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ANNUAL REPORT
2014 - 2015

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Organisational Profile

Physical Disability Council of NSW



The Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) is the peak representative organisation of, and for, people with physical disability across NSW. PDCN has a majority of people with physical disability in its membership, its governance,

Membership

Individual membership of PDCN includes people with a range of physical disabilities, 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 socio-economic circumstances. Organisational membership includes community organisations, human service providers and other organisations that have a commitment to people who have physical disability and to work of PDCN.

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.

Purpose

To build empowered, inclusive communities through:

- Information and education
- Engagement and participation
- Developing individual capacity and resilience

Values

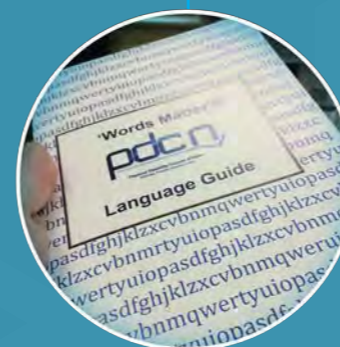
As we implement our vision, we will be guided by our values...

Integrity	we are trustworthy, open and honest in all our undertakings
Inclusion	we include people with physical disabilities in all we do
Independence	we value our independence to remain true to our values
Innovation	we are committed to finding new ways to better support people with physical disabilities and work we do
Collaboration	we work in partnership with our members, stakeholders and the broader community to achieve our purpose

Ordinary people Ordinary lives



13 SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT, REGULATORY AND OTHER BODIES



I'M OKAY WEBSITE
HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARD
NATIONAL RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARD

4TH EDITION OF 'WORDS MATTER' LANGUAGE GUIDE
UPDATED PUBLICATION LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER 2014



IMPACT OF AGEING REPORT
LAUNCHED OCTOBER 2014



6 SPECIFIC ISSUE,
2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS
AND 4 EXPOS ATTENDED

REPRESENTATION ON 14
ADVISORY GROUPS



2014 - 2015



Highlights



Mr Peter Simpson
President

The 2014 - 2015 financial year has been a time of change for the PDCN. After 7 years as Executive Officer, Ruth Robinson has left us to pursue other interests. The Board would like to thank Ruth for all her hard work and dedication.

The incoming Executive Officer Serena Ovens commenced work with the PDCN on the 1st December 2014. Serena has settled in well and the Board looks forward to working with her in representing people with physical disability throughout NSW in the future.

PDCN is in a healthy financial position but we need to continue to work hard to ensure that we stay that way.

Processes are currently underway to review our strategic plan. With the rolling out of the NDIS and the changes in government funding models, organisations such as ours will need to look for other sources of income to fund our programs and become more self-sufficient. Our next strategic plan will have a shorter time frame which will allow us to react more swiftly to support people with a physical disability in a changing environment.

On a personal note, my first year as President has been a challenging and exciting one.

A highlight for me was in October last year when I had the opportunity to represent PDCN at the 2014 Resilient Australia Awards, hosted by the Minister for Police & Emergency Services at NSW Parliament House, and to receive the NSW State 'Highly Commended Award' for PDCN's 'I'm Okay: Emergency Readiness for People with a Disability' website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that have helped in my transition to President, along with my fellow board members for their work in the governance of PDCN and for the time and effort they give to this vital role.

I also thank our employees and contractors, who continue to assist in putting into action the PDCN vision through their skill, commitment, hard work and dedication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Simpson', written over a light blue circular background.

Peter Simpson
President



Message From The President

This year has been a year of transformation for PDCN, with a change of leadership mid-year, a number of funded programs coming to a close, and others just beginning. However it has also been an exciting year, with continued successes enabling us to achieve important outcomes for people with physical disability.

The positive relationships we have built up with Government, like-minded organisations, our stakeholders and our members are core to achieving these outcomes, and reflect the importance of listening to our members, and giving them a voice in the NSW disability landscape.

During the past year we produced an updated version of our 'Words Matter' publication, along with the 'Impact of Ageing on the Needs of People with Physical Disability' report, providing us with some significant implications for a growing and ageing population with longer life expectancy.

We also made 13 submissions, held 2 community and 6 specific issue consultations, represented our members on 14 committees and advisory boards, and attended an additional 9 one off consultations. A particular highlight has been having PDCN offered a seat on Minister Dominello's newly established Social Innovation Council, and working with the Minister and senior ministry staff across various portfolios to look at ways to enable Non Government Organisations to work with Government that are effective, innovative, and above all standardised and efficient for all.

PDCN is proactively moving with the funding landscape changes in order to remain a viable organisation into the future. To this end we are currently implementing some significant initiatives, such as an updated strategic plan, new website, and a customer relationship management database, to ensure we are well equipped to clearly show the outcomes we achieve in our work and for our membership.

Additionally, we will look to develop stronger partnerships with like-minded corporates and other organisations that can help to support the work of the PDCN.

I'd like to thank the PDCN board and staff for making me feel so welcome as I stepped into the executive role partway through the year, for answering my many questions as I 'got up to speed' and for their continued dedication, commitment and achievements throughout.

Finally, a big thank you to our members, supporters and others whom participated in our forums, consultations and events, and continue to inform the work we do.



