

## Welcome everyone to the September edition of PDCN Live!

This edition is a big one, with many great things happening at PDCN.

2016 is our 21st year - quite an achievement, and we want you to join us on the evening of Wednesday October 19th to help celebrate all the amazing achievements PDCN has delivered for its members over this time.

We'll hold a cocktail function after our AGM, so please put the date in your diaries and come along to both events! Your invite and AGM information accompanies this newsletter!

In other good news for members, PDCN has partnered with Blue Badge Insurance, whom specialise in disability specific insurance policies, and through this partnership PDCN members and supporters can take advantage of discounts (more info on Page 5, T&Cs on page 8).

After a solid year of work thanks to Ellen and Kieren, two of PDCN's team, we now have a fabulously updated 'I'm Okay' Emergency Readiness website, with a simplified web address and significantly more resources for preparing for disasters and emergencies, both within and outside of the home. We launched the new website with a small event at Glebe Town Hall on July 28, and thank all those that attended and supported us on the day. Jump online and 'check out' the site and its great resources at [www.imokay.org.au](http://www.imokay.org.au)

Lastly, we welcome yet another member to our team. Beth Stockton has come on board to fill the space left by Wendy Banfield, and will oversee the Peer Support Project. You'll meet her later in the newsletter too!

I'll sign off here – but hope to see you all on October 19th!

**Serena Ovens,**  
Executive Officer

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## Contact Us



**Physical Disability Council of  
NSW**

St Helens Community Centre  
3/184 Glebe Point Road,  
Glebe NSW 2037

1800 688 831  
*Freecall*

02 9552 1606  
*Sydney Metro*

[admin@pdcnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@pdcnsw.org.au)

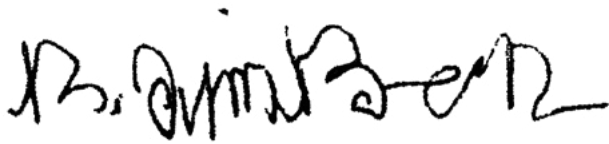
# PDCN is celebrating 21 years of advocating for people with physical disability!

To honour this amazing achievement and our history we are holding a cocktail function following our AGM on Wednesday 19th October 2016.

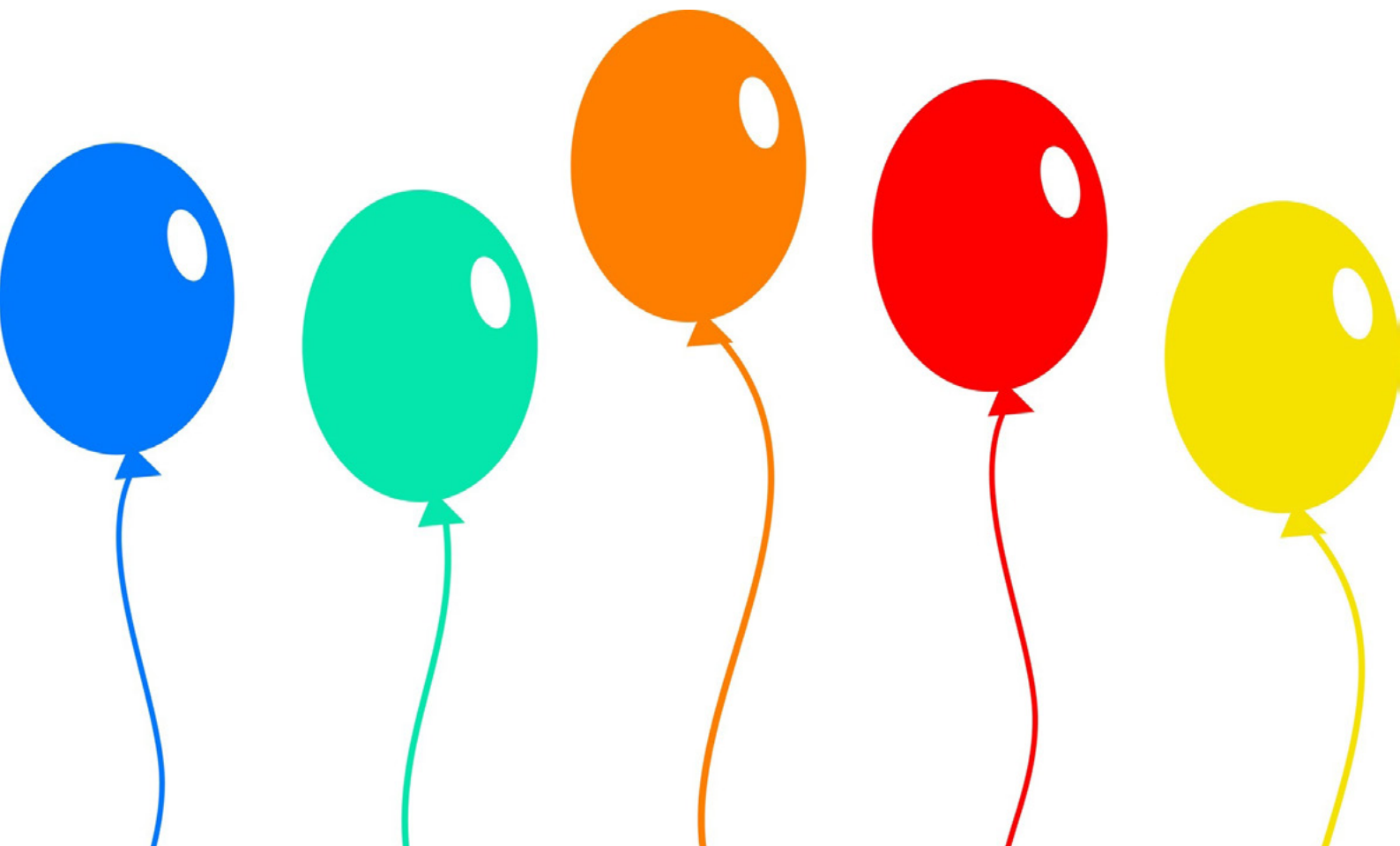
Without the great work of our members & supporters, PDCN wouldn't be the respected advocacy organization that it is today.

