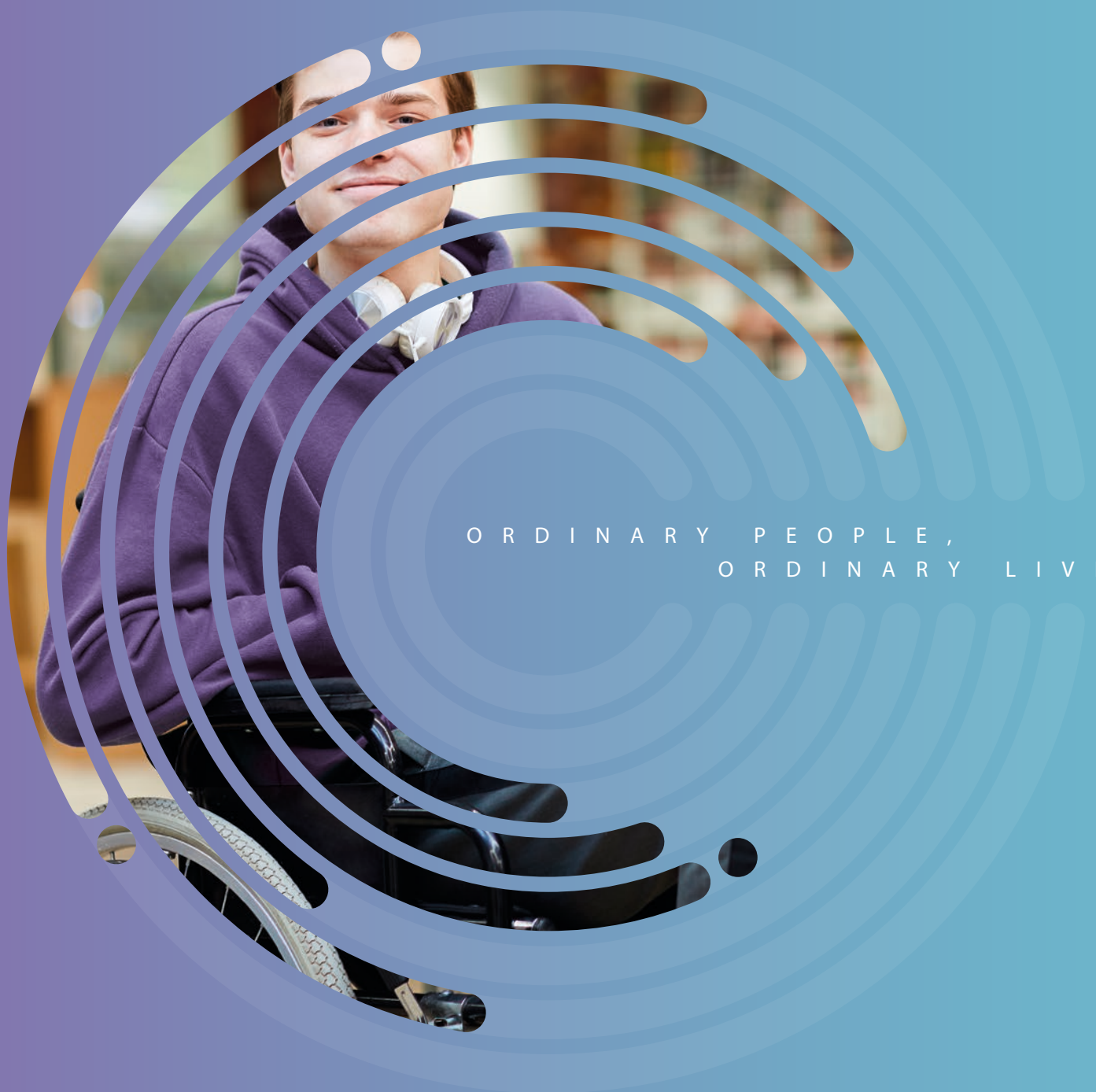


**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2018 - 2019



ORDINARY PEOPLE,
ORDINARY LIVES

Physical Disability Council of NSW Inc.

ABN 26 858 845 702

For the year ended 30 June 2019

This work is copyright.

It may not be reproduced for commercial use or sale.

Reproduction for other purposes requires written
permission from PDCN

© PDCN 2019

Further copies can be obtained at:

www.pdcnsw.org.au/publications/annualreports

Or by calling PDCN for a hard copy.

Table of Contents

2018 -2019 Annual Report

● Who we Are	3
● Year in Review	4
● Message from the President	5
● Executive Officer's Report	6
● Meet the Team	8
● Working under a Human Rights Framework	9
● Object 1	11
● Object 2	12
● Object 3	15
● Donations and Funding	21
● Audited Financial Statement for the Year ending 2019	22
● Independent Auditor's Report	24
● Responsible Entities Declaration	26



Who we are

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 and 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 socioeconomic circumstances.