Serena Ovens
Executive Officer



Message From The Executive Officer



meet the team **PDCN**

BOARD & EXECUTIVE



Peter Simpson
President



Kevin Finlayson
Vice President



Korey Gunnis
Secretary



Andrew Longhurst
Treasurer



Caroline Daley
Member



Arthur Theodore
Member



Serena Ovens
Executive Officer
(December 2014 - Present)

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Peter Simpson
President 8/8

Kevin Finlayson
Vice President 6/8

Korey Gunnis
Secretary 5/8

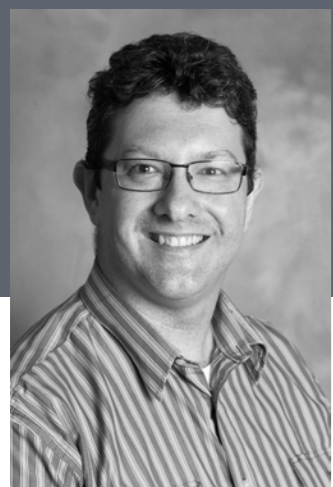
Andrew Longhurst
Treasurer 3/8

Caroline Daley
Members 4/8

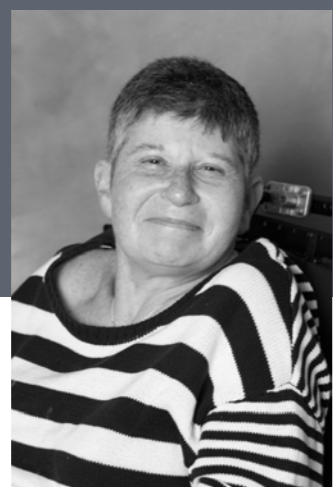
Arthur Theodore
(Joined Nov 2014) 5/6

Melinda Patterson
(to Oct 2014) 6/8

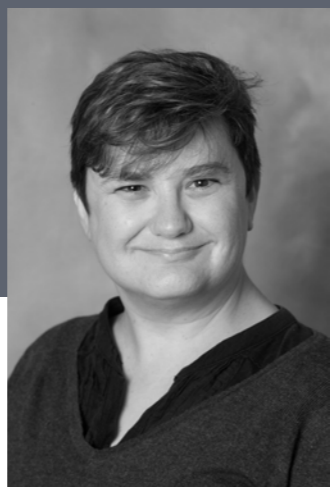
STAFF



Lachlan Hazelton
Communication
& Education Officer



Jordana Goodman
Policy Officer



Alison Vella
Accounts &
Membership Officer



Hayley Brooks
Project Officer



Wendy Banfield
Project Officer



Lindsay Cottee
Community
Connector



Melanie Schlaeger
Community
Connector



Sharon Holz
Community
Connector

Additional Staff

Julie Stonestreet & Wendy Potter - Workshop Facilitators
Ruth Robinson - Executive Officer (to December 2014)

Support Planning Project Planners

Ana Neale
Laura Brinkworth
Rebecca Sciroli

Ellen Small
Lisa Parker
Sue Gorman

Kerry Hartigan
Liz Gehring
Tim Childs

Financial Support

NSW Department of Family and Community Services - Ageing Disability and Home Care
National Disability Insurance Agency
NRMA

In-Kind Support

Bill McKee - Returning Officer
Nicholas Klujin - Annual Report (2014 - 2015)

> Object One

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

Expos

During the 2014 - 2015 year PDCN engaged in a number of expos including the Nepean Disability Expo, the ATSA Independent Living Expo and the City of Sydney's Yarn Up. PDCN also hosted an information stand as part of the City of Sydney's Senior Week information sessions.

Each expo provides an opportunity to engage with individuals about the work undertaken by PDCN, as well as provide 'show bags' which include a number of PDCN publications, research undertaken, information about upcoming workshops, newsletters and flyers. In all, over the course of these four expos, more than 600 people engaged with us and took away a 'show bag', heightening people's awareness of PDCN and what we can do to support and develop them; also bringing in new memberships for the association.

Social Media

PDCN's social media presence continues to grow as we build our interactions through these forms of media. Our Facebook page promotes our many community consultations, workshops, expos, and other important stakeholder events, and allows our members and interested parties to comment on our work. PDCN's Twitter account also continues to increase its followers, up more than 800% since 2013, and is invaluable in linking us with a broader cohort of concerned citizens, this assists us to broadcast latest news, issues and information to a wider audience.

Newsletters & E-Bulletins

E-Bulletins sent: **13**

Newsletters sent: **4**

Each year PDCN ensures it keeps its members and stakeholders abreast of the happenings of organisation through both printed and electronic means.

In 2014 - 2015, we once again produced 'PDCN LIVE', our quarterly newsletter, in both a printed version and online via the PDCN website. In addition we regularly updated people via our E-Bulletin. Our publications advise members of the work we are undertaking on their behalf. Members are also informed of opportunities to provide feedback or comment on relevant issues and are invited to take part in surveys conducted by PDCN, our partners and the stakeholders with whom we work.

Information and Referral

Specific information and referral is provided via telephone and email means, with 92% of enquiries being received by telephone, and 8% received by email.

