



Serena Ovens,
Executive Officer

Welcome to our third quarter PDCN Live Newsletter!

We've mixed it up this issue to let you know about some of our work projects and people you may not be aware of.

But firstly - accompanying this issue you'll find notification of our upcoming Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 17 October. As always, we'll elect our Board on the night. If you have an interest in joining the Board and can assist us with the skills and expertise we need, please use the nomination forms enclosed to register your interest.

This year we will hold a short Special General Meeting also, to vote on some small amendments to our Constitution. An amendment explanation note is included with this issue, and if you would also like to see the full Constitution with changes marked up you are welcome to visit our website at www.pdcnsw.org.au/article/pdcn-constitution or call and get a copy sent out to you.

We're back in campaign mode, with the Stand By Me campaign now working towards getting the NSW Government to ensure funding for disability advocacy, information and peak representation for the foreseeable future. Phase Two of the campaign will launch in line with the NSW Parliamentary inquiry into the Implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the provision of disability services in New South Wales hearing days (17 September regionally and 2 October in Sydney). Stay tuned to see how you can

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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

help to promote the campaign, or come along on the hearing days and ensure Parliamentary inquiry members are aware of how important a long-term commitment to independent disability supports and inclusion is to you.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at the AGM on Wednesday 17 October at 6pm. We're back at the Westin, courtesy of a generous sponsorship from Suncorp/GIO.

Enough from me for now – read on to 'meet a Board member' and catch up on all things PDCN!

Serena Ovens
Executive Officer

Thank You and Farewell to Sharon Holz



Sharon Holz, one of PDCN's long-serving Community Connectors, will be facilitating her last peer support group meeting this September. We are sad to see Sharon go, and would like to thank her for all the hard work, commitment and support she has given to PDCN and our peer support group members.

Sharon has been working for PDCN since May 2015 and over the course of her employment she has become an integral part of the PDCN team. During her time working with us, Sharon has been the facilitator of four peer support groups along the South Coast, she has been a keynote speaker at several community events and has enthusiastically engaged in professional development.

PDCN staff and Board would like to thank Sharon for her dedication to PDCN's vision and values and wish her the best in all her future endeavours.

PDCN membership renewals are due! Have you renewed yours?

If you haven't yet renewed and need assistance, please call
1800 688 831.

Michael Rabbitt

Board Member Profile



What attracted you to the position on the PDCN board?

I have had an acquired disability since 1992 (Paraplegia), and have benefited enormously from the advocacy work of others in being able to lead a productive life as a full-time worker and as a father. After retirement I was looking for an opportunity to improve conditions for others with a disability. I was attracted to PDCN because of its mission to help people with a physical disability to live their lives as contributing members of the community.

Where do you feel you can add the most value to PDCN in your role as a Board member?

It's essential that PDCN is run in a businesslike fashion to ensure it is able to provide its vital services long into the future. With my business background I can contribute to the governance of the organisation so that it continues to be in a sound position. I'm hopeful that I'll be a strong voice in making representation to government and the community on what needs to be done to allow people with a disability to lead ordinary lives.

As a person with a disability what is the most important issue for you now?

I'm greatly concerned about the rollout of the NDIS, and about the growing shortage of carers with the skills to look after people with significant disabilities. I am personally frustrated by issues around physical access. Not being able to access an appropriate height adjustable bed in a hospital emergency department. Continually encountering developments that have been approved based on the provision of stairway platform lifts that are then not maintained and are often unavailable. Thoughtless temporary access solutions around city construction sites that are very difficult to negotiate. The new 'temporary' access arrangements at Wynyard Station that require you to wheel a long way up a very steep hill to access an alternative lift. Lack of beach access after discovering on a recent trip that Portugal has 40 wheelchair accessible beaches.

Tell us about the other things that interest you outside the disability sector.

I'm an active member of one of the Communications Brigades in the Rural Fire Service and I assist in Employment and Study clinics at the Wayside Chapel. My family are my great passion and I have a partner and two adult children. I am a keen traveller and with a son teaching in the UK, Europe has been a regular thing for me recently. I am a disheartened but committed supporter of the Newcastle Knights (where I grew up) and I don't get AFL! I love to get together with friends over a pint or two of Guinness or a couple of glasses of red wine.

