



ANNUAL REPORT
2019 - 2020

Physical Disability Council of NSW Inc.

ABN 26 858 845 702

For the year ended 30 June 2020

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Table of Contents

2019 -2020 Annual Report

● Who we Are	3
● 2019-2020 Year Highlights	4
● Message from the President	5
● Chief Executive Officer report	6
● Meet the Team	8
● Working under a Human Rights Framework	9
● Object 1	10
● Media Highlights	11
● Object 2	12
● Object 3	15
● Policy Initiatives	17
● Strategic Focus Areas	23
● Donations and Funding	25
● Audited Financial Statement for the Year ending 2020	26
● Independent Auditor's Report	28
● Responsible Entities Declaration	30

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

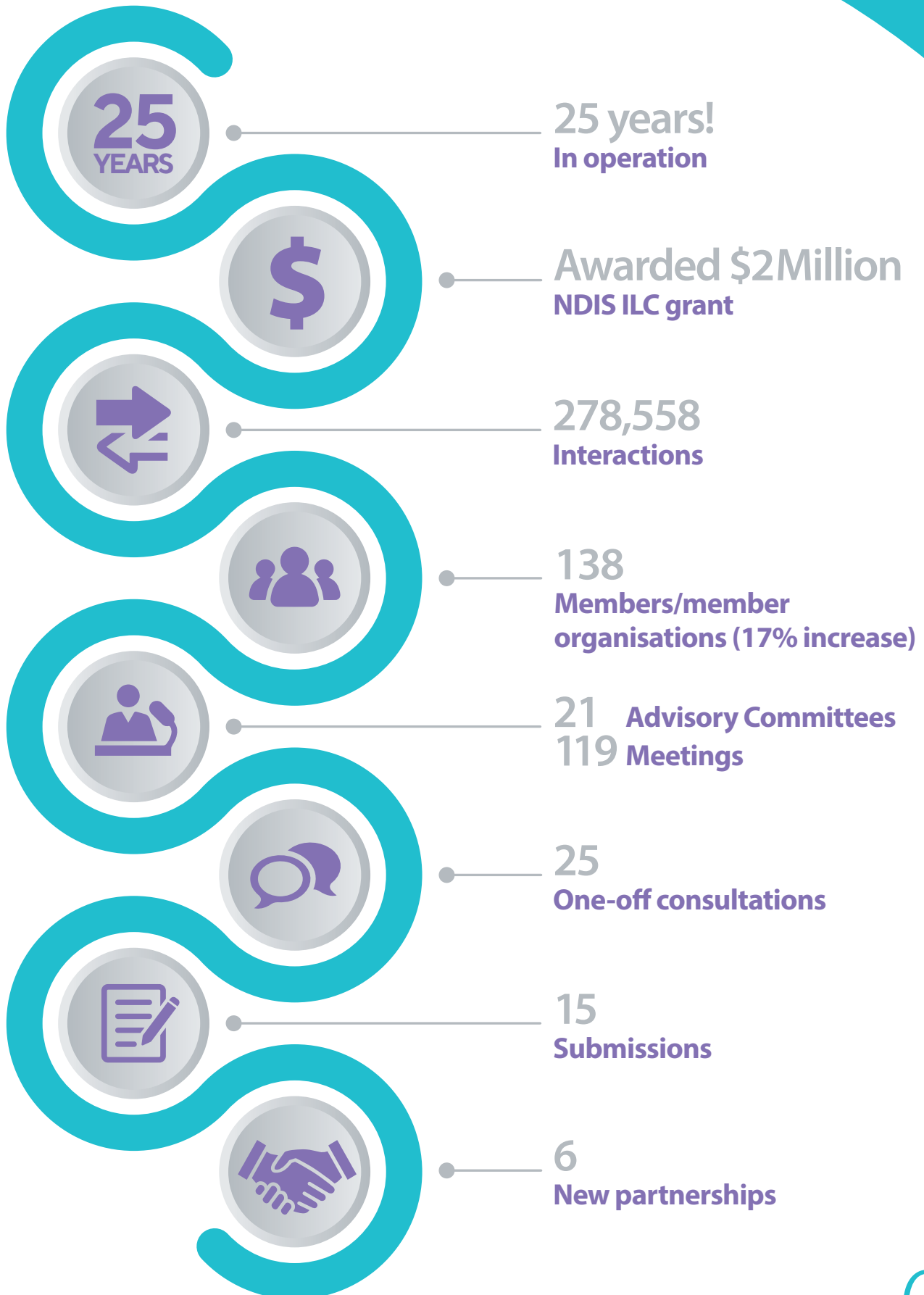
Independence - we value our independence to remain true to our values

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



2019 - 2020 Year in Review





Message from the President

Mr Chris Sparks

No doubt many of us would gladly roll the clock back 12 months to what seemed like a simpler, more manageable time in our lives. To say things have been challenging this past 12 months would be a massive understatement.