The majority of enquiries received in 2014 - 2015 year related to:

- Getting about (transport, access to buildings and parking) **49%**
- Enabling (assistive devices e.g. wheelchairs, NDIS, person centred supports) **35%**
- Inclusion (work, education, housing, voting, pensions, electricity) **31%**

PDCN Website

PDCN's website is an important source of information and sharing. On average in the past financial year the website received 17,500 visits per month, and over 600 hits daily. Visitors to the site are able to access information, such as the latest news, PDCN publications including submissions, e-bulletins, newsletters and links to useful resources.

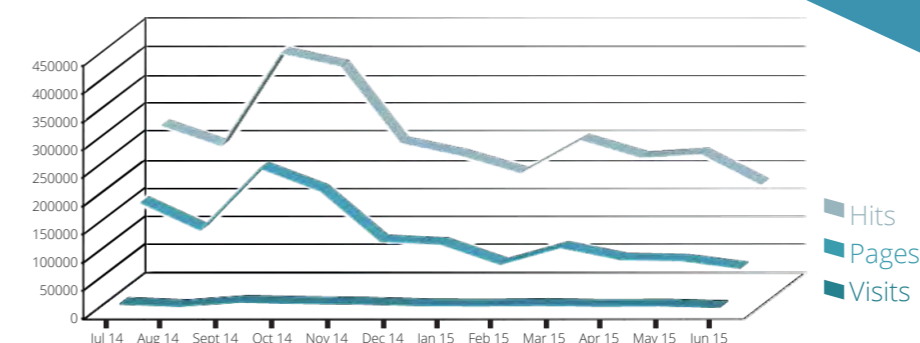
Over the course of the year a slight decrease in daily visits to the site was noted, possibly due to the site having some technical issues due to dated software, and a lack of appeal. After some consideration, PDCN have made a decision to build a new website, and work has begun on its development.



Our updated website will allow the site to run responsively on all types of viewing devices, strengthen its accessibility capabilities, and adding ease to the navigation and use of the site. The new site will also link directly to our database and other business software, allowing for smooth integration experience for our members. At the same time PDCN is working to improve the currency of information the website contains, and add vibrancy to the look and feel of the website.

We eagerly await the launch of our new website
Stay Posted!

PDCN Website
Monthly Average Metrics



> Object Two



Sharon Holz
& the Shoalhaven Self Advocacy
Group in Nowra

Consulting people with physical disability

In order to inform the work we undertake, and ensure the relevance of what we do on behalf of our members and stakeholders, PDCN consults broadly across the state, through community consultations, a Forum of Organisations and in targeted, specific issue surveys. In 2014 - 2015 these consultations took place in metropolitan, regional and rural locations, with participation from our members, service providers, local government representatives, stakeholders, and other relevant NGO organisations.

Community Consultations, and areas delivered
Forum of Organisations, and areas delivered
Specific Issue Consultations:

2 (Armidale, Penrith)
1 (Glebe)
7 (Undertaken by PDCN via Electronic & hardcopy means)

- Department of Attorney General and Justice Study
- Impact of Ageing on the needs of people with disability
- Information on Emergency Egress in response to Australian Building Codes Report
- Disability Access to Premises
- NDIS Quality and Safeguards
- Your experience with the NDIS
- 2015 State Election & E-Vote System and Accessibility

Issues of concern arising from these consultations allow PDCN to address policy that may require change in order to achieve full participation in the community for people with physical disability, address barriers to inclusion, and make submissions to government to ensure better outcomes for our constituency

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



Legend
Workshops & Locations for:
Dementia & Disability
Getting Ready
DSO Peer Support Groups
Community Consultations
Forum of Organisations

Peer Support Networks

PDCN has been funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to establish peer support groups for people with disability, facilitated by people with disability.

The aim of the peer support project is to bring people with disabilities together to share experiences and knowledge, build individual capacity and community inclusion, and assist in developing greater understanding of the National Disability Insurance Scheme as it rolls out across the state.

PDCN has employed Wendy Banfield to oversee this project, and she has hit the ground running, and now has a team of three Community Connectors in regional areas who will be responsible for establishing and facilitating up to four peer support groups each. These community connectors are Lindsay Cottee in the Bathurst / Lithgow Region, Melanie Shaleger in the Central Coast / Hunter Region, and Sharon Holz in the Wollongong / Illawarra Region. At the time of writing this report, the status of each is as follows:

Bathurst / Lithgow

Lindsay Cottee, the community connector in Bathurst hosted an information session on Peer support groups in late July. Follow up communications with the neighbourhood centre and various other local organisations has positive effects and Lindsay is looking forward to establishing a group in Bathurst in the near future.

Lindsay has most recently been working to establish a peer support group in Lithgow to coincide with the launch of NDIS in the Blue Mountains/Nepean Regions

Investigations are currently being carried out and contacts are also being made with people with disability in Orange to determine the interest in setting up peer support groups in this area.

Central Coast / Hunter Region

Melanie Schlaeger is the Community Connector in the Central Coast / Hunter Region. Melanie has established a peer support group in Erina on the Central Coast. This group meet on a monthly basis and have most recently discussed an interest in creative writing and in building self-confidence. The group is running well and growing each month.

