

# ATSIDNQ

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Disability Network of Queensland

Edition 12 - June 2017

## Thank You to our Volunteers

In the lead up to more places around Qld transitioning to NDIS funding, we recognise how far we still have to go to make the NDIS accessible, attractive and well utilised by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with disability.

At the Network we recognise that for many of our members and the new people we engage with the NDIS remains a mystery. To help, we will be dedicating several pages in all of our newsletters and launching a new resource page on our website to help bridge some of the gaps in knowledge that we are hearing members yarn about.

The last two months held lots of important dates. National Volunteer week, National Reconciliation Week and Global Accessibility Awareness day.

We would like to say a big thank you to our Network Champion Volunteers, Uncle Ted, Uncle Willie and Semah!

May 26 was the anniversary of the 1967 referendum and Network Champion Uncle Willie shares some of his story from this time in this issue.

May also held Global Accessibility Awareness day around the world. For more information go to [www.globalaccessibilityawarenessday.org](http://www.globalaccessibilityawarenessday.org)

If you have any ideas on how we can make the Network more accessible for you please have a yarn with us.

ATSIDNQ

# Member's Story - Robin Thorne



G'day, my name is Robin Thorne. I was born in 1957 in a little town called Boddington in Western Australia. I am a very proud member of the Nyoongar Nation of South-West Western Australia. My Mother's people are the Ballardong Tribe, and my father's people are the Wilmen Tribe. The loss of Cultural Practice has been very hard, and continues to be hard on my People.

I started school in 1962 and went to Boddington Junior High School until age 15 and completed my apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker. I did labouring jobs and then went to Community College to be a Group Worker for young people. I got married for the first time around 1980 and had two daughters, both of whom I cherish.

I worked at the Receiving Home in Perth, Country Hostels with kids from remote towns, Aboriginal Communities and was stationed in the Pilbara Region. It was a totally relaxed and enjoyable time of my life and many of those young people were a joy to work with.

I worked with many great people who taught me skills to learn to help in high pressure environments such as feuding families, where I developed an instinctive knowing about people and "what makes them tick". I learnt about changing language to use

suitable words, changing the steps of a process to reach the same goals, and how to negotiate truce agreements between families. My experiences made me more proud of my people and a stronger Aboriginal person.

I received a Churchill Fellowship and went to the USA, Hawaii, and Canada, to spend time in Reservation Communities with Native Americans. I found the experience to be fascinating and life changing.

I've worked with Aboriginal Agencies to establish new ways to work with and engage the hardest to engage Indigenous families, as well as for family support services and in men's health.

I was enjoying my role in a suicide prevention project when I got sick in 2013. I was given a working diagnosis of Idiopathic Central Pontine Myelinosis. I was admitted to the Fremantle Hospital ICU in May and released in July, with no memory of anything from that period.

To go from a reasonably fit fella with great income, to being declared an invalid pensioner overnight is very crushing. I've been trying to get an understanding of where I am at, the functionality of my body and the quality of life I can create for myself.

Moving to Mackay was the outcome of looking for answers to my illness and I'm pleased that I made the move. It's been hard as I lost my younger daughter Aimee, and my mother, but have also met my lovely wife Allison.

Mackay is lovely country and being active enough to experience it is one of my main aims for my life. .