As 2019 was drawing to an end, PDCN continued to press the NSW Government to commit to ongoing funding for disability advocacy services. Robert Fitzgerald AM, in his role as NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner, conducted an urgent review into disability advocacy. His findings were delivered to Parliament last December and recommended that the Government provide \$13M for advocacy in the short term, increasing to \$15M in 2022-23. Throughout this period he called for reforms to the sector to ensure we, “serve to promote, protect and secure the rights of people with disability, (and) enable them to better access services and inform public policy”.

PDCN was looking forward to the Government’s response to the inquiry, but then just as the smoke was clearing from Sydney’s NYE fireworks... 2020 arrived with a bang!!

For much of summer large areas of NSW were engulfed in bushfires that hit many regional communities very hard. People feared for their lives, properties and loved ones, and disappointingly, many with disability were poorly supported throughout the crisis. Governments were rightly focused on the emergency response in damaged communities and this remained the priority until life changed for us all due to a little-known virus.

The new-norm became all things COVID - daily health statistics, shutdowns, border closures, hand sanitiser, home schooling and face masks were now a part of everyday life. Unemployment on a scale not seen since the great depression, JobKeeper, JobSeeker, government budgets at all levels in disarray as COVID took the focus away from everything else.

So now we find ourselves close to the end of 2020 without a guarantee of what will happen to disability advocacy in NSW from 1st January 2021. Somewhat understandably, the Government is yet to reveal its future intentions for our sector with the NSW budget delayed until mid-November. We are engaging positively with the Minister for Disability Services and remain optimistic about imminent announcements.

Even with the turmoil of the last 12 months and the continued uncertainty regarding PDCN’s future, I am impressed with the way our resilient team has continued to work hard for the rights of people with physical disability. Testimony to the great work we do, is the \$2M grant announced in December 2019 from the NDIS ILC fund to PDCN’s ‘Building the capacity, resilience and rights of people with physical disability’ project. I was also delighted to receive a phone call as part of PDCN’s COVID wellness check in with our members – a simple but most effective initiative from our team.

In closing, I want to recognise the tremendous contribution of our Board and all they have done to guide PDCN through such a difficult period. The calibre and commitment of the PDCN Directors is second to none, and members can be confident that their organisation is well led and governed.

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 firsthand the great value her leadership brings to PDCN.



Report from the Chief Executive Officer

Serena Ovens

The past year has been a both a challenging and celebratory one for the team.

We successfully wrapped up two major ILC grants – with one, our current peer project, rolling into an expanded ILC capacity building project for which we were successful in obtaining just on \$2 million dollars for an additional 3 years – beginning in February 2020.

The new ILC grant will see us increase our peer group work, add individual support sessions for people with physical disability who need one on one support to sort out a goal or overcome a challenge; and deliver a suite of workshops – with new topics such building resilience and speaking up for your rights.

Over the course of the 19-20 year we delivered 15 written submissions covering policy areas such as transport, tenancy regulations, communications, barriers to the safe use of personal and motorised mobility devices, and the review of the NSW Disability Inclusion Act – to name a few!

Policy staff sat on 21 regular advisory committees, attending 119 regular meetings throughout the year and a further 25 'one off' consultations – ensuring the voice and inclusive requirements of our members was forefront of any initiatives or regulatory changes being made.

We increased our membership by 17% over the year, had over two hundred thousand engagements with people with disability, families and carers through our website, social media, information services, consultations, peer groups, workshops and individual support sessions – quite a feat for a team of 5 – though I'm glad to say we've grown to 8 office based staff now!

We also undertook a significant review of our Strategic Plan, and thanks must go to our members and stakeholders who provided their time and feedback to help guide us on the direction our next three years should take. The 20-23 Strategic Plan is ambitious, but also focused on bringing about proactive change for people with physical disability in some key identified target areas. We'll do our best to achieve these!

It's hard not to feel a little frustrated if we look back on the advocacy funding campaign. With the NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner releasing his Advocacy Review recommendations in December 2019 we were looking forward to a government announcement early in 2020 that would provide us with certainty post the end of the financial year – however this was not to be, with COVID19 causing major delays to any response and delays to the budget from which any funding must come!

I'm very glad to advise that as I write this, we have now had notification that our funding has been secured until the end of the 2021 financial year, and am also led to believe that there is more news to follow post the November 17 budget for long term funding. After three and a half years, it will be a VERY welcome relief to be able to look to long term security and concentrate on the work we truly wish to do!