Organisational membership includes community organisations, human service providers and other organisations that have a commitment to people who have physical disability and to the work of PDCN.

Vision

As people living with physical disability we live in a society where 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 of our undertakings

Inclusion - we include people with physical disabilities in all that we do

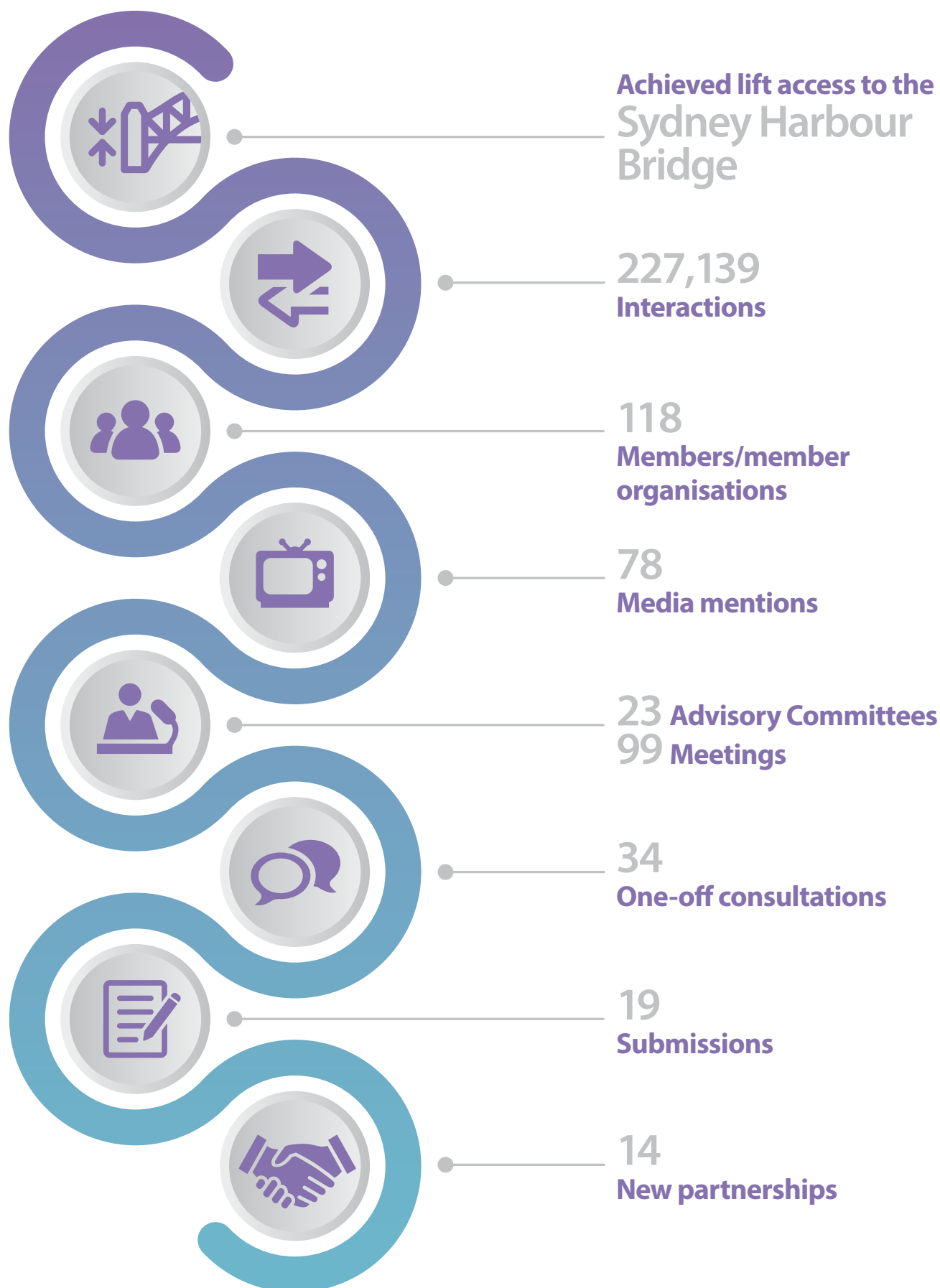
Independence - we value our independence to remain true to our values

Innovation - we are committed to finding new ways to better support people with physical disabilities and the work we do

Collaboration - we work in partnership with our members, stakeholders and the broader community to achieve our purpose

Ordinary People, Ordinary lives

2018 - 2019 Year in Review





Message from the President

Mr Chris Sparks

Only 12 months ago I concluded my President's report with one parting wish; that by now we would be proudly announcing the NSW Government's commitment to ongoing disability advocacy funding.

Another life lesson learnt - you don't always get what you want, when you want it.

However, I believe there are many reasons to remain optimistic about the future of disability advocacy in NSW and indeed the future of PDCN.