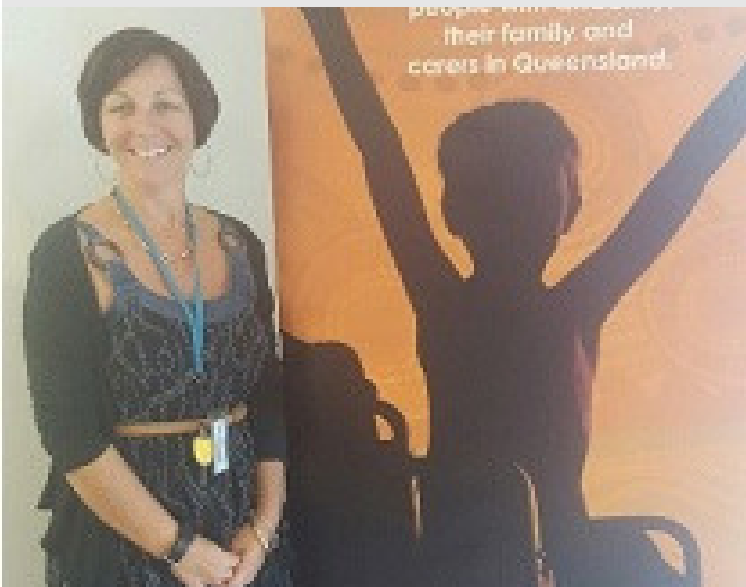
## In the community

We have had some great turn outs at recent ATSIDNQ yarnning groups in Mackay, Maryborough and Brisbane North.

It seems many are interested in coming together to meet other members and are interested in finding out more information about the NDIS. We recently welcomed new Brisbane members Tyler and Sharon (pictured left) and connected with existing members Kerrin and Nancy (pictured below left).

Thanks to Pamela Caskey (pictured below), one of Mackay's NDIS Support Coordinators, who shared with the group a session "Busting the NDIS myths".

We have just heard that some funding has been granted to Mamre to run specific NDIS information sessions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Logan, Gold Coast and Redlands areas. We will keep you informed when these sessions are on.



**HAPPY NAIDOC.** ATSIDNQ will be out and about in NAIDOC week this year with Network stands being held at the major events in Cairns, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville, Toowoomba and Stradbroke Island. So come and visit our team at our stands to have a yarn. You may like to also bring a friend who may also be interested in knowing more about ATSIDNQ.

## Breaking it down

Qld Law handbook - Caxton Legal have a plain English guide to the Law in Qld available for people to access online. This website breaks down many areas of law into 7 main categories to help people access basic information.

In this resource one of the sections outlines the laws about people living with disability.

Contents include:

- What is a Disability?
- Human Rights of People with a Disability
- Direct or Indirect Discrimination against People with Disabilities
- Protecting Human Rights of People with Disabilities Using Non-legal and Quasi-legal Mechanisms
- Restriction of Intellectually or Cognitively Disabled People to Prevent Harm
- Disability and Medical Treatment
- Disability, Marriage, Family and Adoption
- Disability, Contracts and Consumer Protection
- Disability and the Criminal Justice System
- Disability, Wills and Estates
- Elections, Capacity and Assistance for Disabled Voters

If you are looking for free legal help in Queensland, you can also check out the Community Legal Centre website which has a search function so you can find some help close to you.

<http://communitylegalqld.org.au/find-legal-help/find-centre>

**The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land in which we work and honour the Elders past, present and future**

## Network Members Code of Conduct



As part of the further development of the Network we have introduced an ATSIDNQ members code of conduct which aims to ensure the dignity and respect of all of our members.

### **ATSIDNQ members are required to:**

- Behave with integrity and respect
- Be inclusive of all other members of ATSIDNQ
- Keep the confidentiality of others

This code of conduct will go up on our website soon and will guide all of our yarnning group activities and Network events.

## Calling for Member Input

The Commonwealth is also drafting a Code of Conduct at present. This one is for the NDIS to promote the safe and ethical delivery of the NDIS into full scheme.

They want input from people living with disability, families and carers. You can have your say in a few ways. You can:

- complete an online survey through the DSS website [www.engage.dss.gov.au](http://www.engage.dss.gov.au)
- lodge your own written submission through DSS
- or you can contact our Network team to have a yarn with us and we can include your feedback in the Networks official submission.



# Advocacy for people with disabilities

Advocacy is a way of getting support to speak up for issues you are having.

A range of organisations offer free advocacy for people with disability, and some that are specific for different types of disabilities.

NDAP Finder is a website that offers a quick search guide to advocacy in your area. The finder can also be accessed using your smart phone or tablet.

Google **NDAP finder** or go to:  
<https://disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/>

The finder is quick and easy to use, and it can search by location or provider type, making it easier to locate the service that will best meet an individual's needs. The finder displays contact details for each provider, their service location and directions to get there through Google Maps.