Lastly – in an unprecedented year, where the way in which we worked has seen significant upheaval and change, I would like to take the time to thank each and every one of the PDCN team for rising to meet every challenge that COVID19 threw at them. I couldn't ask for a better team and an amazing Board, all of whom give 1000% to making the lives of people with disability so much better!

Meet the Team

Board



Chris Sparks
President



Michael Rabbitt
Vice President



Simone Stanford
Treasurer



Mary Flanagan
Secretary



Matthew Kayrooz
Board Member



Jacob Cross
Board Member



Diana Ferner
Board Member



Rex Betar
Board Member

Julia Mansour Secretary (resigned Oct 19)

Board Attendance Record

Chris Sparks	10/10
Diana Ferner	8/10
Jacob Cross	10/10
Julia Mansour	1/3
Mary Flanagan	7/7
Matthew Kayrooz	10/10
Michael Rabbitt	10/10
Rex Betar	6/10
Simone Stanford	10/10



Staff



Serena Ovens
Chief Executive Officer



Wendy Banfield
Education and
ILC Project Manager



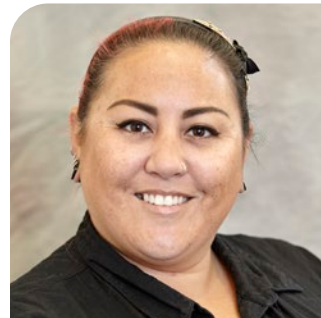
Hayley Stone
Senior Policy Officer



Alice Dixon-Wilmshurst
Policy Officer



Joshua Rhodes
Social and
Online Media Officer



Heidi Haydon
Peer Facilitator
and Mentor



Adrian O'Malley
Peer Facilitator
and Mentor



Jane Scott
Project Officer
ILC Peer Support



Stuart Greenfield
Campaign Coordinator

Training Facilitators and Support Planners

Carolyn Campbell McLean
Catherine Hogan

Peer Group Facilitators

Abraham Darouiche
David Daoud
Debra Jefferis
Heidi Fletcher
Rebecca Sciroli
Stacy Touma
Jennifer Williamson
Pauline David – to October 2019

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 2019-2020 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



Object 1

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.

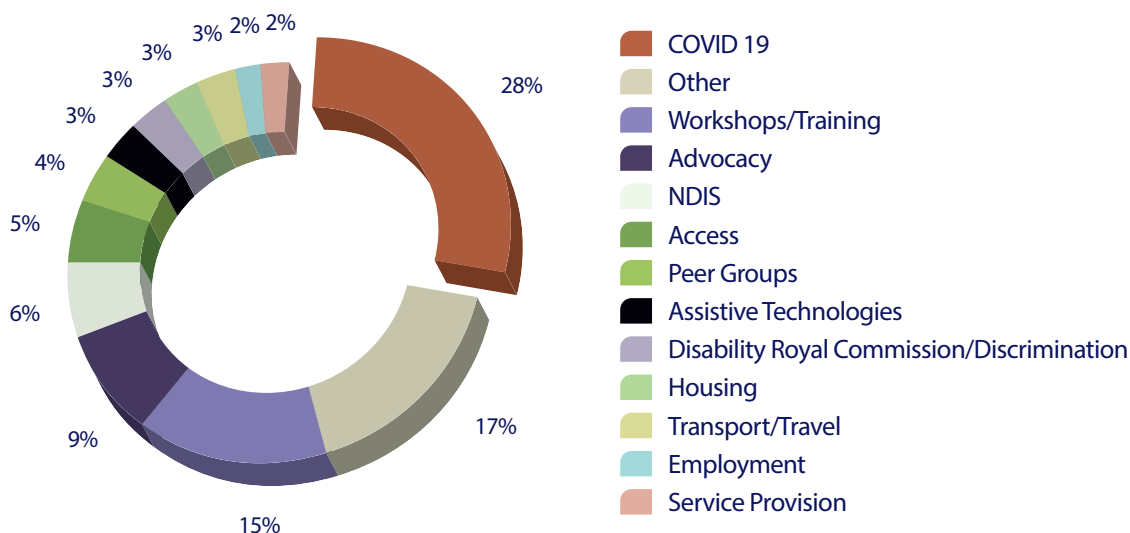
We also use varied forms of media to keep members up to date on issues we are working on, on their behalf. The PDCN website was updated this year to reflect the new organisational branding and sustained more than 14,200 page views over the year. Our email newsletter is sent monthly to 700 subscribers, 51% of whom are highly engaged (often opening and clicking emails). Emails also see an average monthly open rate of 35.6%, in contrast to the non-profit industry average of 25.17%*.

The hard copy PDCN Live newsletter is sent quarterly, and we regularly update our social media followers on Facebook and Twitter. This year we have successfully concentrated our social media efforts on increasing audience engagement rates and curating the content which they find most useful and interesting.