Additionally, PDCN are working in partnership with Community Disability Alliance Hunter (CDAH) to co-facilitate the existing planning of Cafes in Charlestown and to establish a new planning Cafe in Maitland. The first Planning Cafe in Maitland will occur on the 3rd of September. Both the Charlestown and Maitland Planning Cafes occur on a monthly basis.

The DSO Project Team



Wollongong / Illawarra Region

Sharon Holz is the Community Connector in the Wollongong / Illawarra region. PDCN have recently taken over the management and facilitation of the Shoalhaven Self Advocacy group. This group was established by the Disability Trust and has been facilitated by Disability Education, Awareness Inc. (IDEAS) for the last 18 months. This group meet on the first Saturday of the month. The group shares stories, talks about goals and enjoys a 'cuppa' with every meeting.

Sharon Holz has also conducted an information session on peer groups in Dapto and a regular date for peer support groups in this area is soon to be announced.

She will also host an additional information session soon in Kiama and is working with local council with the view to establishing a group in this region.

As we move into 2015 - 2016, PDCN plan to develop further peer support groups in the Sydney metro area also, and further extend our reach in the regional areas our community connectors work within.

I'm Okay - Emergency Readiness for People with Disability

Since its launch in April 2014, the website 'I'm Okay - Emergency Readiness for people with Disability' has continued to receive interest from individuals with a disability and other stakeholders.

On 16 October 2014, PDCN attended an award ceremony at Parliament House, hosted by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, as part of the 2014 Resilient Australia Awards, where the website was awarded a 'State Highly Commended' Award in recognition of the contribution of the website to increasing community safety in emergencies and extreme weather conditions.

In March 2015, a submission was made to the NRMA Community Grants program for additional funding to increase the capacity and content of the I'm Okay website and its ongoing promotion. PDCN were advised of the successful outcome of this application in May 2015, with an additional \$4,927 being funded toward the project in the 2015/16 financial year.

This additional funding will allow PDCN to engage in consultations with individuals to inform the necessary additions to the website, as well as engage with emergency services and academics to provide additional content for the website.

Getting Ready - Living the Life I Want to Live

In the 2014 - 2015 year, 'Getting Ready - Living the Life I Want to Live' continued with a final 16 workshops facilitated across the State in metropolitan, rural and regional locations.

Originally funded in 2013 as part of the 'Living Life My Way' Framework, the 'Getting Ready' workshop was designed to provide training and skill development which focuses on decision making, life choices and empowerment of people with disability to become confident in planning their lives, assisting them in their transition to individualised funding.

The project concluded in June 2015, after completing 30 workshops across the State. PDCN was also involved in a three-day community outreach / education initiative with other organisations involved in the Living Life My Way projects (organised by the Aboriginal Disability Network NSW).

Throughout the project PDCN maintained a focus of people with disability being the attendees. The number of participants varied attending each workshop with an average of 6 participants attending each. This was an optimum audience size, allowing attendees the opportunity to discuss what was important to them and to also benefit from more in-depth discussions with both the facilitators and other participants of the group.

Overall, evaluations undertaken at the conclusion of each workshop showed 99% of attendees believed the workshop was relevant to their needs, with each attendee able to identify a goal of importance to them and having an opportunity to develop a pathway to achieving this goal during the workshop itself.

Follow up evaluations were also undertaken between 2 - 4 months post workshop with the following reported outcomes:

- 90% of respondents identified progress towards achieving the goal they had set for themselves
- 63% had achieved the goal set, or some of the smaller goals they had set (required to achieve the major goal)
- 71% feel they have more control over their own lives
- 78% feel more knowledgeable