DITCHING  
THE 'DIS' IN  
DISABILITY

DO YOU HAVE AN:

✓ intellectual  
✓ **cognitive**  
OR ✓ psychiatric



**DISABILITY?**

AND

**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH:**

- ✓ The Public Trustee?
- ✓ Your guardian?
- ✓ Your support workers?
- ✓ Your living arrangements?
- ✓ Your Forensic Order, Treatment Authority, or Treatment Support Order?
- ✓ **YOUR RIGHTS**

Then our  
**TELEPHONE LEGAL  
ADVICE SERVICE**  
may be able to help you!



**Queensland Advocacy Incorporated**

Contact us today on  
**(07) 3844 4200 or 1300 130 582**

# NDIS FAQ

## Am I eligible for NDIS?

Are you.....

- Under 65?
- An Australian Resident?
- Living in an area where NDIS is available?
- Diagnosed with a disability that is likely to be permanent?
- Requiring support now to reduce your future support needs?

If you are unsure you can contact the NDIS to access an eligibility assessment Phone 1800 800 110.

## How do I transition when it is time?

If you currently receive disability services you will be contacted by the National Disability Insurance Agency before your area transitions.

If you do not currently receive disability funding you may still be eligible to apply to access the scheme when the NDIS becomes available in your area and can contact the NDIS on 1800 800 110.

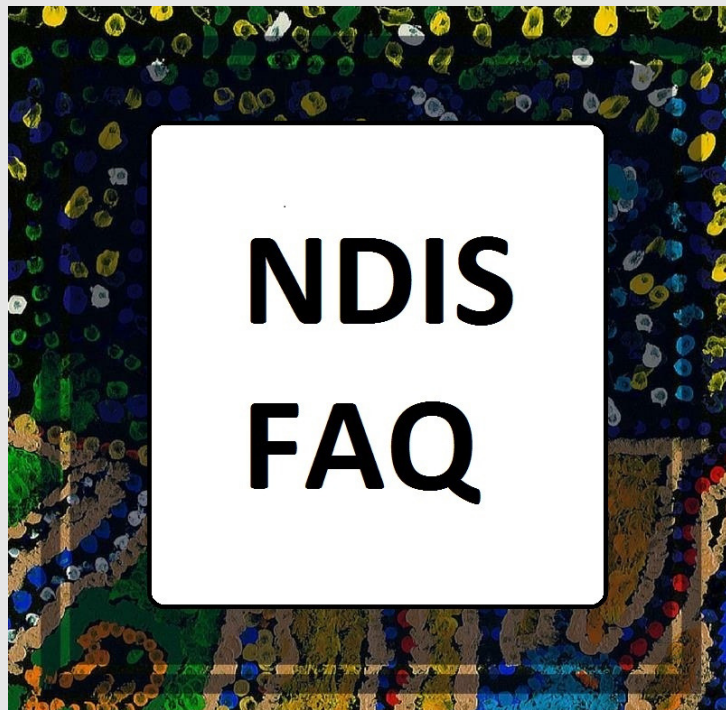
## What if I don't want to go with the NDIS. Can I opt out?

No. It is important to know that the NDIS will replace other sources of disability funding when your local area transitions to the NDIS. You can remain with your current provider/s if you wish to when you change to the NDIS.

Existing national and state-based services and supports will continue until all eligible people phase into the NDIS, or June 2019, whichever comes first.

## Will the NDIS cost me anything?

Not directly. The NDIS is a universal insurance scheme paid through tax contributions, like Medicare. The NDIS is not means tested and does not affect Disability Support Pension payments. The Scheme is designed to work side-by-side with health, education and other universal services.



## What do Local Area Coordinators do?

Local Area Coordinators have three key roles:

- They will link you to the NDIS
- Link you to information and support in the community, and
- Work with their local community to make sure it is more welcoming and inclusive for people with disability.

## What happens if I currently receive taxi vouchers?

If you are eligible for the NDIS and you have transport funded in your plan, your transport needs will be funded by the NDIA. In Queensland you will no longer be eligible for the Transport Subsidy Scheme (TSS) which covers taxi vouchers currently.