The appointment in July of Robert Fitzgerald AM as NSW's first Ageing and Disability Commissioner shows a renewed commitment by the Government to better protect adults with disability. Also, as the NDIS develops, it becomes increasingly apparent that it can never be all things to all people (with disability) and NSW still has a lot to do to provide equity and inclusion for all our citizens.

One only has to look at PDCN's 2019 Yearly Report for the Transitional Advocacy Funding Program to realise that the work we do is vital to ensure NSW continues to lead the way in disability rights and reforms. PDCN impacts almost every area of public policy where physical disability is a priority. Transport, public spaces, tourism, housing, events, health, NDIS, roads and the built environment – these are just some of the areas we touch on through countless consultations, hundreds of meetings and dozens of formal submissions.

I am constantly amazed at the extraordinary volume of work our small team gets through each and every week. If there is a simple measure for NSW taxpayers getting 'bang for their buck' then PDCN is it. Most importantly our activities and priorities are driven by our members, those with physical disability and their families.

At the behest of the Government, the Ageing and Disability Commissioner is undertaking a review of disability advocacy in NSW and this could well determine the future of PDCN after June 2020. I am confident, that given our strong track record of achievement, the Berejiklian Government will see the tremendous value in committing to fund PDCN as an integral part of making NSW a better place for those with disability.

In closing, I want to recognise the tremendous contribution of our Board, and all they have done to guide PDCN through such a challenging period of change. The calibre and commitment of the PDCN directors is second to none, and members can be confident that their organisation is in good hands. I am sorry to have to farewell one of our most hard working directors in Julia Mansour. Julia's work for PDCN has been key to improving our governance, internal processes and providing guidance on a broad range of issues.

However much of PDCN's success can be directly attributed to our talented and energetic Executive Officer, Serena Ovens and her team. It has been a great privilege to work alongside Serena and witness first hand the great value her leadership brings to PDCN.



Report from the Executive Officer

Serena Ovens

Looking back over the past 12 months, it never ceases to amaze me just how much our small team at PDCN is able to achieve in a year, and 2018-19 was certainly no exception!

Significantly, the Sydney Harbour Bridge Access Project, after more than 10 years of work, finally came to fruition – with lifts opening on either end of the bridge in October 2018. An amazing achievement, and one that took the combined efforts of past and present PDCN staff and Board, the active participation of our members, and partnerships with government and councils alike.

In this past year we have also placed a proactive focus on improving physical access for people with physical disability, particularly in the areas of entertainment venues and online booking processes. As a result, major event promoters Ticketek have undertaken piloting online booking for accessible seating, and the Sydney Opera House is working to include this feature within their own ticketing software, and has consulted with us on significant access improvements to the House.

This is just a start, there's much more to be done, and we're committed to partnering with more promoters and venues to achieve further access improvements for our members.

A great deal is happening in the motorised mobility space too, and PDCN has attended numerous consultations over the year to provide input into improved regulations for powered wheelchairs and motorised scooters, along with addressing the many new personal mobility devices that we see flooding the market (powered scooters and skateboards, hoverboards, Segways®, etc) and how legislation can fairly and safely account for all these innovative devices.

We've represented our members interests' on 23 advisory council committees, attending nearly 100 regular meetings and an additional 34 one-off consultations. The policy team has written 19 submissions, given evidence at Parliamentary inquiries and run 5 member and 5 specific issue consultations, whilst our education and projects team have delivered 7 NDIS workshops, 22 individual support sessions and maintained 12 peer groups and associated networks.

Through the great work of our social and online media officer, PDCN's media presence has grown significantly, with nearly 70 media mentions (interviews, quotes or articles) throughout the year and our engagement and reach is steadily growing across all platforms (website, facebook and twitter).

Huge thanks must go to all the PDCN team and Board, who all go above and beyond!

All this whilst we have had to divert our attentions from making NSW a fully inclusive community to fighting for our continued existence. Unfortunately, my one disappointment is that I haven't yet been successful here. PDCN's peak funding is still in limbo, with yet no commitment from Government after June 2020. It's not over, and the upcoming year will see us input into a sector-wide review led by the new Ageing and Disability Commissioner. I'm hopeful this review will highlight the vitally important role advocacy plays in improving the lives of people with disability and supporting the Government's own obligations under national and international legislation.

2019-20 looks to be a pivotal year - stay tuned for more!