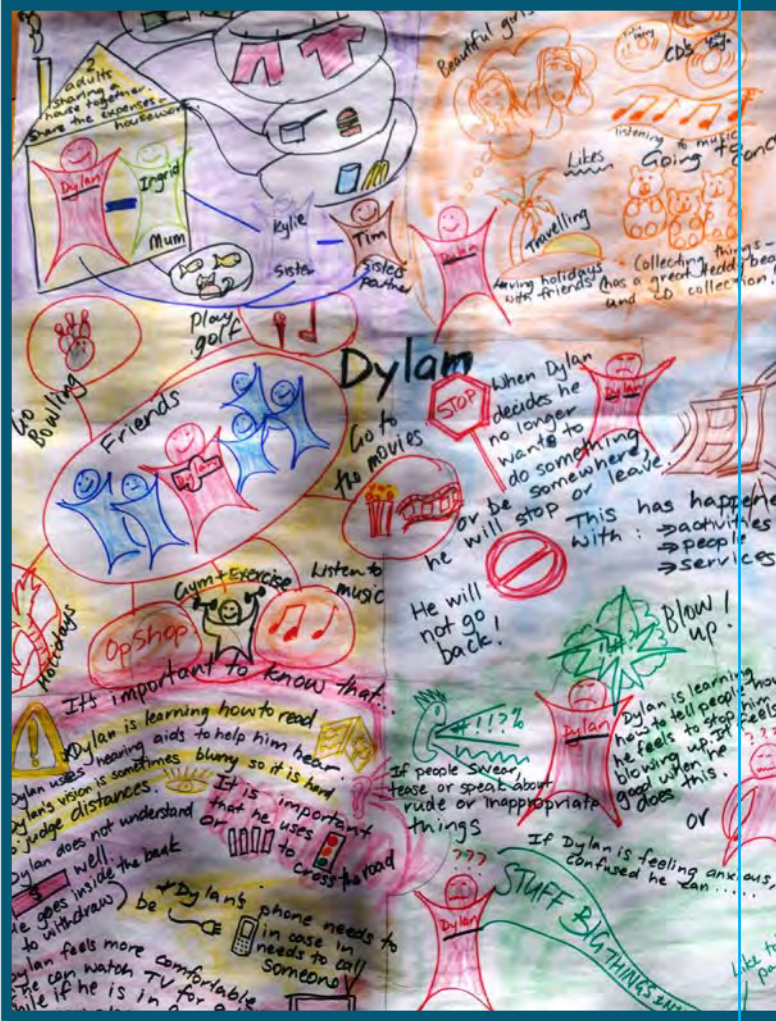
NGO Support Planning

In July 2014, PDCN received a one off grant from NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS), to be part of their pilot program providing non-government organisation support planning under the Ready Together Framework.

Support planning provides an opportunity for individuals to start making considerations about how they want their lives to look like with an opportunity to engage in aspirational planning, goal setting and developing pathways, as well as detailed planning support.

To ensure a wide reach of support planning across the State PDCN has engaged nine support planners, all of whom have tertiary qualifications and experience working with people with disability in planning for their futures. The first referrals were received in December 2014, and since then PDCN has received regular referrals, to work with individuals to undertake aspirational and goal setting plans.

As knowledge of the support planning initiative grows, PDCN has seen an increased interest in accessing planning, and look forward to supporting more people as the project progresses to plan for their futures.



Dylan's Aspirational Plan

> Object Three

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

During 2014 - 2015 the Physical Disability Council has continued to develop strategies to further our objective of educating and informing stakeholders about the needs of people with a disability in all areas of their lives

We do this through a number of means:

- Participation in advisory committees, working parties and forums with like-minded organisations
- Writing submissions and input into policy and legislative development at Local, State and Commonwealth levels
- Developing working relationships with services providers, other peak organisations, and government to develop programs and initiatives that positively impact on the lives of, and services and supports available to people with physical disability

Access to the built environment

It is essential for everyone to be able to access all physical components of our environments, such as buildings, open spaces, street and pathways in order to be able to participate fully in society. PDCN continues to advocate for greater access standards for buildings and developments, push for the full implementation of Universal Design principles and work in collaboration with NCOSS to further the push for more accessible and affordable housing in NSW overall, along with innovative ways to achieve this in a very expensive market.



Ben Lipski outside his modified accessible home

Forums / Advisory Committee Membership

- UNSW Home Modification Information Clearing House (HomeInf) Advisory Committee.
- Australian Network of Universal Housing Design (ANUHD).

Submissions Undertaken

- Australian Government Department of Industry and Science - Review of Disability (Access to Premises - Building) Standards 2010.
- Information on Emergency Egress for response to Australian Building Codes Report.
- City of Sydney Community Garden Policy - Consultation on Wheelchair Accessible Planter Boxes.

Education and Employment

People with disabilities are still far below their able bodied counterparts when it comes to rates of attendance in higher education and employment opportunities, however PDCN are aware that inclusion in both, and greater financial stability is key to living an independent life and developing greater self-esteem. To this end PDCN continues to offer workshops such as 'Words Matter', and programs to ensure the greater community, and those employing or working with people with physical disability or dementia are able to use appropriate language and inclusive behaviours within these environments. They are also designed to breakdown preconceived perceptions of disability.

Publication of 2014 updated Edition of 'Words Matter'

Words Matter: Language Guide was originally developed in the 2006-2007 year and PDCN found it attracted a much wider readership than was originally envisaged, in a of 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 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, and the latest edition, published in December 2014, also includes feedback from Indigenous and CALD communities, and reflects plain English principles.

'Working with people who have dementia and disability' workshops

As the Australian population ages, and life expectancy also increases, the associated incidence of dementia and age related illness has also increased for people with disability. The dementia and disability workshops focus on delivery to people whom are generally employed to work with people whom have dementia, and build their understanding of disability within this sphere. After three years, this successful joint project between the Physical Disability Council of NSW and Alzheimers Australia (NSW) has come to completion. In the final year of delivery an additional 11 workshops were co-delivered around NSW (26 in total over the life of the project).

Additionally, a DVD was produced as a supplementary resource, entitled 'I am ME: Personal stories about living with physical disability'.

ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA DEMENTIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Outcomes Achieved:

Post workshop evaluations showed the following outcomes for workshop attendees:

69%

had made changes to the way they support people with dementia and physical disability

98%

found the training activities relevant & engaging & education materials were effective

100%

learnt techniques they could applying their work.

