**PDCN confirmed as NSW Physical Disability Systemic Advocacy Peak**

The Department of Communities and Justice has confirmed that PDCN has been successful in its tender as the systemic peak body for physical disability under its new Disability Advocacy Futures Program (DAFP).

The new program will see a streamlined approach to systemic advocacy in NSW split across five specific disability subcategories - physical, intellectual, and cognitive, CALD, ATSI and generalist disability. Representative and individual advocacy will also be funded under the DAFP, rounding out a welcomed $30 million investment in the disability advocacy sector.

For the more than 1.4 million people living with disability in NSW the continues funding of advocacy means access to the independent supports they need when things go wrong, and with the assistance of organsations like PDCN, those who work at systems level to address wholesale inclusive, accessible change in the NSW community.

‘*After five years of uncertainty, to say that we are relieved to have funding until 2024 would be an understatement’* says Serena Ovens, CEO.

*We’ve worked so hard to get to this point, and it is great to know that PDCN will be able to continue to do what it does best – championing the interests of people with physical disability across NSW’.*

From PDCN President Chris Sparks:

‘*The Disability Advocacy Futures Program is an opportunity to set up NSW as a leader in disability inclusion and co-design and collaboration are going to be critical to achieving that”.*

*“We look forward to working with the Department across the delivery of the Disability Advocacy Futures Program”.*

PDCNwould like to thank the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, Mr. Alister Henskens SC MP, his advisory team, and Mr. Brian Woods, Director Disability Policy, Department of Communities and Justice.

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