As a member who has contributed to the success of PDCN, I would like to invite you to come and celebrate this special night with us.

Please find your official invite with full details of the event enclosed with this edition of PDCN Live!



**Peter A Simpson**  
President, PDCN



# I'm Okay relaunched with the help of emergency services

PDCN's new emergency readiness website, [www.imokay.org.au](http://www.imokay.org.au), has been redesigned and relaunched to increase usability, interactivity and usefulness.

To celebrate the end of the project and showcase the changes made to I'm Okay, PDCN relaunched the website at an event held in Glebe Town hall. The vibrant event saw a range of stakeholders and members of the community come together to celebrate the projects achievements and raise awareness of the importance of emergency planning for people with disabilities.

We'd like to thank the many external emergency bodies who have provided advice and expertise, in particular Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, Red Cross, the City of Sydney Community Engagement and Emergency and Disasters teams, NSW Police, Ambulance NSW and of course our sincere gratitude must go to the NRMA, for their generous funding that has allowed us to undertake the project and build the website.

PDCN would like to thank everybody who made the day a success especially The Honourable Greg Donnelly MLC and Senior Firefighter Melanie Rebane for taking the time to speak at the event and PDCN Member Phillip Plackett who helped us create a video for the day.

Try out the new website and make yourself emergency ready at:  
[www.imokay.org.au](http://www.imokay.org.au)



**Greg Donnelly MLC**, Former Project Officer **Hayley Brooks**, Community Connector **Rebecca Sciroli**, Media & Communications Officer **Kieren Sainsbury**, Project Officer **Ellen Small**, PDCN Member **David Brazel** and PDCN President **Peter Simpson**.

# Harbour Bridge to become accessible after PDCN lobbying

PDCN President Peter Simpson and Executive Officer Serena Ovens attended an announcement on July 24 alongside NSW Ministers John Ajaka and Duncan Gay.

*PDCN is extremely pleased to be here today in support of the Minister's announcement that the Sydney Harbour Bridge will be made universally accessible to all people within the next year*

*Peter Simpson, PDCN President*

"It is a fabulous thing that such an iconic Australian landmark, and internationally recognised tourist destination will finally be accessed by all who visit it. PDCN has strived over a number of years to make this a reality for not only their members but for the 20% of all Australians, and international visitors that have a disability," Peter Simpson explained.

PDCN appreciate the positive working relationship that we have built with the NSW Government, the RMS, and other stakeholders, for this to occur and look forward to having the lifts in operation.



**PDCN President Peter Simpson and PDCN Executive Officer Serena Ovens at the announcement with Paul Nunnari, John Ajaka and Duncan Gay.**

# Your Disability Parking Permit Can Save You Money

Lachlan Foote (pictured) has firsthand experience with the difficulties of finding an insurer that would adequately cover his converted vehicle. Born with Arthrogryposis, Lachlan's hands and arms have limited strength and mobility that prevent him from using them to drive. Not one to let his disability stand in his way, Lachlan had foot controls installed in his car - a complex conversion that ultimately cost more than his Toyota Camry.

Finding an insurance policy suitable for his car proved even more difficult than modifying his car, as most insurers struggled to provide adequate cover at a fair price; some even declined to insure the vehicle altogether.

Thankfully he found Blue Badge Insurance. Not only were they familiar with the conversions in his car, but they provided a competitive quote on the spot. "Without the team at Blue Badge Insurance and their adapted vehicle insurance policy, Lachlan wouldn't be on the road. They were so helpful at every stage and Lachlan, his dad and I could not be happier," his mother Jenny said.

People with disabilities often face discrimination when purchasing everyday goods and services. The insurance industry has been notorious in failing to cater to the needs of these customers by neglecting to create tailored insurance products to meet their needs and circumstances.

Unfortunately, this means most drivers with disabilities have been paying higher insurance premiums than they should. But things are changing with the launch of Blue Badge Insurance's Comprehensive Car Insurance policy.