85%

were confident in working with people whom have physical disability and dementia (a 51% increase post workshop)

Forums/Advisory Committee Membership:

Forum of Non Government Associations (FONGA)
Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA)
NSW Disability Advocacy Network (NDAN)

Submissions undertaken:

Disability Standards for Education 2005 Review

Financial Health

Financial health refers to a person's ability to adequately provide for their needs - be it housing and food, health and personal care, aids and equipment or clothing and leisure activities. PDCN is aware that for some people with a disability meeting these costs can be difficult, and as such we work to ensure banks, providers of energy and other resources, and telecommunications providers to name a few - work to meet the needs of people with physical disability - through options for assistance, reduced rates, accessible devices and clear processes for dealing with complaints and grievances

Forums/Advisory Committee Membership

- Energy and Water Consumer Advisory Panel (EWCAP)
- Public Interest Advisory Committee (PIAC)

Submissions undertaken:

- NCOSS - NSW Poles and Wires Privatisation consultation
- AGL Energy Affordability Consultation
- NSW banking institutions - changes to sign off requests for credit cards
- Review of the Fees of the NSW Office of Trustee and Guardian

Health and Wellbeing

'The Impact of Ageing on the needs of people with a physical disability' report

Background:

In 2014, PDCN undertook its third review of the impact of ageing on people with physical disability (following surveys in 2008 and 2011). A comprehensive survey was completed, with most questions open-ended, allowing for qualitative analysis of the findings, and a literature review was also undertaken to help inform the survey. Participants were asked to provide their experiences and needs in relation to assistance, housing, transport, infrastructure, the built environment and areas of their lives such as social and economic participation.

Statistically the Australian population is growing, and ageing, with longer life expectancy. The latest data indicates the proportion of people in Australia aged 65 years and over increased by 4% between 1972 and 2012, and the proportion of people aged under 25 years fell by 13% (AIHW, 2013:4). In addition, life expectancy rates increased from 82.8 years in 2001-3 to 84.3 years in 2010-12 for females, and from 77.8 years to 79.9 years for males in the same period (ABS 2014).

Data from the 2012 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) indicates that 4.2 million Australians (18.5 % of the total population) have a disability of which 3.3 million are aged 65 years and over.

Findings:

The findings from the 2014 survey indicate that most people believed that their mobility would decrease within the next 5 years, and fewer people undertaking the survey drove (a 14% decrease since the 2011 survey). Overall there was an 8% increase in people who used a wheelchair.

In 2014 only 55% of people had access to their own transport compared with 95% in 2011. Additionally, there was a 60% increase in respondents whom had undertaken hand control modifications to their vehicles, and 24% increase in those that had modified their vehicles for wheelchair access and storage since 2011. Transport remains one of the areas of greatest need for people with disability, with 40% of people reporting a need for more accessible buses, 17% for access to bus stops and train stations and accessible taxis. In all, 37% of respondents used accessible taxis, up from 17 % in 2011.

Clearly, the decrease in the number of people driving or being passengers in a vehicle, together with the large increase in the number using taxis and public transport and the moderate increase in wheelchair users have implications for government in terms of availability and cost of accessible public transport and accessible taxis. It also, arguably, reflects an older population which is less inclined to drive.

In terms of social inclusion, access to transport has been related to improved functional health status and a higher degree of autonomy (Hakamies-Blomqvist, Henriksson and Heikkinen 1999, Sjodin et al 2012). Almost 50 percent of people required assistance to access services and some reported barriers to access (9%) and affordability of services (6%) as well as the need for increased services (14%). Even though most people (78%) were satisfied with their accommodation, some people (3%) expressed the need to downsize, and another 3% for financial assistance to find accessible housing or undertake home modifications.

More people have access to medical services (3% increase since 2011) but some (8%) experience a lack of medical expertise about certain conditions and others (8%) need access to medical specialists and allied health professionals, above what their care plans covered.

People are experiencing financial difficulties (20%), many receive a pension (77%), and other people are employed. 8% of respondents are concerned about whether they will lose services when the NDIS scheme is implemented or fear changes to existing subsidised services as a result of policy changes.

Most people (81%) are satisfied with their social activities, and inclusion, but people are less inclined to participate socially within the community outside of their family and friends than they were in 2011.

In conclusion, it was apparent from the data that both people with early onset disability and older people with a disability still faced barriers to social inclusion. Even though people seemed more satisfied with their housing and medical services, it was found that barriers remained in obtaining affordable housing, services and medical expertise. Whilst less were concerned about financial security and are largely satisfied with their social activities, there were still concerns that reflected continuing barriers to certain areas of social and economic life. The nexus between disability and ageing identified in the literature review has implications for governments in terms of increasing the access for people with a disability to public transport, the built environment and facilities, community and for some – housing, health and other supports and services.

For greater details call or email PDCN for a copy of the full report.

