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Stay Informed

CONTENTS

PDCN at ATSA Expo	1
What is Ability Links NSW?	2
PDCN Community Connectors	2
NDIS Survey Results	3
Getting Ready Workshop Final Date Added	6



ATSA
INDEPENDENT LIVING
EXPO

YOUR CHOICE, YOUR CONTROL

Supporting inclusion and independence with Australia's foremost exhibition of aids, equipment & allied services

13-14 May 2015
Grand Pavilion, Rosehill Racecourse, Sydney

The **Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN)** is an exhibitor across this two day event.

It's on from 9am– 4pm on the 13th and 14th of May, so why not call in and take a look, we would love to see you!

The **free** expo with **more than 120 exhibitors** will feature companies from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Exhibitors **new** to the ATSA Independent Living Expo include Home Medical Products Australia, Merits Australia, The Horticultural Society of NSW and Gordon Ellis & Co.

There will also be a number of returning exhibitors, who will once again be showing their newest and most innovative product ranges in assistive technology, rehabilitation equipment and much more.

10.45 –11.15 Day 1 - Wednesday 13th May

Come along to hear

Still Here & Still Living – PDCN's 2014 report on the impact of ageing on the needs of people with physical disability

presented by

Peter Simpson (President)

Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN)

What is Ability Links NSW?

Ability Links is a new initiative taken by the State Government, which began in the Hunter New England/Central Coast areas in June 2013. Ability Links NSW originated with the intention to support the trial of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Ability Links purpose is to assist people with disabilities to be valued and treated equally as a member of the community. The program promotes independence and inclusiveness and targets developing a society where people with disabilities can enjoy inclusion lives in all spheres of life.

Ability Links NSW is provided by 268 Linkers, including 47 Aboriginal identified positions throughout NSW.

Who are Ability Linkers and what they do?

Ability Linkers have three main functions:

To work with people with disabilities, their families and carers in helping them to plan their future and identify best or most feasible way to achieve goals. To work with people with disabilities and their families to help them boost self esteem and become more confident.

They also support people to accomplish their objectives by building new networks and accessing facilities and support services in their local community. Linkers also work with local communities themselves to help them become more welcoming and inclusive to people with disability.

Who can access Ability Links in NSW?

People with disabilities who fall within the age group of 9 to 64 years, and who usually are not accessing specialist disability services. Carers and families of people with disabilities. Anyone can contact their local Linker, there are no eligibility or assessment requirements.

Where to Contact:

To find a local Linker in your region, please contact:

TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for the phone number for your chosen service.

Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for the phone number for your chosen service.

Internet relay users [connect to the NRS \(opens in new window\)](#) then input the phone number for your chosen service or

http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/inclusion_and_participation/ability_links_nsw

PDCN's New Community Connectors

PDCN has recently appointed three people in the roles of Community Connectors. The Community Connectors form part of the Disability Support Organisation (DSO) Capacity Building Project for which PDCN has recently received NDIA Sector Development funding.

Managed and supported by the PDCN's DSO Project Officer Wendy Banfield, the community connectors are facilitators of local peer support groups, whom will provide information, resources and mutual support for people with disabilities and/or their families.

The Community Connectors will build and sustain relationships with people living with disability, families of people living with disability, community leaders and organisations and any other relevant stakeholders

Community Connectors cont...

The three connectors will be located in the Newcastle, Bathurst and the Wollongong/Illawarra regions and will each develop up to 4 local regional peer support groups in order to:

- Improve understanding of the operation of the NDIS, and the principles that underpin NDIS, for people with disability, their families and their carers.
- Build the capacity of people with disability, their families and their carers to exercise choice and control
- Encourage and enable people with disability to move toward self-management, greater independence and meaningful community inclusion.
- Share information, training, resources and tools throughout their networks including local community.
- Increase social networks for people with disability

If you or anyone in your family or community would benefit from being part of a peer support group or if you would like more information please send an email to wendy.banfield@pdcnsw.org.au

PDCN 2015 Survey on the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Earlier this year PDCN undertook a survey on people's understanding and knowledge about National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The results gave us an opportunity to identify the areas of improvement and what general public have concern about.

