



**Serena Ovens,**  
Executive Officer

## Welcome to the July 2018 PDCN Live Newsletter!

As another financial year draws to a close, PDCN is proud to say that in a year that has been one of great challenges to our sector, we've come out the other end in a much stronger position than we started.

Significantly, the Stand By Me campaign, in which PDCN played a major role was successful in getting the NSW government to reverse its decision on cutting funding to the disability advocacy, information and peak sector, with the Premier announcing on April 10 that they would provide funding for another 2 years until 2020.

This win is in part due to the role that you, our members played in attending rallies, or writing and visiting your local Member and telling them just how important the work we do for you is, and what would happen if we were no longer there to support you or continue to voice the need for full inclusion and rights for people with a physical disability in the NSW community.

The battle is only partly won, however – and whilst this is a nice reprieve, that is all it is, and so now we have stopped to 'catch our breath' and do some real work - the NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance will begin to roll out 'Round 2' of the campaign, ensuring the needs of people with disability in NSW, particularly the 90% whom won't receive an NDIS package, will have advocacy supports in perpetuity! (Let's face it – you're not all going to disappear or stop having a disability as of June 2020!)

To this end, we hope to be able to call on you once again

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We've secured funding to continue the popular peer support programs for the next two years.

**6 MEET OUR NEW STAFF**  
PDCN has a new Education & Operations Manager, and a new Online & Social Media Coordinator.

## 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)

to continue the campaigning and ensure the government doesn't use the small win they've given us as an election stunt, but make a true commitment to the largest minority group in NSW for the foreseeable future. We'll be in touch with next steps for the campaign in assuring continued long term funding soon.

In other PDCN work, we also not only mobilised the community when it looked like the Sydney Harbour Bridge access lift project funding was also in jeopardy in mid-2017 but won an award for the Best Community Powered Campaign for achieving the 'about face' on this funding in under one week.

The first lift, at the southern end of the bridge is due to open in October this year, with the northern end in early 2019, and PDCN will monitor progress to ensure these schedules are met.

Lastly, not only have we secured our Peak Advocacy funding, we've been successful in obtaining an NDIS ILC (Information, Linkages and Capacity Building) grant to continue the peer support groups we run around the state for a further two years too, as well as gained approval for the rollover of some as yet unspent funds to deliver even more NDIS planning workshops and individual support sessions.

I hope to see all our members and stakeholders at our AGM this coming October (Wednesday 17th, 6pm) to tell you more about our year, upcoming projects, and celebrate our successes with you – as many of them wouldn't have happened without your dedication and support!

Serena Ovens  
Executive Officer

## PDCN membership renewals are due! Have you renewed yours?

You should have received an email with instructions on how to renew. If you haven't yet renewed, please use the enclosed form or call 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)

# Disability in the House!

## Photos from the Parliamentary Day of Action



# NDIS Ready Project

As the 2017/2018 financial year ends, PDCN sees the completion of two years of the NDIS Ready Project. NDIS Ready aimed to deliver 25 workshops and 250 individual capacity building sessions with NDIS participants. However, we're pleased to say that the project has been a resounding success, far exceeding expectations with a total of 48 workshops, consisting of both NDIS Ready and Plans in Practice information. In the process of delivering these workshops, PDCN had the privilege of engaging with 593 individuals including NDIS participants, carers and family members across NSW in both metropolitan and rural/regional areas. From these workshops as well as other external referrals, the project also completed 266 referrals for individual capacity building sessions, involving one on one assistance for individuals for both pre-planning and plan implementation support.

Throughout the project, PDCN also completed regular evaluations for all aspects of the project and received consistently excellent outcomes and feedback. (We'll provide a full report in the 2017/18 Annual report – and on the website.)

In addition to the two successful years of the project, we have been able to rollover remaining funds to deliver a limited number of workshops and individual capacity building sessions throughout the coming year.



*Attendees from the Wollongong Plans In Practice Workshop*

Stay tuned for updates on workshop locations or alternatively if you think there is need for a workshop in your area, please let us know.

Contact PDCN via email at [admin@pdcnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@pdcnsw.org.au) or call 1800 688 831.

# PDCN Peer Support Project – New Funding Received!

PDCN is thrilled to have secured ILC grant funding through the NDIA to continue our peer support groups for another two years to 2020. We have had so many positive outcomes from the peer work we've delivered to date. We've seen group members' confidence and capacity grow; from individuals learning the necessary skills to travel independently to attend a group meeting to a peer group working together to orchestrate a two day 'Peer Power' conference designed to empower and motivate others.

In the first half of 2018, PDCN also partnered up with Peer Connect and JFA Purple Orange to organise and deliver two 'What is Peer Support?' workshops in Gosford and Bankstown. These workshops were designed for people with a disability, their family members and support workers to find out more about what peer support entails. The workshops were presented by two PDCN peer group facilitators covering topics such as the meaning of peer support, what's discussed at meetings, how to join a group or start your own and how to practice peer support informally daily. Whilst small, the workshops were a huge success and we hope gave those attending the motivation to join or establish a peer group.

We're proud of our achievements in the peer support project to date, and look forward to continuing to build on our successes over the coming two years.



*Attendees from the Bankstown Peer Workshop*



*Attendees from the Gosford Peer Workshop*



# SAVE THE DATE

## PDCN Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 17 October, 6pm

VENUE TO BE ADVISED

Come along and catch up with the PDCN team and Board, and your fellow members!

## Welcome to New PDCN Team Members

As we go to press I'd like to welcome back to the PDCN team - Wendy Banfield. Some of our members may remember Wendy when she was our Peer Support Project Manager. After time out 'testing the waters' in the public sector Wendy has 'seen the light' and has come back to PDCN in the role of Education and Operations Manager, helping with oversight of the PDCN team, and assisting to build a stronger fee for service education offering for the organisation.

Joshua Rhodes also joined us in June, taking over the role of and Online and Social Media Coordinator vacated by Arabella Peterson when she took up an amazing full time offer in a marketing management role.

We wish both Arabella, and Sarah Gunasinghe (who finished her contract at the end of June) well as they move into their new positions.



Wendy Banfield  
Education and Operations Manager



Joshua Rhodes  
Online and Social Media Coordinator



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



Facebook  
[facebook.com/PDCNSW](https://facebook.com/PDCNSW)



I'm Okay  
[www.pdcnsw-emergencyready.com](http://www.pdcnsw-emergencyready.com)



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