Meet the Team

Board



Chris Sparks
President



Michael Rabbitt
Vice President



Simone Stanford
Treasurer



Juila Mansour
Secretary



Matthew Kayrooz
Board Member



Jacob Cross
Board Member



Diana Ferner
Board Member



Rex Betar
Board Member

Board Attendance Record

Chris Sparks	10/10
David Jeffries Resigned Oct 18	2/4
Diana Ferner Appointed Nov 18	6/6
Jacob Cross	7/10
Julia Mansour	9/10
Matthew Kayrooz	9/10
Michael Rabbitt	9/10
Rex Betar	5/10
Simone Stanford	10/10

Staff



Serena Ovens
Executive Officer



Wendy Banfield
Education and
Operations Manager



Alice Dixon-Wilmshurst
Policy Officer



Joshua Rhodes
Social and
Online Media Officer



Jane Scott
Project Officer
ILC Peer Support



Stuart Greenfield
Campaign Coordinator

Former Staff

Sharon Holz - to August 2018
Ellen Small - to April 2019
Sarah Humphries - to March 2019

Training Facilitators and Support Planners

Carolyn Campbell McLean
Catherine Hogan
Chris Morris
Julie Duong

Peer Group Facilitators

Abraham Darouiche
Astrid Bannah
Carolyn Campbell McLean
David Daoud
Debra Jefferis
Heidi Fletcher
Pauline David
Rebecca Sciroli
Stacy Touma
Jennifer Williamson

Working under a Human Rights Framework

To ensure the rights of people with disability are realised, the United Nations Convention of 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 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 rights are the identified in the Articles of the convention.

The work of PDCN in 2018-2019 has contributed to these rights, within the objects of PDCN's constitution, including:

Object 1

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

Article 9: Accessibility

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

Object 2

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

Article 11: Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

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

Article 24: Education

Article 29: Participation in political and public life

Object 3

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

Article 8: Awareness raising

Article 9: Accessibility

Article 16: Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

Article 17: Protecting the integrity of the person

Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community

Article 20: Personal mobility

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

Article 24: Education

Article 25: Health

Article 26: Habilitation and rehabilitation

Article 27: Work and employment

Article 28: Adequate standard of living and social protection

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

Read the convention in full at:

www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html#Fulltext

Object 1

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

PDCN uses a range of mechanisms to inform our members of their rights, advise them when they need information or assistance, or update them on new legislation that may affect them, and keep them abreast of the many programs and services available to them throughout NSW.

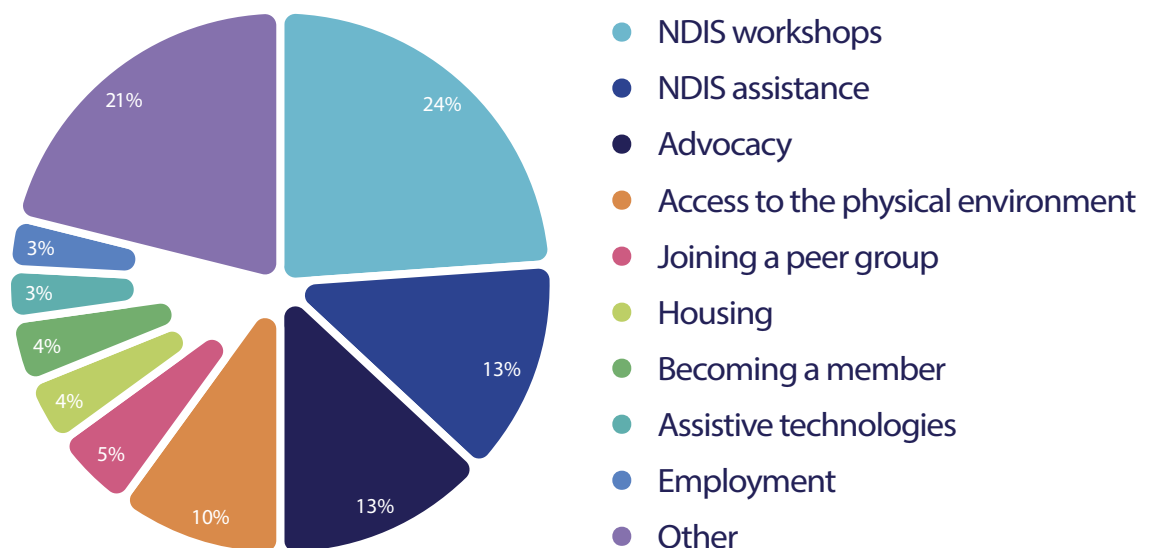
We also use varied forms of media to keep members up to date on what we too are working on, on their behalf – from our updated website (14,000 page views) our E-news (produced monthly, with 700 subscribers and an average open rate of 32%, nearly double the non profit industry average of 19%), PDCN Live newsletter (hard copy quarterly magazine) and via social media posts on our facebook and twitter accounts.

We also engage face to face with our members and the broader disability community through attending numerous expos during the year – a great way to build our profile. In 2018-19 we attended 3 expos, linking with 695 people across the 3 events.

This year engagement was up in all areas of social media, and we had nearly 70 mentions in media (interviews, quotes or articles).

The PDCN enquiry line, which operates from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday remained steady in 2018-19 with staff managing requests for information and assistance from people with disability and family members at least once every workday. These calls can be about anything to do with disability, and average between 30mins to 2hrs to process.

In the past year approximately 250 calls were taken, the NDIS still being the biggest individual request - both for assistance and to attend PDCN's NDIS workshops, followed by people requesting advocacy support, issues with physical access, assistance with housing and then enquiries about assistive technologies and employment.