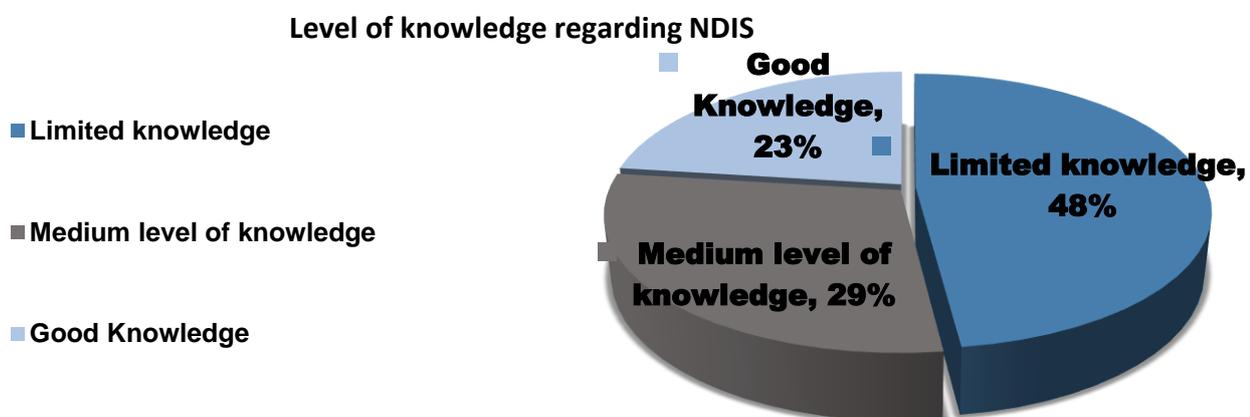
The survey was distributed by PDCN as an online initiative and promoted openly on the PDCN website along with PDCN facebook and twitter accounts – open to anyone to respond.

We thank all our members and participants for their invaluable feedback. We fed these results to the Minister for Disability, the Honorable John Ajaka in a face to face meeting in early March, and also to the NDIS, to help inform future work, and felt that it would be a pertinent to share the results with our members.

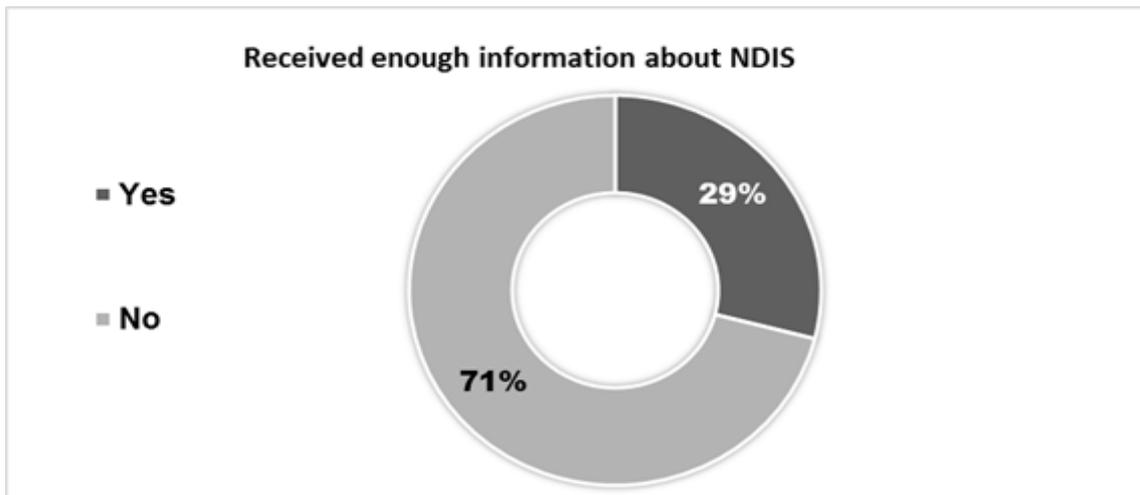
Survey Results:

Q1. What is your knowledge of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?

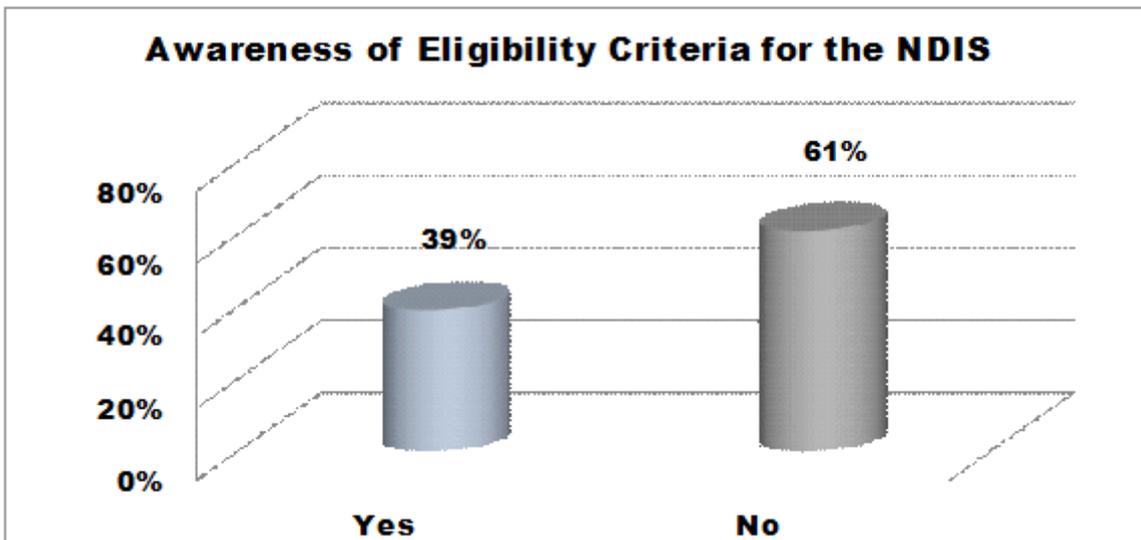
Almost half (48%) of the participants said that they have limited knowledge, 29% said they had a medium level of understanding, while only 23% had good knowledge.