Drawing on over 30 years' experience in the UK, Blue Badge knows that people who value their mobility are safer drivers who deserve lower prices. That's why they have designed a comprehensive policy that provides up to 25% off <sup>^</sup> for vehicles using a disability parking permit, including those that have been converted for drivers or passengers with a disability.

Blue Badge's policy offers all the features you would expect of a comprehensive motor policy, as well a range of innovative benefits designed for people with disabilities including the option to insure your disability conversions on a new for old basis.



**18-year-old Lachlan with his mother and his insured modified vehicle**

Blue Badge is offering PDCN members an additional \$25# off your first year's car insurance premium if you switch your insurance to them before 30 November 2016 (maximum one per customer). Call 1300 304 802 and quote offer code "PDCN001" to claim your discount. Terms and Conditions apply. **See full terms on the back page.**

**It is important to read the PDS before deciding if a Blue Badge insurance policy is right for you.**

# We'll be at the Nepean Disability Expo

PDCN will be at the Nepean Disability Expo in Penrith on September 16 and 17 alongside the Invacare Australia/New Zealand stand.

Head to [disabilityexpo.org.au](http://disabilityexpo.org.au) for more information on the expo. We hope to see you there!



**Beth Stockton**, the newest addition to the PDCN team, has taken over Wendy's role as the Peer Group Project Officer.

To see all the staff behind PDCN head to:

[www.pdcnsw.org.au/about-us/staff](http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/about-us/staff)

## Findings of the Regional and Remote Transport Survey

We would like to thank all who contributed to the survey to determine Transport in Regional and Rural NSW. Your valuable data and comments will be used as part of a state government inquiry into the availability of accessible public transport. In this survey feedback was gathered on the following:

- Private vehicle transport
- Mobility Parking Scheme
- Buses and bus infrastructure
- Trains and train infrastructure
- Community Transport and
- Taxis including regular taxis and Wheelchair Accessible Taxis

Nearly eighty surveys were completed by people with disability living in regional and rural NSW, with an equal amount of females and males completing the survey, and 50 - 64 years the most significant age group. Similar to people in metropolitan NSW, public transport was used most commonly for the following purposes:

- Shopping
- Visit friends or family
- Health facilities or
- To connect with other modes of transport

## Key findings

### Private vehicles:

- Approximately 50% reported financial stress from the need to purchase, modify and insure private transport

### Public buses:

- Nearly 75% choose not to use or the public bus service was not accessible.
- Approximately 50% reported bus transport as being somewhat inaccessible or totally inaccessible
- Approximately 25% did not have any bus infrastructure at the local bus stop, not even a bus stop sign, seat, shelter or interchange

### Additional detail regarding bus infrastructure:

- Access from the footpath or parking facilities to the bus stop – Only 50% felt that it was satisfactory
- Access to priority seating – Only 40% felt that it was satisfactory
- Opal card facilities – most reported as not having access to this convenience
- Toilet and public phone facilities – most reported this as totally unavailable

### Public trains and coach transport:

- Similar concerns with infrastructure were reported for train infrastructure as per buses.
- Less than 20% of those who had access to Trainslink had used this service in the past year
- Only about half of survey respondents indicated that they were satisfied with access to Trainslink coach facilities

### Wheelchair accessible taxis:

More than 50% of respondents reported having difficulty accessing wheelchair accessible vehicles out of hours on weekdays and over the weekends.

View more PDCN reports in full at  
[www.pdcnsw.org.au/publications/submission-and-responses/](http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/publications/submission-and-responses/)



**There's still space in our Broken Hill NDIS Ready workshop!**

Register today at:

[www.pdcnsw.org.au/workshops-and-training/ndis-ready/](http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/workshops-and-training/ndis-ready/)

^Discounts for the Blue Badge Insurance Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Insurance will be applied to the base vehicle rates subject to the customer holding a permanent Disability Parking Permit and/or the vehicle has been converted for use by a driver or passengers that have a disability. The discounts do not apply to the Blue Badge Roadside Assistance Optional Benefit. Underwriting criteria will be applied to the consideration of the risk. Additional excesses will apply to drivers under 25 or those drivers who have held a full Australian drivers licence for less than 2 years. This offer may be withdrawn at any time.

#Not available with any other offer.

Consider the PDS at [www.BlueBadgeInsurance.com.au](http://www.BlueBadgeInsurance.com.au) to decide if the product is right for you.

Blue Badge Insurance Australia Pty Ltd, ABN 59 162 783 306, (AR No. 438547) is an Authorised Representative of The Hollard Insurance Company Pty Ltd, ABN 78 090 584 473 (AFS Licence No 241436).

## PDCN memberships are due! Have you renewed yours?

You should have received an email and a letter with instructions on how to renew. If you didn't receive these send an email to [membership@pdcnsw.org.au](mailto:membership@pdcnsw.org.au) or freecall 1800 688 831.

### Not a member yet? Join today at:

[www.pdcnsw.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member](http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member)



Scan this QR code with your phone to download a digital copy of PDCN Live!



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I'm Okay

[www.pdcnsw-emergencyready.com](http://www.pdcnsw-emergencyready.com)



Website

[www.pdcnsw.org.au](http://www.pdcnsw.org.au)



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