PDCN membership reached 138 members/member organisations over the course of the year, an increase of 17% on the previous year.

Face to face engagement was significantly lower than usual, an obvious and necessary side effect of COVID19 (as we were unable to undertake our usual expo attendance.) However, we still had 208 face to face engagements pre COVID19, numerous of these as member consultations that ensure we are taking the concerns and requirements of our members to the many advisory committees on which we sit. An additional 501 people engaged via virtual means.

The PDCN enquiry line handled 249 calls, providing information and advice on everything from access and advocacy, engaging with our NDIS workshops and peer groups, and the Disability Royal Commission, to problems with transport, housing, employment and service provision. It will be no surprise to note that calls that dealt with COVID19 were the most prominent in this period.



Enquiry line call requests

* Reference - <https://mailchimp.com/resources/email-marketing-benchmarks/>

Media Highlights



12

Media mentions



3,227**

Twitter followers



2,143

Facebook followers



263,024***

Social media posts have been seen this many times



14,125

Website page views



8

Blog posts



17

E-news and newsletters



709

Expos -
Individual engagements

**2284 @PDCNSW 943 @pdcnswEO

*** lifetime facebook, twitter and CEO twitter accounts

Object 2

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

Workshops and Training

This year PDCN were the recipients of Disabled Peoples and Family Organisations (DFPO), Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC), funding from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). With this pilot funding PDCN developed and facilitated workshops in NDIS Self-Management and delivered additional individual support sessions where it was identified that workshop participants may need greater assistance than could be provided within the workshop itself.

The initial aim was to run five NDIS Self-Management workshops however the final workshop was cancelled due to COVID19 restrictions.

Four workshops were delivered in Blacktown, Burwood, Hornsby and Nowra. Workshop numbers were deliberately kept low (approx. 5-7 per workshop) to ensure individual needs could be managed within the session. Feedback was positive and participant's individual testimonials highlighted the benefit of the workshops.

"Small group, great speakers, handouts were great, convenient, and comfortable venues. Extremely helpful! It was great to have independent advice."

"The presenters were informative, friendly, and easy to understand. The workshop was excellent."

"I liked the fact that everyone could ask questions and had opportunities to talk."

"The presenters made it easy to understand, gave examples and took us through exercises."



Participant outcomes from the workshop were as follows:

NDIS Self Management Workshop Participant Outcomes



Individual Support Sessions

Twenty-four (24) individual support sessions were also conducted within the pilot project. Individual support was available as follow-up support after a workshop or as a useful alternative for people who are unable to attend workshops.

Sessions were 1.5 - 2hrs in duration, with additional preparation and reporting time allocated for the mentor/facilitator to ensure best outcomes during the support session, a necessity given everyone had unique support requirements.

Again, feedback from the participants was extremely positive, and has assisted PDCN in preparing for the roll out of a far greater service in our DPFO 20-23 grant.

Examples of qualitative feedback from individual support participant are provided below:

"I feel so much more confident about everything in my plan. I am looking to move out of home and really wanted to understand how to use my plan, self-management, and my options for accommodation. The self-management workshops followed by the individual support has helped me understand. The support from PDCN has been fantastic – thank you."

"I have just recently started self-managing and had heard a lot of information about what you can and can't do and should and shouldn't do and I was so confused. The support person really helped me understand my responsibilities, she used the NDIS self-management guide to help me decide on whether I could or couldn't spend the money a particular way and even gave me some ideas on options for support staff. I am so grateful for this help."

Individual Support Participant Outcomes



The lessons learnt within this pilot will be carried forward in to the current ILC DPFO 20-23 project, and in the wider work we do.



Peer Groups

PDCN peer groups continued to provide a space for people with disability and parents of children with disability to meet, to identify areas of growth, to seek and be provided with relevant information and to consider how they can work through challenges both as a group and independently.

In the 2019-2020 period, PDCN facilitated seven peer groups for people with disability and four parent peer groups. PDCN peer groups have assisted in helping participants understand and navigate the changes brought about by the NDIS. The peer group environment has provided an avenue to discuss and consider the complexities that some people experience in leading what would otherwise be an ordinary life. Peers within the groups, peer facilitators and guest speakers have been able to inform each other and ensure people are receiving information that is relevant to their individual needs, is not sourced from alternate, incorrect and possibly sensationalised web or media content.

Surveys and stories collected from participants and peer leaders demonstrates a growth in people's abilities to understand and clarify their own needs, as well as to build on and continue to increase confidence in their ability to speak up for themselves.

One participant stated the following:

"I felt quite intimidated speaking to someone so influential, but I am really proud of myself in that I was able to ask questions and that the Minister (for Disability Services, NSW) had listened and answered my questions. I felt like I had been heard and I now know what to do if I have any other questions or issues."