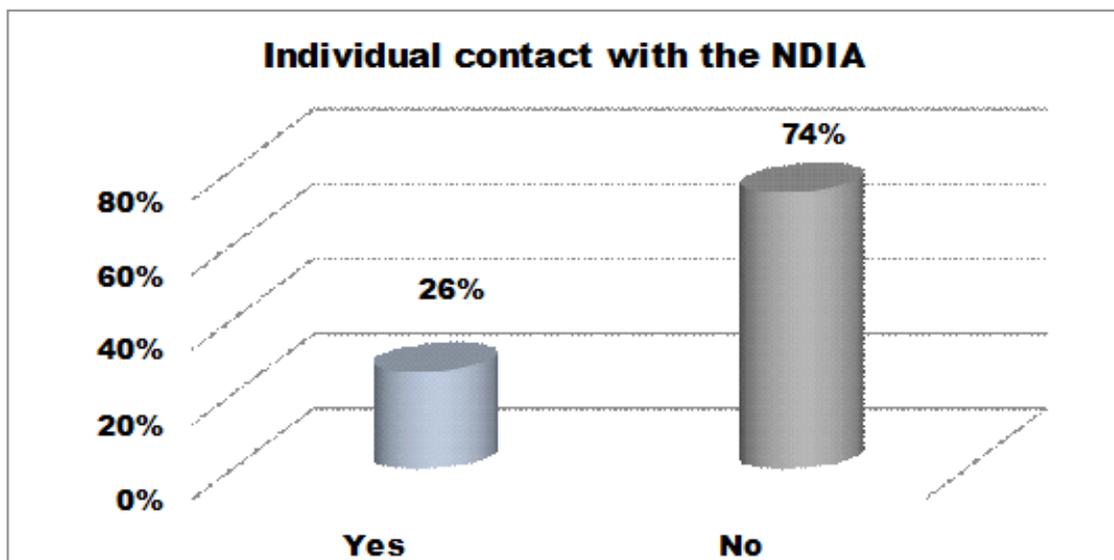
Q2. Do you feel you have received enough information about the NDIS?



Q3: Are you aware of your eligibility for NDIS funding?

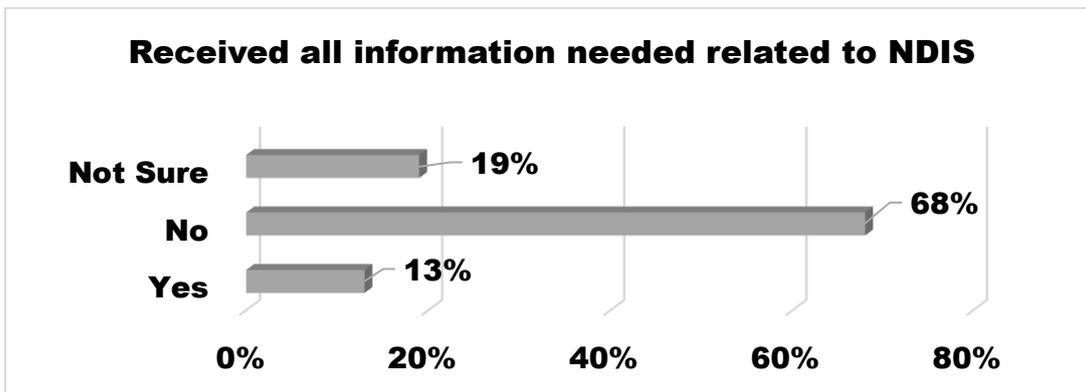


Q4: Have you had any individual contact with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)?



