

Welcome to the December PDCN Live Newsletter!

Welcome to the last newsletter for 2017 – and what a year it's been for our small but nimble team!

In a period of uncertainty, we've stayed focussed on ensuring we provide our members and stakeholders with a voice in improved government laws and regulations, and bringing about greater inclusion throughout the community – though there is still much to be done.

We've spoken out loudly on the removal of funding for the Sydney Harbour Bridge Access lift project – ensuring, through great public and media support, that this ridiculous decision was reversed within a week! Last month, we even won an award for this amazing achievement (read more on that later in the newsletter).

Our funded programs are running well, with feedback from our NDIS Ready and Plans in Practice workshops always incredibly positive, and our peer groups too have seen some significant achievements for their members.

As many of you are aware, and have assisted in supporting and promoting, we are now working hard on turning around the NSW Government decision to discontinue all disability advocacy, information and peak representation funding as we move into the NDIS, which we know will leave huge gaps for people with disability, particularly the 90% of you whom won't qualify for an individually funded package.

To date we have had some major successes, with the NSW Labor Party promising to re-fund the sector should they win the 2019 election, and the backing of the NSW Greens, many independent MP's, Local Governments NSW, and many other groups. However, our aim of course is to ensure we reverse this decision before its implementation in July 2018, leaving no gaps or uncertainties, and are continuing our campaign, meeting with the various Ministers and (hopefully) the Premier, to broaden their understanding of the significance of this decision, and call for a reversal.

If you haven't already – you can help by signing our petition, sending the Premier a postcard, or going and meeting your local MP to tell them how devastating this would be for you – a personal approach is so powerful! Information on how to do these things can be found on the campaign website www.standbyme.org.au

Lastly – I wish you all a safe, happy and healthy Christmas, and a very merry New Year!

Serena Ovens,
Executive Officer

In this issue

- 2 PDCN PARTNERING WITH ICARE**
We are partnering to deliver an independent participant wellbeing visitor project.
- 2 SUMMER DOWN UNDER SERIES**
PDCN partners with Wheelchair Sports NSW.
- 3 PDCN WINS BEST COMMUNITY POWERED CAMPAIGN!**
PDCN wins for our #EverybodysBridge campaign at the 2017 Do Gooder Awards.
- 4 2017 GALLERY**
Some snapshots of our 2017 highlights.
- 6 2017 FEEDBACK**
A few responses to our various projects from throughout the year.
- 7 WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE PDCN BOARD**
A warm welcome to those joining the PDCN board in 2018.

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

PDCN Partners with ICare

As we go to print, PDCN is in the final stages of establishing a partnership with icare to deliver a fee for service, independent participant wellbeing visitor project. All going to plan, we'll be able to tell you more about this in the New Year, once all has been finalised, and will begin rolling out a small pilot early in 2018 to test the concept with icare participants.

PDCN are excited to embark on this project, and see it as a positive initiative on behalf of the icare team to actively engage in additional external processes that ensure the well being of their scheme participants.

Summer Down Under Series 2018

In a new initiative PDCN have partnered with Wheelchair Sports NSW to provide a small sponsorship of their premier sporting event for the year, the Summer Down Under Series (SDU2018). The SDU is a wheelchair track and road racing event run over 10 days in January each year, culminating with the Oz Day 10K wheelchair race around The Rocks on Australia Day. Throughout the coming year, PDCN will work with WSNSW to build our membership through their links to people with disability, and also build knowledge of PDCN and the support and advocacy we provide.

Throughout the Series itself, we'll also have PDCN board and staff representing the organisation at a number of the events, functions and racing – again, building our profile to the government officials, sponsors and others that will also be in attendance.

The racing itself is spectacular – so if you are looking for things to do during January, head to wsnsw.org.au/sports/summer-down-under to find out more about the program of events and come and join us – all racing is free admission, or come down to The Rocks for a 9am start on Australia Day!



PDCN Wins Best Community Powered Campaign!

Wow! We are thrilled to announce that PDCN has won the Best Community Powered Campaign in the 2017 Do Gooder Awards. Thank you to the panel of judges and to the Do Gooder Organisation for this honour.