Feedback from participant surveys indicated the following:

- 100% of participants found the support from peers helpful
- 97% of participants found the guest speakers helpful
- 97% of participants found the information provided in peer groups helpful
- 100% of participants found the social aspect of the peer support group positive
- 97% of participants would recommend their group or peer-to-peer support to others

Peer-to-Peer Mentoring

The peer-to-peer mentoring piloted in the 2018-2019 period was continued in 2019-2020 with a total of 100 sessions being provided in this period. This component of the project has assisted people with a focused and individual approach to working through more complex challenges and growing individual capacity. Under the pilot project, peer-to-peer mentoring was provided to parents of young children with disability. These individual mentoring sessions were facilitated by peer mentors at Noah's Inclusion Services and Reframing Disability, two organisations PDCN has partnered with on the project.

Both peer groups and the peer-to-peer support component of the project have provided environments that reduce the feeling of being overwhelmed. They assist in clarifying goals, in understanding where needs lie and in developing a plan to address these needs.

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.

Summary of Submissions 2019/20

August 19

NSW Fair Trading Residential Tenancies Regulation 2019 Review

NSW Government Restrictive Practices Authorisation Consultation 2019

September 19

Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS – NDIS Planning

Austrroads – Nationally consistent framework for safe use of Motorised Mobility Devices

October 19

NSW Disability Advocacy Review – Issues Paper

Commonwealth Department of Social Services – Review of the NDIS Act and new Participant Service Guarantee

November 19

Sydney Fish Market Development Application

December 19

National Transport Commission – Barriers to the safe use of motorised mobility devices (MMDs)

National Transport Commission – Barriers

to the safe use of personal mobility devices (PMDs) – Regulation Impact Statement

January 20

NSW Council of Social Service's review of IPART's draft Minimum Opal Fares report

Australian Communications Consumer Action Network - Accessible Communications Roadmap

March 20

NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 Review

May 20

Transport for NSW Independent Inquiry into Point to Point Transport

NSW Legislative Council - Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Inquiry into the Operation of the Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Act 2016

June 20

Waverley Council – Redevelopment of Bronte Surf Club and upgrade of Community facilities

External Representation

1. ACYP Solutions Summit: Ending Violence Against Children and Young People
2. ACYP Youth Advisory Committee 2020 – 2021 Recruitment Panel
3. ACYP Young People with Disability Consultation
4. AHRC Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport Equivalent Transport Rights consultation
5. Australian Network for Universal Housing Design
6. City of Sydney Planning for Sydney 2050 Stakeholder Consultation
7. COTA Advisory Committee
8. Disability and Domestic Violence Expert Panel
9. Disability Advocacy Alliance Steering Committee
10. Disability Advocacy Alliance - Review of Disability Inclusion Act Consultation
11. Disability Advocacy Network Australia - Chair of the Board
12. DANA Disability Royal Commission Advocate consultation
13. DSS Information Gateway Consultation
14. Genetic Alliance/NSW Guardian – Guardianship consultation
15. Glebe Affordable Housing stakeholder consultation
16. Health Consumers NSW COVID19 Consumer Committee
17. Icare Lifetime Care and Support Reference Group
18. NDIS Insights Forum
19. NDIS Act and Participant Service Guarantee Community Consultation
20. NITAN Transport Committee
21. NCOSS NSW Peaks Forum
22. NCOSS Forum of Non Government Associations
23. NCOSS Health Policy Advisory Group
24. NSW Ageing & Disability Commission - Disability Advocacy Review x 2 Consultations
25. NSW Dept of Communities and Justice Disability Inclusion Plan Implementation Committee
26. NSW DPC Review of the Disability Inclusion Act Consultation
27. NSW Electoral Commission Reference Group
28. NSW Energy and Water Ombudsman Advisory Group
29. NSW Labor Disability Summit
30. NSW Labor Disability Roundtable – NSW and the NDIS
31. NSW Labor Disability Roundtable – Coronavirus Update
32. NSW Ministry of Health Non Government Org Advisory Committee
33. NSW Ministry of Health Disability Community of Practice
34. NSW Ministry of Health COVID19 Hosp. admission to discharge Working Group
35. NSW Premier Disability Advisory Consultation
36. NSW Train Link New Intercity Fleet Training Program Consultation
37. PIAC Energy and Water Consumers Advisory Group
38. PIAC Disability and the NDIS consultation
39. Rural Fire Services – Disaster Preparedness Consultation
40. Redfern Station Upgrade New Southern Concourse Stakeholder Forum
41. Transport for NSW – Accessible Transport Advisory Committee
42. Transport for NSW Sydney Metro Consultation
43. Transport for NSW TTSS Smartcard Consultation
44. UNSW Home Modifications Information Clearing House Advisory Group
45. University of Sydney Prepare NSW Advisory Committee

Policy Initiatives

This year has been a significant one for the policy team, with the Ageing and Disability Commissioner's review of disability advocacy across NSW, the statutory review of the Disability Inclusion Act, the continued roll-out of the NDIS and the launching of two separate Royal Commissions on top of the serious impacts of the COVID19 pandemic.