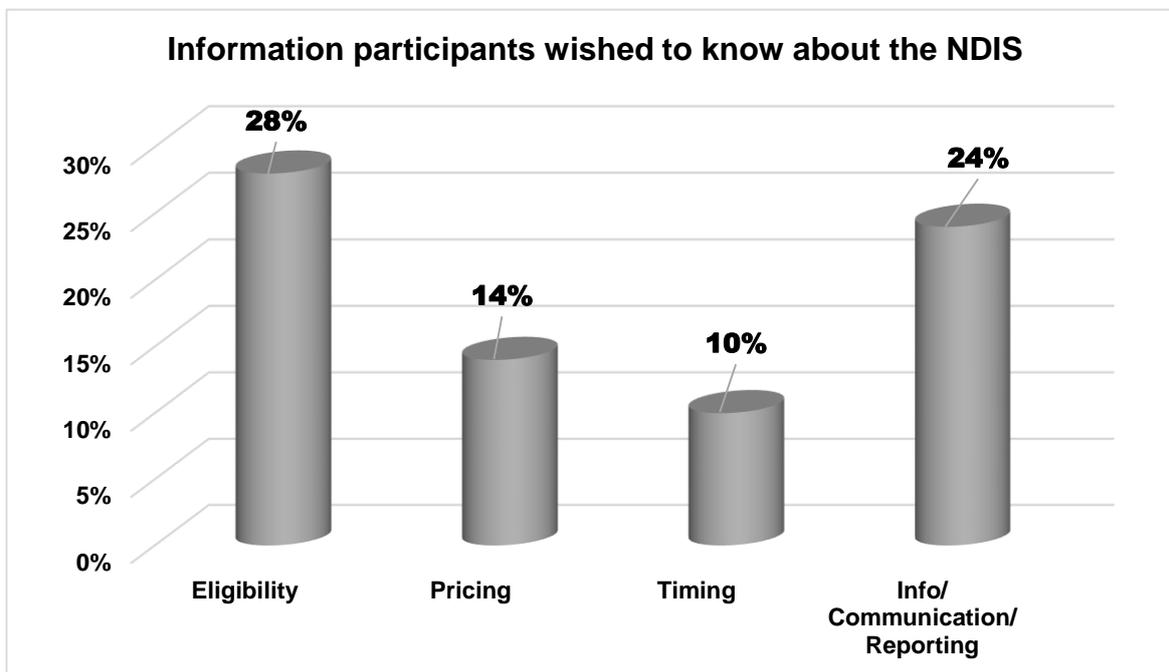
Q5: Have you received all of the information you need relating to the NDIS?

19% of respondents were unsure if they need other information relating to NDIS, only 13% were satisfied with the supplied NDIS information, while 68% felt that they required more materials.



Q6: What information about the NDIS do you feel you need to know more about?

Respondents had many varied views on the information they required from the NDIS, however many had similar responses. Most of respondents (28%) felt that they need to have a clearer idea about the eligibility criteria. 14% showed their concern regarding pricing whilst 10% wanted to know how long it will take for the process to roll out or when it will be available in their areas. An additional 24% identified other issues like the method of communication, reporting processes, information regarding funding, how the NDIS works and what assistance will be available to them.



As always we will use the results provided to inform the work of PDCN going forward and to ensure we can better assist people with a physical disability to engage with the NDIS as it continues to roll out throughout NSW, and will continue to engage with you, our members, on the NDIS as changes and updated information comes to hand.

‘Getting Ready’: Living the life I want to live

Getting Ready Workshop

Parramatta - June 1 and 2 - Final Date Added

With news the transition to the NDIS may occur earlier for people living in Western Sydney, PDCN is pleased to announce our final Getting Ready: Living the Life I Want to Live Workshop, **to be held in Parramatta.**

The focus of the workshop is to gain more control over your life by identifying what is important to you, set goals and make a plan to achieve goals, this will help with preparation for transitioning to the NDIS. The workshop:

- Provides opportunity for individuals through discussion and personal reflection, to identify and focus on what is important to them.
- Assist individuals in identifying skills and supports they may need to attain their specific goals.
- Gain information about funding initiatives
- Enable greater self-awareness and confidence
- Interactive workshop learning from the experiences of others

Getting Ready is a free workshop run over two days

The restricted number of participants, the diversity of facilitator life experience and the face-to-face nature of the facilitation style all contribute to the effectiveness of the workshops.

- Conducted in two half-day sessions with a night in between for reflection and preparation .
- Small group size
- The workshop is conducted by two facilitators, at least one of whom has a physical disability.

Venue: Training Room

Western Sydney Community Forum

Level 4, 146 Marsden Street

PARRAMATTA

Timing

Day One: Monday 1 June 2015 - 1.15pm arrival for workshop 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Day Two: Tuesday 2 June 2015 - 9.45am arrival for workshop 10am to 1pm

To register to attend, or for more information please contact

Hayley on 02 9552 1606 or email admin@pdcnsw.org.au

Getting ready' is a consumer capacity building activity as part of Stronger Together 2 an initiative of Ageing, Disability & Homecare, Department of Family & Community Services NSW