	26945	46983
<a href="#">Apr</a>	1141	634	520	232	3441	339937	6981	15615	19044	34230
<a href="#">Mar</a>	1308	689	693	267	3391	395439	8296	21501	21368	40559
<a href="#">Feb</a>	1105	257	805	305	1334	52357	2136	5636	1800	7740
<b>Totals</b>						<b>2357844</b>	<b>45829</b>	<b>116010</b>	<b>128232</b>	<b>230633</b>



table below, that approx. 200 visits per day were recorded with an average of 6500 visits per month.

This is a respectable audience figure to be viewing our website.

Over this time based on the evidence of internet protocol (IP) numbers, we had visitors to the website from the Department of Housing, Google search engine, Association of Independent Schools of NSW, John Fairfax Holdings, University of Queensland, Southern Cross University, Centerlink and individuals who show up with the usual assortment of internet service providers (isps) throughout Australia.

### **NGO Website Project**

PDCN's website management project continues to push ahead with sourcing more clients and developing ongoing projects. <http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/about/website.html>

Currently PDCN maintains the websites of five not-for-profit organisations.

The **Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW (MDAA)** is the peak body for people from a non-English speaking background (NESB) with disability and their families and carers in NSW. MDAA makes a full use of Craig's abilities – requiring regular updates and maintenance of the site. They engage their service users and networks through their website publicising events, publications, services and training sessions.

<http://www.mdaa.org.au/>

The **Criminal Justice Support Network (CJSN)** is a service of the Intellectual Disability Rights Service Inc (IDRS) that provides volunteer support workers for people with an intellectual disability who are in contact with the criminal justice system.

<http://www.idrs.org.au/cjsn/>

The **Intellectual Disability Rights Service** is a community legal centre in New South Wales. They work with people with an intellectual disability to exercise and advance their rights.

<http://www.idrs.org.au/>

Like the CJSN, the website of the **NSW Network of Women with Disability** is housed within a supportive service in this case PDCN. The Network supports women with disability throughout five areas of the state, developing sustainable networks of women with disability to effect individual and systemic change in favour of greater social inclusion.

<http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/women/>

**OI Australia** is the website of the national Osteogenesis Imperfecta Society of Australia and has regular updates promoting events, publications, and resources. <http://www.oiaustralia.org/>

During 2005-2006 PDCN successfully assisted ACROD in the development of a **web based OH&S resource** that has not yet been launched. This part of the ACROD website will provide ACROD members with information on a variety of Workplace risks such as manual handling, handling violence and working in external locations.

All these organisations use their websites in different ways to target slightly different audiences. A well maintained and regularly updated website reaches a wider audience than by conventional means and is best used in conjunction with conventional printed publications.

PDCN seeks clients within the disability sector, and anyone interested to add internet outreach to their service delivery tools are welcome to contact Robyn Chapman directly for more information.

# NSW Network of Women with Disability

The NSW Network of Women with Disability was established in 2004 with a one off grant from the NSW Office for Women. Open to women with a disability who live in NSW, the Network was set up to support and promote women with disability by:

- Creating support network(s) within the community.
- Creating and pursuing opportunities to work toward systemic change for the lives of women with disability.
- Promoting participation of women with disability within the community.
- Providing a social outlet for women with disability.

Women have shown support and participation, from volunteering in the running of the office, through to having regular meetings in their local areas.

The Beehive, which incorporates members of the meeting groups, the Mother's Group and any other interested party(s) continues to meet regularly. In consultation with MDAA, PDCN and the ANZ Steering Group, they have been an integral part of the continual metamorphosis of the Women's Network, which also has it's own website and an email list, WOMENLIKEUS, an online forum connecting women with disability no matter where they live.

## **ANZ Charitable Trust**

Last year the network successfully secured one off funding from the ANZ Charitable Trust to conduct a three year project focusing on enhancing the capacity of individual women with disability in NSW.

The Project has commenced and the Network currently has two Project Workers, Cathie Phoeda and Kerri Thorne, who have a project work plan to help develop skills of individual members by:

- Identifying capacity building opportunities
- Identifying and pursuing opportunities in developing skills in systemic advocacy and lobbying
- Developing resources that can be used to further enhance the capacity of women with disability to bring about social justice
- Training in Richter scale evaluation (A form of questionnaire/survey).

## **ANZ Project Workers**

The Project Worker have been involved in a range of activities on behalf of the Women's Network, including development of advocacy resources for Rural and CALD women, providing information and support for mums with a disability through the Pregnancy and Parenting Info Kit, and also providing support to the Newsletter Team, the Women's Office Team and the Rickter Scale Interviewers.

Cathie has also been hard at work organising and facilitating gatherings for new areas such as Queanbeyan and Parramatta. The Project Workers were also responsible for organizing the Writers Seminar with special guest speaker, Helen Razer.

# Committee Attendance Records 2005-06

## Management Committee Meetings

	JULY – NOV 2005		DEC 2005–JUN 2006	
	Attended	Possible	Attended	Possible
<b>Justine Acar</b>	2	3	1	3
<b>David Brice</b>	2	3	1	3
<b>Iain Dison</b>	0	3	Not a member	
<b>Bruce Donaldson</b>	3	3	2	3
<b>Chris Fallon</b>	2	3	Not a Member	
<b>Jack Frisch</b>	2	3	Not a Member	
<b>Ann-Mason Furmage</b>	3	3	3	3
<b>Graham Hand</b>	2	3	Not a Member	
<b>Stewart McLennan</b>	3	3	3	3
<b>John Moxon</b>	3	3	2	3
<b>Sonia Markhoff</b>	2	3	2	3
<b>Kim Rowles</b>	3	3	2	3
<b>Glenn Redmayne</b>	2	3		
<b>Jo Ragen</b>	Not a Member		3	3
<b>Ed Sutton</b>	2	3	Not a Member	
<b>Ross Turner</b>	3	3	2	3
<b>Mark Relf</b>	2	3	1	3

## Executive Meetings

	JULY – NOV 2005		DEC 2005– JUN 2006	
	Attended	Possible	Attended	Possible
<b>David Brice</b>	0	2	Not a member	
<b>Iain Dison</b>	2	2	Not a Member	
<b>Ann-Mason Furmage</b>	2	2	3	3
<b>Stewart McLennan</b>	2	2	3	3
<b>Sonia Markhoff</b>	Not a member		2	3
<b>John Moxon</b>	2	2	2	3
<b>Mark Relf</b>	1	2	Not a Member	
<b>Glenn Redmayne</b>	0	2	Not a Member	
<b>Kim Rowles</b>	2	2	Not a Member	

“NOTHING ABOUT US—WITHOUT US!”