Media Highlights



68

Media mentions



2048

Twitter followers



1820

Facebook followers



459,044*

Social media posts have
been seen this many times



14,002

Website page views



19

Blog posts



23

E-news and newsletters



695

Expos -
Individual engagements

Object 2

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

Workshops and Training

PDCN delivered an additional seven 'Plans in Practice' (PIP) workshops and twenty-two individual education sessions across the state in 2018-19 with approved 'roll-over funds' from the Department of Family and Community Services. These one day workshops assist people with disability who have an NDIS plan to better understand and implement their plans - from accessing the NDIS portal, to spending funds appropriately and preparing for plan review.

After delivering the first two workshops in Wagga and Albury PDCN decided to reduce the number of participants in each workshop to a maximum of eight to respond to the amount of individualised information requested, ensuring greater assistance was provided during the course.

As a result of attending the workshop participants felt they were:

- better able to understand and make their NDIS plan work for them
- clearer on the different types of NDIS funding and plan management
- more confident to self manage their NDIS plan
- able to understand and use the NDIS portal better



Individual testimonials also indicated the workshops were hitting the mark with responses as follows:

- 'Clear information, friendly delivery and supported with real life situations'
- 'Helped me understand my funding better and be more confident in using the portal'
- 'Workshops provided great opportunities to hear other people's questions, positives and challenges'
- 'The resources provided were great'

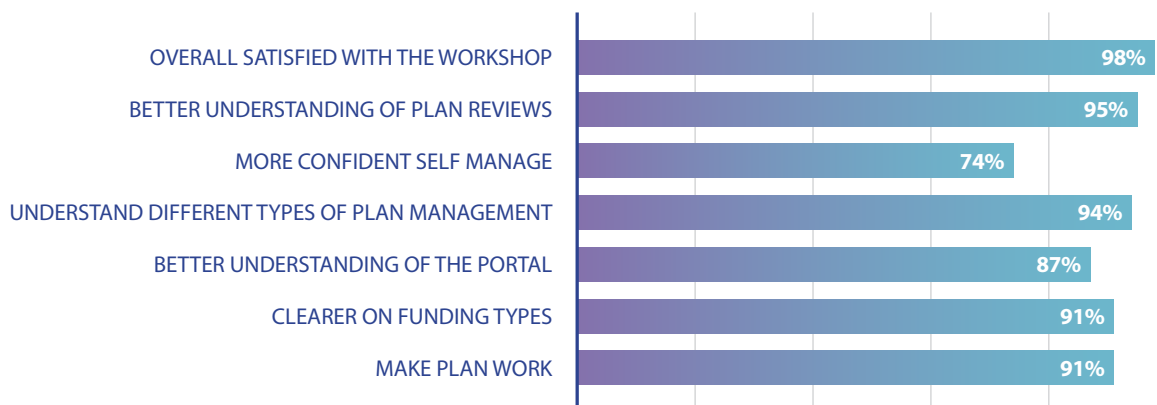
Individual Support Sessions

PDCN was also able to make use of residual funding to provide individual support sessions to assist people with challenges they were facing with their NDIS plan. These sessions were provided post workshop to participants who were identified as needing additional support, and to others identified through PDCN's telephone enquiry line.

Again, testimonials received post individual support session indicated achievements of the various outcomes sought.

- 'The individual support people were amazing. I now have a much clearer plan and I am better able to make it work for me'
- 'I am much clearer on aligning my goals to the supports & vice versa'
- 'PDCN's follow up and support has been amazing. They were so patient with finding a suitable time despite the complexities of my disability and my life'
- 'Thank you so very much. This support has made a world of difference'

NDIS plans in practice Workshop feedback



NDIS plans in practice Individual support feedback



Peer support project

Through our NDIA ILC grant project PDCN currently facilitates 11 peer support groups for people with disability and parents of children with disability across NSW. Over the year, PDCN worked closely with Plumtree to establish two new parent groups in the inner west of Sydney. Plumtree is a not for profit organisation who work with children with a developmental delay or disability and their families. Plumtree have stated the new peer groups are already having a significant impact, with parents sharing stories of growth and change. Additionally, guest presenters have assisted parents in understanding how they can work with their children to build social skills, play skills and improve their learning and overall social interactions.

Initiatives from peer group members across the project in highlighting topics of interest have led to an increase in appropriate and tailored informative sessions for each group, provided by some great guest speakers, including the following:

- Mr Gareth Ward, Minister for Families, Community & Disability
- Summer Foundation – Understanding Specialist Disability Accommodation
- Social Futures – disability policies and access to voting for people with disability
- National Disability Insurance Agency – NDIA updates



Our peer groups continue to have a positive impact on the lives of those who attend the groups. The Blacktown peer group have had an incredible year with participants obtaining interesting and fulfilling work, enrolling in tertiary studies, travelling overseas for the first time and one member working towards moving out of home into supported disability accommodation. The milestones achieved in this group have been so significant that the group has now served its purpose and will cease meeting in the new financial year. PDCN particularly appreciates the work of Carolyn Campbell-McLean, the group's facilitator and wishes all members of this group continued success as they take on roles in the wider community.

