

ATSIDNQ

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Disability Network of Queensland

Edition 15 - December 2017



**Congratulations
Uncle Willie!**

Baton Bearer
2018 Commonwealth Games



Exciting News!

Our Network Champion Uncle Willie Prince has been chosen to be baton bearer for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, Queens Baton Relay.

Not only has Uncle Willie been an amazing advocate for people with disability, he also used to be a Queensland wheelchair racer!

We are very proud of Uncle Willie and know he will represent our members and the people of Queensland like a champion.

In this edition we meet more of our members and see some pics from our Maryborough yarnning group. There is also some great info about commonly asked questions about the NDIS.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned this document may contain the images and names of people now deceased.

In the Community

Here are some pics from our November yarning group held in Maryborough.

This meeting was a great opportunity for the Maryborough members to brainstorm their future goals for the Network meetings in their area.

Thanks to Sharly and Melissa from Galangoor Duwalami, who have been a great support in the local area.



Our Network team from around the state was excited to connect with our new Network Project Officer Bronwyn Clark at some recent staff training in Brisbane.

Seen here (in order) is our ATSIDNQ team, Nilisa Allen (Toowoomba), Bronwyn Clark (Brisbane), Barry Fewquandie (Cairns), Melissa Ah Wong (Brisbane), Joanne Jamieson (Rockhampton).



Ken's Story

My name is Ken Hearne., I am a proud Murri man from the Gaibul tribe. I was born out at Surat, Queensland and grew up in Roma where I met and married my wife and had 3 children, 2 girls and a boy.

I worked for my father from the age of 9, he ran ring barking camps around south west Queensland, I left school at the age of 13 to work full time. I went on to be a slaughter man in the meat works industry around Queensland and Victoria. I enjoyed playing cricket, roo shooting, pig chasing and motor bike riding.

At the age of 41, due to the nature of the work I was doing and the heavy lifting and straining I ended up being diagnosed with a disease in my spine where the spine collapses on itself and type 2 diabetes.



Ken wearing his deadly
network hat!

"Within a few months I had gone from being a healthy working man, to someone who on some days was unable to dress himself or get out of bed. The pain left me unable to work.

This was very frustrating and hard on my whole family. But being a determined person, I didn't let it stop me from doing things I enjoy. I had to adapt and change ways I did things, which was hard at first, but slowly I got there."

I currently live in Toowoomba and enjoy gardening watching sports and spending time with my family.



Meet our member!



When in Bundaberg recently we caught up with Tamarra seen here with her trusty friend Calvin who is rocking a network hat!

Tamarra is excited to be working with the Network to grow a regular yarnning group in Bundaberg next year.

If you would like to be part of this group, or start your own in your local area, give our ATSIDNQ Project Officer Bronwyn a call on 1800 718 969.

Companion card

If you have a disability and a lifelong need for 'attendant care support' in order to participate in community activities and attend venues, the Companion Card can help you with the costs of getting out and about with the support of a companion.

Companion Card holders receive a second 'companion' ticket at no charge at participating venues and on public transport. The 'companion' ticket is also exempt from booking fees.

The Companion Card is issued in the name of the person who has a disability, and is valid for 5 years.

A companion is any person who accompanies a cardholder and provides attendant care support.

Eligibility: The Companion Card is not income or asset tested. To be eligible for the card, you must:

- be a lawful Australian resident, living in Queensland
- have a disability
- because of the impact of the disability, be unable to participate at most community venues or activities without attendant care support
- need, or be likely to need, lifelong attendant care support.

Electricity & gas rebates

Queensland pensioners and seniors may be eligible for:

Electricity Rebate—\$340.85 per year (GST inclusive)

Reticulated Natural Gas Rebate—\$71.30 per year (GST inclusive).

Eligibility: Rebates are available to people who have any of the below:

- Pensioner Concession Card
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card (and receive the War Widow/er Pension or special rate TPI Pension)
- Queensland Seniors Card.
- Commonwealth Health Care Card (Electricity Rebate only)
- Asylum seeker status (residents will need to provide their ImmiCard details) (Electricity Rebate only)

New plan for Indigenous people by the Commonwealth government



A \$3 million plan has been unveiled to address the cultural barriers and disadvantage faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

The plan identifies five key priority areas for action:

- Housing - access to appropriately designed shelter and accessible, well-designed communities that are fully inclusive of all residents.
- Justice System - the right to be free from racism and discrimination and a disability-inclusive justice system
- Education - an inclusive high-quality education system that is responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability
- Economic security - including employment and business ownership opportunities
- Health Services - that meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability to ensure the highest possible health and wellbeing outcomes.

The artwork for this plan has been created by Jordan Lovegrove, Ngarrindjeri. It depicts the many different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia from the sea to the land.

The meeting places represent the support services for people with a disability; the colours reflecting the cultural appropriateness of the services provided. The larger meeting place represents the Department of Social Services meeting to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability, and the open circles reflect that information being sent out to the communities.