Throughout the early part of the year, Alice Dixon-Wilmshurst did an exceptional job in stepping up as Policy Officer. We expanded our team in February to include Hayley Stone, as Senior Policy Officer, enabling the policy team to participate across a greater range of advisory committees and connect more closely with allied organisations – we now convene an Interagency Policy Working Group with representatives of 13 unique organisations – and this has enhanced our capacity to collaborate and work across issues of common interest.

Over the past twelve months we submitted 15 separate submissions, exceeding our benchmark of 12 submission a year, across a diverse range of issues including restrictive practices, residential tenancies, frameworks for safe use of motorised mobility devices, the NDIS Participant Service Guarantee and Point to Point Transport. We also engaged directly with our membership across a number of consultations and surveys, and we thank the members who contributed, either directly or indirectly across our policy work.



Coronavirus Statement

The COVID19 pandemic has significantly impacted on our systemic work over the second half of the year. This work has been fast paced and constantly changing, both as we learnt more about COVID19 as a virus, and as the State and Federal Governments rolled out various strategies to contain its spread.

In early April, as it became clear that the needs of people with physical disability were not being adequately addressed, PDCN developed our Coronavirus Statement containing several key “asks” at both State and Federal level including - secure funding of Disability Advocacy Services until June 2021, the development of an equitable protocol for ICU resource distribution, guaranteed access to essentials, including food, hygiene

products, medications and personal protective equipment (PPE) and expanded financial support for those on the DSP and Carers Payments. The Statement was endorsed by 23 additional organisations.

Together with other allied organisations we lobbied successfully for supplies of PPE in the National Medical Stockpile to be expanded to carers (including informal carers) of those with physical disability, ensuring that people with disability and their carers could access the PPE they needed to receive their day to day care safely. We liaised closely with Health NSW across a number of consultative committee groups and contributed to the drafting of the NSW Health ICU Triage Guideline, ensuring that people with physical disability would be given equitable access to resources if ICU resources exceeded capacity. (As at end June 2020 these guidelines are still in process).

At the same time, we lobbied the NSW Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services and the Shadow Minister around access to essentials, particularly for those living in rural and regional areas. We lobbied for the expansion of the Coronavirus Payment with allied organisations, and when this was unsuccessful, developed an alternative plan for providing increased financial support across this group, via the pension supplement component of these payments, which we took directly to the Federal Minister for Families and Social Services.

We expect that the pandemic will continue to cause ongoing effects, both direct and indirect, to our members for a significant period of time and we will continue to advocate for our members to have the information and supports they need during this difficult period.

Transport

Over the past year PDCN has continued to represent our members across a broad range of transport issues. As part of our ongoing participation in and commitment to the Accessible Transport Advisory Committee (ATAC), we have participated in a number of consultations including on the development of New Intercity Fleet trains, the Sydney light rail and on-demand ferry services. We continue to use our participation to advocate for our members and push for 100% accessible public transport.

The regulation of motorised mobility devices (MMDs) and personal mobility devices (PMDs) is an ongoing discussion that PDCN is involved in. This year, PDCN provided submissions to the National Transport Commission (NTC) on the safe use of both MMDs and PMDs. The NTC's discussion paper on the safe use of MMDs sought feedback on a number of issues, including increasing the unladen mass limits for devices, safe speed limits, and classifying users as pedestrians in the Australian Road Rules (ARR).

PDCN focused its response on ensuring the ongoing safety of MMD users, without infringing on their rights and ability to travel. At the same time, the Regulatory Impact Statement on the use of PMDs sought feedback on the general use of PMDs and options for regulating their use. PDCN focused its response on ensuring that any regulations would not impact human rights but would focus on the safety of user and other road users, including the elderly, those using MMDs and those with vision impairment.

Finally, PDCN submitted to two reviews of the point to point transport industry. The first, an Independent Review for Transport for NSW, and the second, to a Joint Standing Committee Inquiry into the Operation of the Point to Point Transport (Taxi and Hire Vehicles) Act 2016. The focus of PDCN's submissions was on the consumer experience – and how the changes to the point to point industry have (or haven't) benefited people with physical disability.

Transport (continued)

Our recommendations across both submissions were that the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (TTSS) be modernised to a smart card system and expanded across all drive share providers and community transport operators, that all drive share operators be able to access the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) interest free loan scheme, free WAT licensing and the (WAT) Disability Incentive and Subsidies, to increase the supply of WATs and that all of industry disability awareness training be rolled out and clear expected service standards in compliance with anti-discrimination legislation be mandated. We also called for Transport for NSW provide an Opal transfer discount or additional allowance for fares that include a transfer between point to point transport and accessible public transport.