Peer-to-peer mentoring

As part of the peer project, PDCN successfully trialled peer-to-peer mentoring, starting with parents from Noah's Inclusion services. Within this project, participants are provided with up to 5 sessions with a skilled peer mentor to work on goals or issues that cannot be adequately addressed in a peer group environment, or for people who are unable to attend a peer group. The success of the peer-to-peer pilot has led to a decision to extend this offering more widely in the final year of the peer project.

Object 3

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

Through our participation on advisory councils and one-off consultations, in written submissions and in the provision of evidence to inquiries, PDCN contributes to policy and legislative development at state, commonwealth and local levels. Informed by the voice and experience of our members, our focus is on ensuring barriers present in the community that prevent people with physical disability from being included, valued citizens, are addressed and removed.

External Representation

1. ACYP Young People with Disability and Needs Consultation
2. AFDO Including the Voices of People with Disability in Health Interface Advisory Group
3. AFDO National Transport Advocacy Network
4. Australian Building Code Board, Australian Building Code Review
5. Australian Dept of Social Services National Disability Strategy Review
6. Australian Human Rights Commission Transport Advocacy Consultation
7. Australian Network on Universal Housing Design
8. City of Sydney Shaping Sydney to 2050
9. COTANSW Policy Advisory Group
10. Dept of Transport and Main Roads Qld Motorised Mobility Devices Safety Project
11. Every Australian Counts NDIS Make It Work Consultation
12. EWON Energy Consumer Roundtable
13. Icare Lifetime Care and Support Advisory Group
14. KPMG Disability Royal Commission Consultation
15. National Transport Commission Motorised Mobility Scooter Regulation Review
16. NCOSS Assistive Technology Consumer Advisory Network
17. NCOSS Forum of Non Government Organisations
18. NCOSS Health Equity Alliance
19. NCOSS Transport Policy Advisory Group
20. NDIA Quality and Safeguards Commission National Advocacy Forum
21. Northcott Accessibility Focus Group
22. NSW Audit Office Access to Public Transport for People with Disabilities
23. NSW Dept of Premier & Cabinet Restrictive Practices Consultation
24. NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance
25. NSW Disability Ombudsman Disability Roundtable
26. NSW Electoral Commission Reference Group
27. NSW FACS Disability Inclusion Plan Implementation Committee
28. NSW Labor Accessible Entertainment Roundtable
29. NSW Ministry of Health NGO Advisory Committee
30. NSW Ministry of Health Palliative Care Priority Populations Advisory Committee
31. NSW Parks Naturally Accessible Project
32. PIAC Energy and Water Consumers Advocacy Program Reference Group
33. PWDA Building Access for Women with Disability to Domestic Violence Services Advisory Group
34. Service NSW Cost of Living Program
35. Transport for NSW (NSW Trains) New Intercity Fleet consultations
36. Transport for NSW Accessible Transport Advisory Committee
37. Transport for NSW Trainlink consultation

Submissions

June 2018

NSW Government: NSW Ageing and Disability Commission

July 2018

Department of Social Services: Support School Transport and Transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme

July 2018

PIAC/Australian Energy Market Commission: Consultation on strengthening protections for customers in hardship rule change

July 2018

UNSW Social Policy Research Centre: National Disability Strategy Review

August 2018

NSW Department of Justice: Disability Inclusion Action Plan

August 2018

Parliament of NSW: Inquiry into the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the provision of disability services in New South Wales

August 2018

Productivity Commission: National Disability Agreement Review

September 2018

icare Lifetime Care: Lifetime Care and Support Guidelines

September 2018

Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme: Assistive Technology

October 2018

Parliament of NSW: Inquiry into the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the provision of disability services in New South Wales

November 2018

Australian Building Codes Board: Accessible Housing Options Paper

November 2018

Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities: Third Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002

December 2018

Australian Guardianship and Administration Council: Review of the draft guidelines on the participation of the proposed represented person in guardianship and financial management/administration hearings

January 2019

National Transport Commission: Barriers to the safe use of innovative vehicles and motorised mobility devices

February 2019

City of Sydney: New City Centre Playground Proposal at Cook + Phillip Park

May 2019

City of Sydney: Draft local approvals policy and code of practice: hoisting and construction activities in public places

May 2019

Department of Social Services and National Disability Insurance Agency: NDIS Thin Markets Project

June 2019

City of Sydney: Draft Inclusive, Accessible Public Domain Policy and Guidelines and Draft Disability Inclusive Event Guidelines

June 2019

Department of Social Services: Shaping the future of disability policy for 2020 and beyond (National Disability Strategy Review)

June 2019

NSW Legislative Council: Inquiry into the NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner Bill 2019

Policy Initiatives

Motorised Mobility Device Reforms

Over the past year PDCN has been involved in the ongoing national discussion around the regulation of motorised mobility devices (MMDs) such as motorised scooters and motorised wheelchairs. MMDs have received a lot of negative publicity in the last few years, which has resulted in a number of inquiries and reviews being made into their safety and regulation. In 2018-19, PDCN made submissions to two separate but parallel inquiries - the National Transport Commission (NTC) – Barriers to the safe use of innovative vehicles and MMDs, and the Senate Inquiry into the need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as mobility scooters. These inquiries discussed the safety risks of MMDs and innovative vehicles, and the need for further regulation of MMDs.