A copy of the plan is available at: <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/supporting-people-with-disability/resources-supporting-people-with-disability/australian-government-plan-to-improve-outcomes-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people-with-disability>

Our Network Voice

atsidnq

As well as offering members information and connection, the Network has been working over the past few years to ensure our member feedback is shared in ways that provide a voice in policy and government planning.

We thought we would share with you a snapshot of some of the work that has been done on behalf our Network members at ATSIDNQ.

Some of the written independent and joint (with ADA Australia) submissions the Network has contributed to include:

- Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services Consultation, Towards an All Abilities Queensland.
- National Disability Advocacy Framework Review
- National Disability Advocacy program (NDAP) proposal "Improving the delivery of advocacy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with disability"
- National Disability Insurance Scheme – Code of Conduct Discussion Paper
- Improving the delivery of advocacy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability discussion paper
- Aged Care Legislated Review
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 review

- Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme - Queensland disability sector's readiness to participate in the NDIS
- Department of Justice & Attorney General - Review of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009 (QCAT Act)
- Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs - Inquiry into violence, abuse and neglect against people with a disability in institutional and residential settings, including the gender and age-related dimensions, and the particular situation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, and culturally and linguistically diverse people with a disability.
- Support for the QDN report to the Minister for Transport and Commonwealth Games on the removal of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme.

Some of the consultation projects the Network has also had a voice in over the past few years include:

- .Advisory Group for the Queensland Review to address the impact of domestic and family violence on people with disability.
- National Disability Coordination Officer Regional Queensland Advisory Committee
- NDIS Workability reference groups for disability workforce development
- Consultation on the review of the Recognised Entity Program, facilitated by the Queensland
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak in Partnership with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
- Consultation Forum on the next iteration of the Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan.

Our network voice continued

- Northern Queensland Primary Health Inter-agency Indigenous Aged Care Community Forum, which sought feedback on strategies and policy regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and aged care
- Brisbane Region NDIS Yarning Circles facilitated by the Department of Communities, Child Safety, and Disability Services
- NDIA project concerning the barriers facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in engaging with the NDIS
- Consultations with the Department Communities on engagement ideas for moving towards the NDIS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities
- ILC planning consultations for the NDIS
- Logan local council on accessibility in the Logan region and participation in the Brisbane
- North Disability Network

If you would like to have your say and ensure your issues are heard, feel free to ring us on 1800 719 969 and have a yarn with Bronwyn.

We gather information from members about trends and common problems facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, their families and carers and provide this systemic information at a number of platforms.



Women's health



A range of new resources has been developed to let Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women know that the Pap test has been replaced with a new cervical screening test.

These resources are designed by Rachael Sarra, an Indigenous artist, designer and illustrator from Goreng Goreng Country.

All of these resources are available in English, as well as:

- Alyawarra
- Arrernte
- Luritja
- Pitjantjatjara
- Torres Strait Island Creole
- Warlpiri

They let Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women aged 25-74 years know they should have a test every five years, and explain that the test is safe and private.

The resources, including translated versions, can be downloaded from www.cancerscreening.gov.au/cervical/resources/indigenous



NDIS News

For new participants signing up to the NDIS it can be confusing and daunting.

In response to an NDIA review a new pathway is being piloted to improve the way that the NDIS will engage people in the future.

This will include an improved NDIS portal and tools, more straightforward processes and easier communication. More appropriate cultural engagement has also been flagged as a priority.

We will keep you informed when more information on this new pathway is released. For now, the current NDIS sign up process can involve several people who have different roles. For many these roles are confusing, so we have outlined a few of them below to assist you.

Local Area Coordinators (LAC)

LAC's help participants in the following ways:

- accessing the NDIS
- doing pre-planning
- preparing your planning conversation
- helping you implement your plan once it has been approved by a planner

LAC's are people employed by local organisations. These organisations have been chosen by the NDIA to do the face to face work for participants, and LAC organisations and vary across QLD.

All people will have an LAC at the beginning of their NDIS journey. For most people the LAC will be their ongoing contact once their plan is in place.

However, if you have very complex needs you may be supported by a Support Coordinator after your plan is approved rather than the LAC.

Planners - Planners are NDIA Staff. Planners are the ones who make all the final decisions about what is reasonable and necessary for your plan in accordance with the NDIS Act 2013.

Planners are the ones who approve the plans and send the plans back to the participant and LAC (or Support Coordinator) for implementation. Planners do not support participants to implement their plans.

Support Coordinators - Support Coordinators do not conduct any planning conversations with participants. Support Coordinators only come into contact with a NDIS participant, after the participant has an approved plan. Not everyone will be eligible to have a support Coordinator.

Support Co-ordinators only help those participants whose support is quite complex. In those cases, a Support Coordinator replaces the LAC for the implementation of their NDIS plan.

NDIS News Continued

Support Coordinators are employed by NDIA Registered Service Providers. The cost of Support Coordination can be covered by your NDIS plan if you arrange it in your planning meeting.

Support Coordinators can help with:

- explaining what you can spend money on in each category
- engaging service providers
- setting up service agreements
- helping resolve any issues you have getting the supports you require.