Forums/Advisory Committee Membership:

- NSW Department of Health
- Non Government Organisation
Advisory Committee (NGOAC)
- Health Policy Advisory Group (HPAG)
- Assistive Technology
Community Alliance NSW
- Emergency Response
- meetings with NSW Ambulance,
SES and Police Departments
- COTA Policy Advisory Board

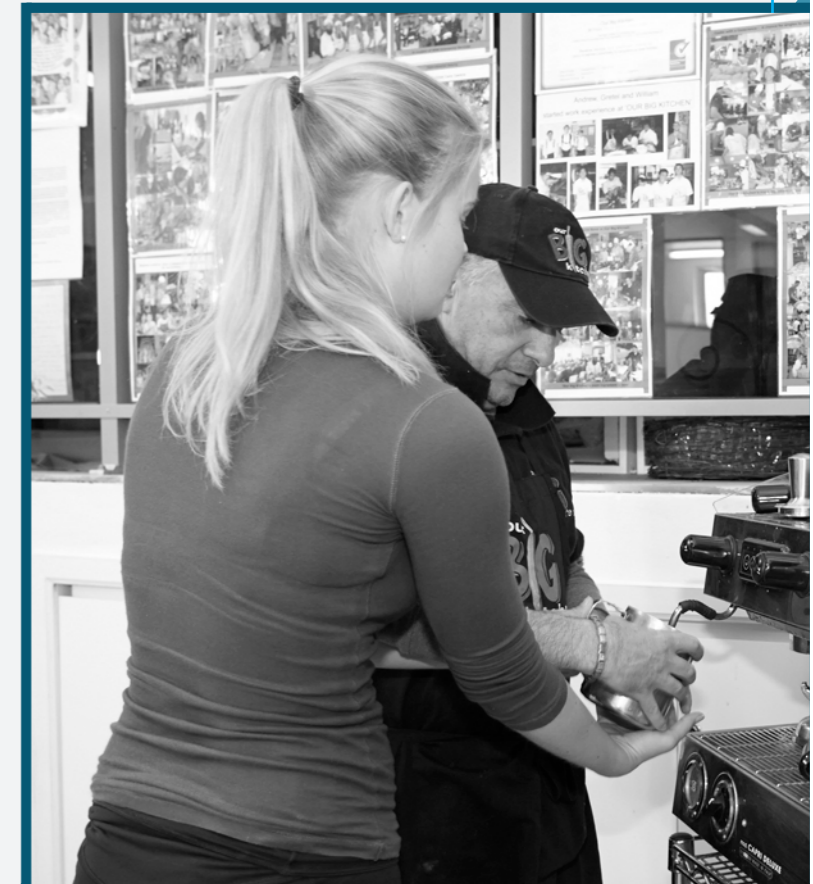
Submissions undertaken:

- Senate Standing Committee on
Community Affairs
- Adequacy of existing residential
care arrangements for young people
with severe mental or intellectual
disabilities in Australia

Human Rights

Human rights refer to the legal recognition of the inherent value, dignity and equality of all people. PDCN strives to make these rights a reality for all people in NSW who have physical disability and in 2014 – 2015 our focus has been ensuring the roll out and implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme occurs in such a way that anyone with a disability in NSW, whether they will obtain a package under the NDIS or not, has access to the scheme through the initiatives of the Information Linkages and Capacity Building framework. The focus has also been on ensuring that the scheme addresses such areas as a person centred approach to assistive technology, is fair and equitable and has adequate safeguards in place.

Additionally PDCN continued to develop the Impact website
- providing individualised
information to older people who
may also have a disability.



IMPACT Website

Since 2012, PDCN has managed and updated the 'Impact' website, a site developed under the guidance of a steering committee of like-minded organisations (Aged and Community Services NSW & ACT, Illawarra Forum, Uniting Care Ageing NSW & ACT, Local Government NSW, Community Care Northern Beaches, NCOSS and individual contributors) to deliver person centred information and enabling support for older people, including those with a disability.

The website hosts tools and resources for older people, literature and stories, and provides information about longitudinal studies undertaken, Government updates, as well as promoting 'what's happening' of relevance to this sector.

In an agreement made at the end of the financial year, Aged and Community Services NSW and ACT will take over the hosting of the Impact website from July 2015.

Forums/Advisory Committee Membership:

NSW Disability Ombudsman Roundtable
Lifetime Care and Support (LTCS) Advisory Panel
Disability Network Forum
Forum of Non Government Associations (FONGA)
Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA)
NSW Disability Advocacy Network (NDAN)

Submissions undertaken:

Department of Attorney General and Justice study
NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services - NSW Disability Inclusion Plan
National Disability Insurance Agency
- Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Policy Framework
National Disability Insurance Agency – Proposal for the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguarding Framework
National Disability Insurance Agency – Towards Solutions for Assistive Technology

Transport

PDCN continues to consider access to transport of all kinds as a necessity for full inclusion in society, allowing people with a disability to participate in education, employment and social activities. To this end our staff sit on various access and accessible transport committees, and actively advocate for improvement to station access, taxi reforms, greater numbers of accessible public transport options, and transport infrastructure.

Forums/Advisory Committee Membership:

- Transport Policy Advisory Group (TPAG)
- Advisory Committee on Accessible Transport (ACAT)

Submissions undertaken:

- Artarmon Station Access Improvements
- Redfern Station Access Improvements
- Chatswood to Epping Temporary Transport Plan as part of the North West Rail Link
- Regional Transport Infrastructure
- Disability Standards Accessible Public Transport 2012

2014 – 2015 Outcomes:

As a result of some of the above activities results were achieved in the following areas:

Transport

Artarmon railway station has now become an accessible railway station.
Redfern station is currently finalising plans to make some platforms accessible.
An additional 67 accessible buses across the Sydney metro region.