PDCN used feedback, including a survey, from our members to inform our submissions and in them discussed our significant concerns about how increased regulations, including weight and speed restrictions, would negatively impact on the lives of individuals who rely on the use of these devices for their freedom of movement and independence. This could be through limiting choice and availability of models, higher purchase prices and making it impossible for individuals with complex needs or above average height or weight to purchase a legally compliant device that meets their needs. In our submissions PDCN made several recommendations to government, including education and public awareness campaigns on safe shared road and footpath use and the needs of mobility scooter and motorised wheelchair users, and greater investment in infrastructure to improve the accessibility of the built environment including footpaths, ramps, kerb ramps and design of pedestrian crossings to maximise visibility and safety.

Additionally, Austroads recently released a discussion paper looking at options for establishing a nationally consistent framework and adopting technical specification 3695.3.2018. PDCN provided a response and continues to use its position to further reinforce that mobility devices are, for some, their only form of transport and mobility. We also highlighted the distinct differences in devices, eg between motorised wheelchairs and motorised scooters and particularly in regards to new devices coming on to the market such as motorised skateboards and electric scooters (referred to as personal mobility devices or innovative vehicles).

At the time of going to print, the NTC has recognised that its ongoing consultation on the safe use of MMDs and innovative vehicles needed to be split to reflect the differences in these devices. The NTC recently released the next stage of its consultation, a discussion paper on barriers to the safe use of motorised mobility devices, and in it makes a clear distinction between MMDs and personal mobility devices (PMDs). It will also be releasing a consultation regulation impact statement on the safe use of personal mobility devices (PMDs). PDCN will prepare responses to both.

The discussion is ongoing, and PDCN will continue to advocate on behalf of our members and people with physical disability who use MMDs, and use its voice to put forward the rights of people with disability for whom MMDs are their only mode of transport and access to the community, and ensure the resultant regulations do not disadvantage MMD users.

Accessible Entertainment Venues and Booking Systems

In the last financial year, PDCN has worked proactively towards ensuring entertainment venues are accessible and inclusive of people with disability with a starting point initially being the iconic Sydney Opera House (SOH). Through our discussions, ten PDCN members were invited to a face to face consultation addressing both physical access and seeking to improve the accessibility of the SOH telephone and booking systems. Post the consultation a follow up teleconference was also conducted with PDCN staff on identified areas of concern.

Within these consultations, PDCN was advised that major works will occur in the Concert Hall to bring about a much greater number of accessible and flexible seating options, with work commencing in February 2020. PDCN members were also advised that the Sydney Opera House has a custom designed online booking system which needs considerable redesign work to allow for online access. This work is in progress and PDCN will continue to liaise with the access team at the Opera House to ensure members are available for user testing of an updated system once in place.

It's fabulous to know that we will soon see completion of a fully accessible venue, across all levels and performance halls, and that our consultation has also addressed the need for greater access to staging for actors and performers with disability, and driven consideration for the longer term addition of a 'changing place' (adult toileting and change facilities) into future accessible design.

PDCN was also invited to attend a Parliamentary roundtable on accessible entertainment and post this event has consulted further with Ticketek to progress an online ticketing platform that is inclusive of people with disability. Early in 2019 Ticketek piloted online ticketing for accessible seats for several events. Adjustments to the Ticketek website has also occurred to increase access and improve disability specific information on ticketing and accessible processes for events. PDCN will continue to work with Ticketek and take these learnings to other ticketing agents (Ticketmaster, Humanitix, etc) in this next year to progress online ticketing to all events, and across more ticketing portals.





Sydney Harbour Bridge Step Free Access Project

After more than a decade of advocacy, campaigning and consultation with the many stakeholders involved, October 2018 finally saw the opening of lifts on the southern and northern ends of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, providing equitable access for all to this iconic structure.

This project has been a major piece of work for PDCN over this time, and we were incredibly proud to join state and local government officials, the Roads and Maritime Services project team and building contractors to officially open the lifts.

We particularly thank our members and supporters who came together in vocal support of the project in mid 2017 when it looked like funding may be repurposed elsewhere, ensuring government understood how vitally important this project was to so many NSW citizens and recommitted to funding construction.