Plan Managers are the people who are going to manage the NDIS plan finances. There are four options. You can request to manage your budget in the following ways:

- your self (self-managed)
- by a plan managed organisation (plan managed). This can be paid for in your NDIS plan if you arrange it in your planning meeting.
- By the NDIA (agency managed)
- or a combination of the above.

by a health professional which includes information about the diagnosis and treatments including also details of the impairment.

This may include information about your mobility, communication, social interaction, learning, self-care and self-management. This helps to get a clear picture of what sorts of supports you may be eligible for under the NDIS.


I've heard respite is not covered by the NDIS. Is this true?

Respite can be covered if you are eligible. However it is listed in a different way from what you may know. Respite under the NDIS may be called any of the below:

- short term accommodation and assistance
- assistance in living arrangements (host family/alternative family) solution
- assistance with self-care overnight.

Provided you are eligible, there may be several levels of respite support available:

- Level 1: 7 to 14 days per year to allow the carer to attend key activities
- Level 2: 14 to 28 days per year and includes a strategy to build capabilities for future independence.
- Level 3: Equivalent of 28 days per year, when the carer provides support most days and informal support is at risk of not continuing due to the intensity of the support required or severe behavioural issues.
- Higher levels can also be put in a plan where demand on the carer is very high



NDIS FAQ

What sort of evidence do I have to supply when I am applying for the NDIS?

You will need to complete an access request form to enter the NDIS. With this form, they ask you to supply evidence of your I.D e.g birth certificate, disability and outlines of your support needs. This evidence needs to be completed

What are the NDIS funded categories?

There are several areas of your life that you can have funded by the NDIS. These include:

- Assistance with daily life at home, community, education and work
- Transport to access daily activities
- Supported independent living
- Improved daily living skills
- Improved relationships
- Improved living arrangements
- Improved health and wellbeing
- Improved learning
- Finding and keeping a job
- Increased social and community participation
- Improved life choices
- Assistive technology
- Vehicle modifications
- Home modifications

If I choose to self-manage or have NDIS manage my plan, do I have to stick with that decision for the whole time I am under the NDIS?

No. As you go through your life and your ability and choice change you can adjust the management of your plan as you want. For example someone may choose to self-manage at the beginning and then decide later they are too busy in their life to do so and then choose to have the NDIA manage their plan for them.

Another person may choose to have their plan managed for them at the start and then when they become more comfortable in understanding the NDIS and how it all works they may wish to take over the management of their plan themselves.

Can I split the management of my plan?

Yes. You may choose to have one type of arrangement for part of your plan and then self-manage a smaller part that you are comfortable with.

When I have my NDIS plan reviewed, does this mean I have to prove my eligibility again?

No. Once you are in the NDIS you are eligible for life. The review is about looking at support needs and making adjustments to suit your changing life circumstances and goals.

A scheduled review of people's plans is conducted every twelve months, or you can have unscheduled reviews upon request if your circumstances change or you are not happy with your plan.





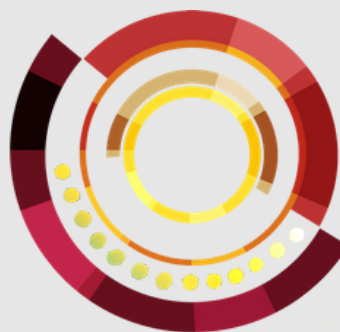
BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN!

8-15 JULY 2018

NAIDOC week 2018 will celebrate the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made, and continue to make to our communities, families, rich history and to our nation.

Under the theme - **"Because of her, we can!"** - NAIDOC Week 2018 will honour our women as pillars of our society, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have played – and continue to play - active and significant roles at the community, local, state and national levels.

As leaders, trailblazers, politicians, activists and social change advocates, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women fought and continue to fight, for justice, equal rights, our rights to country, for law and justice, access to education, employment and to maintain and celebrate our culture, language, music and art.



Trakka App can help you get connected with local indigenous culture.

Whether you're an Aboriginal Elder in remote parts of Queensland, a young Aboriginal person in the city, or a Torres Strait Islander, Trakka will keep you informed. It has information about cultural events, sites and services for all locations in Australia. It also has:

- a calendar of events and festivals
- links to local services
- information on local sites to visit
- local chat forums

You can download the Trakka app on the play store or Apple store for your device.

Did you know we could be yarning on the phone?

"It's going to make that much difference, big difference. People take phones for granted. But it's important that you understand every word. It truly is."

Uncle Michael has been living with hearing impairment for many years. It was a problem that he didn't see any solutions for. To Michael, staying connected to his mob is very important. He is looking forward to using the National Relay Service to ring family, friends and services.

www.relayservice.gov.au



An Australian Government Initiative



A phone solution for people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment



Thank-you to Network members, supporters and friends for a great year. We've travelled thousands of kilometres, yarned to amazing people across the state, ate a few too many cakes at our morning teas, listened, shared and connected.

*Wishing all our members a safe and happy holiday season.
We look forward to connecting with you all in 2018!*

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Qld

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