PDCN Are Headed to the Nepean Disability Expo

PDCN are proud to be an official exhibitor at the Nepean Disability Expo, being held Friday 14 and Saturday 15 September at the Penrith Panthers Exhibition Marquee.

Come along to check out service and product providers from the Nepean, Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains regions, and take your opportunity to find out about the latest products, services, technology and equipment. You'll also be able to see speakers & presentations from the NDIS, government agencies and leading disability organisations.

And to keep everyone entertained there will be a café with delicious food and beverages, entertainment for the kids, and live performances from disability groups.

PDCN would love to see you there, anytime between 9am and 3pm on either day. You can always find more information on the website www.disabilityexpo.org.au.



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 17 October, 2018
The Westin Hotel, Barnet Room
1 Martin Place, Sydney

Arrivals at 5:45pm, for a 6pm start

Keynote Speaker
Steve Kinmond

Deputy Ombudsman & Community and Disability Services Commissioner

Please RSVP by Monday 8 October to admin@pdcnsw.org.au or call 02 9552 1606

PDCN Policy and Submission Update

As a systemic advocacy organisation our policy work sees PDCN generate written submissions and participate in frequent advisory committees and face-to-face consultations. The policy work carried out by PDCN aims to influence change in legislation, government policy and community attitudes to ensure the rights and interests of people with disability are upheld and promoted.

PDCN seeks to ensure barriers present in the community that prevent people with disability from achieving full access and inclusion are addressed and removed. We work tirelessly to ensure that the needs of our members - people with physical disability - are considered in the development of government policy, and continual improvements are made in all areas of life, including access to the built environment, education, employment, transport and health.

PDCN's policy work is informed by the views and experiences of our members and ensures we have input into policy and legislative development at local, state and federal levels. PDCN has had a busy year with written submissions made on the following inquiries, reviews or consultations:

- icare Lifetime Care: Lifetime Care and Support Guidelines
- NSW Law Reform Commission: Review of the Guardianship Act 1987 draft proposals
- Department of Social Services: A strong future for supported employment
- Parliament of Australia: Senate Standing committee on rural and regional affairs and transport: the need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as motorised wheelchairs
- City of Sydney: Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan
- KPMG (on behalf of the Department of Social Services): Specialist Disability Accommodation Pricing and Payments Framework Review
- Department of Social Services: Support School Transport and transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- UNSW Social Policy Research Centre: National Disability Strategy Review
- Parliament of NSW: Inquiry into the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the provision of disability services in New South Wales
- Productivity Commission: National Disability Agreement Review

If you would like to read PDCN's written submissions, you can view them on our website. We're proud of the work we do, however we are always happy to hear feedback and input from our members on how we can better drive inclusion in NSW.

Please contact us on 1800 688 831 if you would like to speak to us about a systemic issue that is affecting you, or join us at one of our upcoming community consultations – we'd love to see you there!

PDCN Training and Education Update



Since returning to PDCN as the Education and Operations Manager, I have conducted a fee-for-service workshop for Partners in Recovery in the inner-west. Partners in Recovery's main area of work is psychosocial disabilities. The purpose of the workshop was to educate the support staff working with people who also have physical disability, to ensure their specific needs are considered and supported in their application for NDIS funding.

I have also been working with partner organisations both regionally and in the metropolitan areas to consider suitable locations to conduct Plans in Practice workshops and determine where PDCN may be able to collaborate on Information Linkages and Capacity Building and fee-for-service projects. To date these discussions have been productive and positive, and I look forward to sharing more specific details and workshop locations in newsletters to follow. I also look forward to meeting PDCN members at the upcoming AGM.

Wendy Banfield

Education & Operations Manager

Did you know that PDCN can help you with any enquiries you have about disability related issues?

Contact us anytime on 02 9552 1606



Website
www.pdcnsw.org.au



I'm Okay
www.pdcnsw-emergencyready.com



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