Srin Madipalli, Accessibility Product and Program Manager at Airbnb attended the opening and also welcomed the lifts as a boon for accessible tourism in New South Wales. He stated that “at the top of close to every travellers’ list is experiencing the Sydney Harbour Bridge. From today, more people with disability and their loved ones will be able to truly enjoy it. This is a watershed moment for inclusion and accessible tourism and will no doubt be a drawcard for travellers the world over.”

It’s been delightful to receive so many comments over the past half year from people using the lifts to thank us for enabling them to join family and friends to walk across the bridge for the first time together!

#StandByMe Campaign

As convenor of the NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance, PDCN has worked with our fellow Alliance members to continue to call for a long term commitment to funding disability advocacy from the NSW government post June 2020, when current transitional funding expires.

Over the year we continued to meet with members of parliament of all political persuasions, and with the exception of government, have support of all parties for funding 'in perpetuity'.

To highlight our campaign the Alliance held a rally in Martin Place in February 2019, with more than 500 people in attendance. The event was a huge success, garnering significant media attention, with NSW Labor, the Greens, numerous Independent parliamentary members and of course people with disability speaking to the vital need for disability advocacy into the future at the rally.

We are yet to receive a further commitment from government, however the establishment of the NSW Aged and Disability Commission and passing of legislation in June 2019 saw a call for the new Commissioner, Mr Robert Fitzgerald AM to undertake a review of NSW advocacy funding, become a requirement of the legislation. To this end one of the first tasks for the Commissioner in his role is to undertake this review and provide a report back to Parliament by 31 December 2019.

The Alliance welcomes Commissioner Fitzgerald into his role, and looks forward to working with him to ensure that the review provides the opportunity to realise the true breadth and value of our sector's work, address current gaps in need, and highlights how we could strengthen the provision of advocacy into the future with more appropriate levels of funding.

With less than 12 months until our current funding ends, PDCN and the Alliance remain committed to doing whatever it takes to secure invaluable information, advocacy and representation funding for our members.



Donations and Funding

2018 – 2019 Funders and Sponsorships

Major funders

NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS)
National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)

Accommodation Grant

City of Sydney

Volunteer Grant

Australian Department of Social Services (DSS)

PDCN AGM Sponsorship

Suncorp

2018 – 2019 One Off donations received

Fiona Given
Irene McMinn
Jacob Cross
Jane Scott
Janette Cameron Smith
John Nolan
Melinda Peterson
Michael Rabbitt
Michelle Dodd
Simone Stanford

Audited Financial Statement for the Year ending 2019

Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated
ABN 26 858 845 702

The following data is an excerpt from the 2019 Financial Statements only.
To view a full copy of the Audited Financial Report please visit our website www.pdcn.org.au
or call **1800 688 831** to request a hard copy via the post.

Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019	2018
Revenue	2	595,828	901,312
Other income	3	113,482	39,174
Employee benefit expense		(492,128)	(428,816)
Depreciation		(996)	(2,587)
Other expense		(113,370)	(301,486)
Finance costs		-	-
Surplus before income tax		102,846	207,597
Income tax expense		-	-
Profit for the year		102,846	207,597
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		102,846	207,597
Total comprehensive income for the year		102,846	207,597

Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019	2018
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,190,110	1,300,835
Trade and other debtors	5	12,832	2,867
Other current assets		1,703	497
Total current assets		1,204,645	1,304,199
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	2,176	3,142
Total non-current assets		2,176	3,142
Total assets		1,206,821	1,307,341
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	18,140	49,039
Employee benefits	8	15,478	23,955
Provisions	9	43,376	38,628
Other liabilities	10	293,199	461,937
Total current liabilities		370,193	573,559
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefits		-	-
Total non-current liabilities		-	-
Total liabilities		370,193	573,559
Net assets		836,628	733,782
Equity			
Retained surplus		836,628	733,782
Total Members Funds		836,628	733,782

Note: The above data is an excerpt from the 2018 Financial Statement only.
For full audited financial statements please call **1800 688 831** or view at **www.pdcnsw.org.au**

Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated

We have audited the financial report of Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entities declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated has been repprepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and ethical Standards Board APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant of our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibility of the Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012 of and the members. The responsible entities' responsible also includes such internal controls as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible entities are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Group audit. We remain solely responsible for our opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Infinity Financial
Chartered Accountants



Scott Bennison
Partner – Audit & Assurance
Sydney, 22 October, 2019

Responsible persons' declaration

In the opinion of the Responsible Entities of Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated:

- (a) The financial statements and notes of Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:
 - i. Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - ii. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Interpretations) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013; and
- (b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated will be able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Responsible Entities.

Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated



Chris Sparks
President

16 October 2019

Contact Details:

**St Helens Community Centre
3/184 Glebe Point Rd
Glebe NSW 2037**

**T: (02) 9552 1606
1800 688 831 (Outside Sydney Metro)
E: admin@pdcnsw.org.au
W: www.pdcnsw.org.au**

**Speak and Listen Users:
1300 555 727**