#StandByMe Campaign

The 19-20 year should have been a decisive one for the advocacy funding campaign, with the Ageing and Disability Commissioner's first official task to be a review of the disability advocacy sector and subsequent report back to the NSW Parliament on a recommended pathway forward for the provision of advocacy services in the long term, identified gaps and improvements and associated levels of funding to meet the need.

Both PDCN and the Alliance submitted their own responses to the Commissioner's review, also participating in face to face consultations with the Commissioner and Westwood Spice, the consultants brought on to assist in this mammoth task. PDCN members were given an opportunity to also be involved in an additional consultation specifically for people with a physical disability during this process.

The Commissioner presented his report to Parliament on 19 December 2019 and this was released to the general public shortly thereafter – with the Alliance in principle very pleased with his recommendations for a future sector structure, and his advice that a robust sector needed an increase in current funding levels.

PDCN eagerly awaited a government response to the report findings, receiving an initial commitment upon release of the report in December 2019 from Minister Ward to extend current TAFS (Transitional Advocacy Funding Supplement) arrangements through to December 2020 whilst they considered the Commissioner's recommendations, and were expecting this to occur early in the new year.

However, the onset of COVID19 threw a 'spanner in the works' and left PDCN and the other 22 organisations in the Alliance 'hanging' as government threw all their resources (understandably) into managing this unprecedented, life threatening event, also pushing back the 2020 budget until November this year.

With no further response as at the end of the 19-20 financial year and with another deadline looming, the Alliance will once again 'ramp up' their calls for the government to respond to the Commissioner's report, and provide a way forward for the secure, long term funding of this vital, much needed sector – with the hope that by the end of 2020 we have a clear commitment from the NSW government to this end.



STAND BY ME

Proactive policy work against the newly finalised 20-23 Strategic Plan

After significant consultation with members, stakeholders, board and staff PDCN finalised its 20-23 Strategic Plan in May 2020.

The updated plan addresses three key focus areas – ‘Champion’, ‘Educate and Inform’ and ‘Connect and Grow’, and within this the organisation has selected four key priority areas to undertake some proactive projects in order to bring about inclusive change for people with physical disability.

Whilst submission writing ensures that the views and inclusion requirements of our members are expressed within the scope of current Government public policy initiatives, there are many systemic issues that are not being addressed by Government. Designing proactive projects relating specifically to the key concerns of our membership, allows PDCN to directly engage with targeted organisations or government departments, highlight deficiencies in current systems and work in partnership with these entities to achieve positive change in the lives of people with physical disabilities. These projects will begin in earnest in the 20-21 financial year – in some cases building on work we have previously undertaken.

One of the projects we intend to implement over the 2020-21 year is a ‘Health Passport’ for people with disability attending hospital – ensuring that patients who have specific health needs that would not necessarily be recognized in the standard provision of in-hospital care, will have these specific needs both identified at the point of admission and addressed throughout their hospital stay. These additional care needs may relate to a person’s communication requirements – for example, use of AUSLAN interpreters, or relate to their personal care – for instance, bladder and bowel care. This will address the many gaps in care that our members have identified when in hospital – gaps that can delay recovery or put their health at risk during this time.

We will also continue to work towards ensuring that the National and State Governments address the needs of people with physical disability throughout the COVID19 pandemic in alignment with the key points of concern we raised within our Coronavirus Statement.

In addition, we will also be working to further earlier work to bring about fully accessible online bookings for public events, through ticketing operations such as Ticketek, Ticketmaster and similar platforms to ensure that people with physical disability have equal access to performances and events across the State.

Lastly, PDCN see accessible housing as a huge determinant in the quality of life for people with disability and have begun to address the issue of mandating universal design principles in the National Construction Code, to at least gold level. Outside a commitment on this very important issue, which we hope to see across mid 2021, we also believe this can be actioned at local government level within the scope of local planning guidelines so have set our fourth proactive project to address this within local government Strategic Planning Statements.

We are excited to be at a point where we can drive action across areas that matter to our members and look forward to reporting on the progress of these projects across 2020-2021.



BEFORE YOU
STEP OUT

Strategic Focus Areas

Champion

Advocate for the full and equitable inclusion of people with physical disability in all parts of NSW society

Educate and Inform

Deliver innovative, outcomes focused programs that make a difference to the lives of, and develop the capacity of, people with physical disability.

Provide informed expert commentary on the issues that affect people living with physical disability

Connect and Grow

Develop and strengthen partnerships that enhance the work we do, and benefits people with physical disability.