After over ten years of advocating for lift access on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, 2017 marked the completion of a victorious campaign.

After it was announced earlier this year that the NSW government had pulled funding for their promised construction of lift access on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, PDCN swiftly organised a media campaign and a rally to tell the Government and the media that defunding the SHB lift project is NOT acceptable.

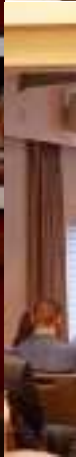
As well as advocating for the importance of access to this iconic landmark, the campaign also aimed to bring attention to the fact that universal access is imperative - for people with disability, parents with prams, the elderly, or anyone who is unable to climb steps.

Within a week, the campaign was a success, with the NSW government reinstating funding. PDCN has now shifted their focus to ensuring that the project is fully completed by October 2018 - in time for the Invictus Games!

Receiving recognition for this successful campaign is an honour, and we couldn't have done it without our dedicated staff, board and of course, our members and all our valued supporters whom helped by providing such vocal support when it was needed!

#EverybodysBridge!







CC Gallery



2017 Feedback...

"Facilitators are excellent, knowledgeable and well experienced, very respectful and caring. They answered all our questions and kept us updated. Honestly, this is the best workshop I have attended in the last two years. I learned a lot and I feel empowered."
Abbey Lofti, Liverpool Plans in Practice participant

"I joined the Blacktown peer support group three months ago. I have made a lot of new friends and met really great people. I have been able to build my networks and I have learnt a lot through the meetings, through the knowledge and experiences of others. I have been able to take this information and pass it on to others to help them with their issues."- Abraham, Blacktown peer group member

"I found the course very informative. The course has given me confidence to plan for the future and given me options for our next plan. I now have alternative ways of implementing our existing plan."Gaye Sheehan, Armidale Plans in Practice participant

"Our planner was fantastic. The planning process was excellent, exactly what we needed at exactly the right time." – Broken Hill pre-planning workshop participant

"I thought the workshop was great and Meg and Michael were wonderful. It was the best NDIS seminar I have attended." - Wagga Wagga NDIS Ready workshop participant

"The Parent Room is a great way to socialise with other parents/families in similar situations to myself. It is a safe, friendly and very welcoming environment that has no judgement. It's a great place to talk to other parents and bounce ideas or suggestions off each other. I find it hard to attend local community events, make new friends and stay connected because of my son and his needs, but having the Parent Room discussion monthly helps me stay connected and makes me feel part of something meaningful."
- Emma, Noah's Parent room peer group member

Welcome to the new members of the PDCN Board...



Michael Rabbitt
Board Member



Jacob Cross
Board Member



Julia Mansour
Board Member



Simone Stanford
Treasurer

To find out more about our current board members, visit www.pdcnsw.org.au/about-us/board-of-management/

How You Can Support The Disability Advocacy Alliance

As a way to really drive home the #StandByMe message for the end of the year, we're asking you to buy a Christmas card for your local MP or the Premier and express how much disability advocacy means to you and then send it off to them! Here's an example of what you could write:

Dear [Ms Berejiklian or name of local MP]

All I want for Christmas is for disability advocacy, information and representative services to continue receiving funding from the NSW government.

Don't take our voice away. These organisations need to be fully funded into the future or it will have dire impacts on my life because.... (remember to tell them what advocacy means to you personally!)

#StandByMe and don't ditch disability advocacy.

(Then enter your details including at least your name and postcode)

Find a list of MPs and their postal addresses here <http://standbyme.org.au/StateMPContactlist.pdf> or here <http://bit.ly/NSWMPsContact>

Thanks again for your support – The NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance and #StandByMe campaign wish you a safe and merry Xmas, and look forward to a successful outcome announcement in 2018!

**From all of us at PDCN,
We wish you a
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!**



**Our last day in the office will be Friday December 22
and we'll be back on Monday January 8.**



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



Facebook
facebook.com/PDCNSW



I'm Okay
pdcnsw-emergencyready.com



Website
pdcnsw.org.au



Twitter
@PDCNSW