Access to the built environment

City of Sydney now ensures all its new developments engender universal housing design standards, and outdoor/communal living spaces are accessible to all.

More than 200 organisations, councils and other bodies signed up to minimum access features in the National Construction Code (3 x reqts: accessible pathway from street or parking to entry level of building, doors, corridors and living spaces that allow ease of access for most people on the entry level, and a bathroom, shower and toilet that can be used by most people – with reinforced wall areas for grab rail addition at a later date).

Financial Health

Additional energy providers have established systems for assistance for those experiencing hardship with energy bills.
Greater resources produced for people with disability to assist with energy related matters and costs.
PINWISE – successful adoption of ‘sign off’ credit cards for people with disability that are unable to use a PIN number.



Health and Wellbeing

Further regulation of the GP sector to mandate the requirement for at least ONE height adjustable bed in any GP surgery (previously a recommendation, but not mandatory).

Human Rights

The implementation of Disability Inclusion Action Plans throughout State and Local Government (due for completion in Nov 2015 and 2017 respectively)
- increasing inclusion throughout the general community for people with physical disability.

> Appendix A

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

To ensure the rights of people with disability are realised, the United Nations Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) 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 principle 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 2014 - 2015 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 24:
Education

Article 21:
Freedom of expression and opinion

Object Three

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

Article 8:
Awareness-raising

Article 19:
Living independently and being included in the community

Article 25:
Health

Article 30:
Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

Article 9:
Accessibility

Article 20:
Personal mobility

Article 26:
Habilitation and rehabilitation

Article 16:
Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

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

Article 27:
Work and employment

Article 17:
Integrity and respect

Article 24:
Education

Article 28:
Adequate standard of living and social protection



Appendix B

Audited Financial Report

Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated
Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year ending 30 June 2015
ABN 26 858 845 702

INCOME

Government Funding:

	2015 (\$)	2014 (\$)
ADHC: Recurrent	260,711.84	251,902.21
ADHC: Defining Pathways	67,979.74	62,090.26
ADHC: Planning Support	41,819.72	6,756.76
NDIA: DSO Capacity Development	30,671.83	-
	<u>401,183.13</u>	<u>320,749.23</u>

OTHER INCOME

Interest Received	19,265.56	6,130.14
Members' Contributions	3,644.69	3,254.28
Workshop Income	52,978.50	14,545.44
Other Income	10,753.13	875.85
Community Grants	13,351.55	36,917.69
Donations - Public	100.00	52.50
	<u>100,093.43</u>	<u>61,775.90</u>
	<u>501,276.56</u>	<u>382,525.13</u>

EXPENDITURE

Advertising	68.18	245.45
Annual Leave Provision	(8,857.96)	1,511.59
Auditor's Remuneration	4,500.00	4,200.00
Bank Charges	849.18	883.35
Bookkeeping Fees	1,582.73	1,364.77
Capital Equipment W/off	6,742.87	-
Computer Expenses	15,421.11	8,524.51
Conferences & Expos	2,500.00	-
Consultancy Fees	19,215.81	2,172.27
Board Expenses	4,435.94	3,324.20
Depreciation	4,207.00	2,964.91
DSO Grant Expenditure	79.51	-
Grant Expenses	35,032.05	21,971.32
Impact Website	14,751.47	5,385.01
Insurance	9,018.43	7,360.84
Long Service Leave	429.51	5,999.85
Permits, Licences & Fees	844.55	665.00
Planning Support Grant Expenditure	14,152.10	-
Postage	1,828.53	1,007.85
Printing & Stationery	5,998.34	11,707.96
Rent	9,610.51	9,332.92
Repairs & Maintenance	65.00	-
Salaries & Wages	260,540.18	197,573.95
Staff Training & Amenities	3,000.00	1,739.04
Subscriptions	5,189.01	5,189.04
Superannuation Contributions - Compulsory	1,429.03	620.91
Superannuation Contributions - Salary Packaged	20,948.24	11,899.08
Telephone	20,438.60	35,000.20
Travelling & Accommodation Expenses	2,852.09	3,506.56
Volunteer Expenses	6,686.13	529.49
Workshop Expenses	40.10	953.90
	<u>10,402.25</u>	<u>1,082.68</u>
	<u>474,000.49</u>	<u>346,716.65</u>
Profit before income tax	27,276.07	35,808.48
Profit for the year	<u>27,276.07</u>	<u>35,808.48</u>
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	86,326.36	50,517.88
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	<u>113,602.43</u>	<u>86,326.36</u>



Appendix B

Independent Auditors Report

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 30 June 2015, and the income and expenditure statement and cash flow statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the board.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The board of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and for such internal control as the board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 on the auditor's judgment, 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 of the financial report that gives a true and fair view 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 board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report. 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 the Australian Professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion: The financial report of The Physical Disability Council of NSW Inc is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of their performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with the Australian Accounting Standards.

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

David Fearnley
B. Ec, FCA