Build a sustainable organisation that remains true to our vision and values



Champion Outcomes



- People with physical disability are equitably considered and catered for during and post the COVID 19 pandemic
- Local Government Areas mandate gold standard accessibility in new residential builds under their Local Strategic Planning Statement
- People with physical disability experience better disability related in-hospital care through the implementation of a standardised disability care admission plan
- Ticketek online bookings allow for booking of accessible seating
- Consistent national standards and regulations in place for the use of motorised mobility devices (MMDs) and personal mobility devices (PMDs)
- All new public transport in NSW is designed and tested in consultation with people with physical disability

Educate and Inform Outcomes



People with disability:

- are connected and have the information to make decisions & choices
 - have the skills and confidence to participate, contribute and protect their rights
 - contribute to leading, shaping and influencing their community
-
- People with disability are provided with expert, accurate commentary on the issues that affect their lives
 - NSW Government and the broader community are provided with expert, accurate commentary on the inclusive needs of people with physical disability

Connect and Grow Outcomes



- PDCN has developed and strengthened partnerships throughout NSW that broaden and enhance the work we do and benefits people with disability
- PDCN has built a sustainable organisation that remains true to our vision and values

Donations and Funding

2019 – 2020 Funders and Sponsorships

Major Funders

NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)
National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)

Accommodation Grant

City of Sydney

Volunteer Grant

Australian Department of Social Services (DSS)

Disability Royal Commission Grant

Australian Department of Social Services (DSS)

PDCN 2019 AGM Sponsorship

Suncorp

One Off Donations received

Deafness Council of NSW
Serena Corporate Photography
Strongbeat Pty Ltd

Joseph de Giovanni
Bronwyn Fawcett
Julia Haraskin
Fred Kaad
Matthew Kayrooz
Janet Lawson
Keysha Milenkovic
John Moxon
John Nolan OAM
Serena Ovens
Alison Plant
Mark Relf
Joshua Rhodes
Margaret Tucker Moxon
Janet West
Steven Yates



Audited Financial Statement

for the Year ending 2020

Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated
ABN 26 858 845 702

The following data is an excerpt from the 2020 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 or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
Income			
Revenue	3a	650,033	595,828
Other income	3a	182,998	113,482
		833,031	709,310
Expenditure			
Administration costs		57,697	58,124
Fundraising Costs		2,777	6,251
Project Expenses		587,631	542,089
	3b	(648,105)	(606,464)
Profit/(Loss) for the year		184,926	102,846
Total comprehensive income for the year		184,926	102,846

**Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2020**

	Notes	2020	2019
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,977,598	1,190,110
Trade and other debtors	5	16,210	12,832
Other current assets		-	1,703
Total current assets		1,993,808	1,204,645
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	18,538	2,176
Right of use asset	7	8,739	
Total non-current assets		27,652	2,176
Total assets		2,021,460	1,206,821
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8	52,311	18,140
Employee benefits	9	23,419	15,478
Provisions	10	30,850	43,376
Other liabilities	11	894,996	293,199
Total current liabilities		1,001,576	370,193
Total liabilities		1,001,576	370,193
Net Assets		1,1019,884	836,628
Equity			
Reserves	12	11,364	-
Retained surpluses		1,008,146	836,628
Total Equity		1,019,510	836,628

Note: The above data is an excerpt from the 2020 Financial Statement only.

For full audited financial statements please call **1800 688 831** or view at www.pdcnsw.org.au

Independent Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PHYSICAL DISABILITY COUNCIL OF NSW INCORPORATED ABN 26 858 845 702

Auditor's Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated (the 'Council') which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020 and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Declaration by Management Committee.

In our opinion:

- (a) the financial report of Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the Council's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australia Charities and Not-for-profit Commissions Regulations 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 Standard Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the code) that are relevant to 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.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Council Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Council members of the Council are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the basis of preparation as described in Note 1 to the financial report and the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012, and for such internal control as the Council members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the 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 Council member are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council members either intend to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or have no real alternative to do so.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement. A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Name of Firm: Camphin Boston
Chartered Accountants

Name of Partner:



Justin Woods

Address: Level 5, 179 Elizabeth Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dated this 23rd **day of** October **2020**

PHYSICAL DISABILITY COUNCIL OF NSW INCORPORATED
ABN 26 858 845 702
DECLARATION BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the Management Committee of Physical Disability Council of NSW Incorporated:

1. 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:
 - (a) Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - (b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Interpretations to the extent disclosed in Note 3) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013; and
2. 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 Management Committee.



President – Chris Sparks

Dated this 23rd day of October, 2020



Contact Details:

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Glebe NSW 2037**

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1800 688 831 (Outside Sydney Metro)
E: admin@pdcnsw.org.au
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**Speak and Listen Users:
1300 555 727**