If you are a TSS member and are not eligible to participate in the NDIS, for example, you are 65 years or over, or under 65 with a temporary impairment, you will continue to receive support through the TSS. The NDIS does not replace, or impact, the TSS for you in this case—the TSS will continue in its current form.



# NDIS Rollout in Queensland

**Get ready Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and Somerset!**

The NDIS will start rolling out in these areas from July 2017.

**Places already offering NDIS:** Townsville area, west to Mt Isa and north to the Gulf. Isaac, Mackay and Whitsundays. Toowoomba, Southern Downs and west to the border.

<b>July 2016</b>	<b>Townsville, Hinchinbrook, Burdekin, west to Mount Isa, up to the gulf</b>  (This includes local government areas Townsville, Charters Towers, Palm Island, Boulia, Burdekin, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, McKinlay, Mornington, Mount Isa, and Richmond)
<b>Nov 2016</b>	<b>Mackay, Isaac and Whitsundays</b>
<b>Jan 2017</b>	<b>Toowoomba areas and west to the borders</b>  (This includes local government areas Balonne, Bulloo, Goondiwindi, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Southern Downs, Toowoomba, and Western Downs)
<b>July 2017</b>	<b>Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and Somerset local government areas</b>
<b>Oct 2017</b>	<b>Bundaberg local government area</b>  State clients can enter from Sept 2017, other eligible participants from October 2017
<b>Jan 2018</b>	<b>Rockhampton, Gladstone and west to the borders</b>  (This includes local government areas Banana, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall Tambo, Central Highlands, Diamantina, Gladstone, Livingstone, Longreach, Rockhampton, Winton, and Woorabinda) State clients in Rockhampton can enter from Nov 2017
<b>July 2018</b>	<b>Brisbane City areas, Gold Coast and Hinterland, Logan City, Redland City Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Tablelands, Croydon, Etheridge, Cape York and Torres Strait</b>  (This includes local government areas Aurukun, Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Cook, Croydon, Douglas, Etheridge, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Mareeba, Napranum, Nthn Peninsula, Pormpuraaw, Tablelands, Torres, Torres Strait Island, Weipa, Wujal Wujal, and Yarrabah) Fraser Coast, North Burnett, South Burnett and Cherbourg)
<b>Oct 2018</b>	<b>Moreton Bay (including Strathpine and Caboolture) Sunshine Coast, Noosa and Gympie</b>

# The NDIS is turning 1!

Everyone in the Townsville community is welcome to join local NDIS participants, family, friends and service providers to celebrate the first birthday of the NDIS in Queensland.

**Date: Saturday 1 July 2017**

**Time: 11am - 1pm**

**Where: Raintree Grove, Riverway, Thuringowa**

Entry is free and there will be a free BBQ, entertainment for the kids and the chance to win 1 of 5 family passes to the Townsville Show.

RSVP [ndisturnsone.eventbrite.com.au](http://ndisturnsone.eventbrite.com.au)

## ATSIDNQ

**Phone: 1800 718 969**

**Email: [info@atsidnq.com.au](mailto:info@atsidnq.com.au)**

**Web: [www.atsidnq.com.au](http://www.atsidnq.com.au)**

# Early access to the NDIS

The NDIS will roll out early for existing Queensland Government disability services users in Ipswich, Lockyer, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Bundaberg and the area of Rockhampton, Gladstone and west to the borders.

The National Disability Insurance Agency can approve NDIS plans for users of existing Queensland Government disability services now in the Ipswich transition area, from 1 September in Bundaberg and from 1 November in the Rockhampton transition area - up to two months earlier than originally planned.

Requests to access the NDIS will open in each region ahead of time. Access requests are being accepted now in the Ipswich area and in Bundaberg, and will be accepted from 1 July in the Rockhampton transition area.

The full NDIS rollout schedule is available [www.communities.qld.gov.au/ndis](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/ndis)





# Looking Back

## 1967 May 27th Referendum Anniversary

The Australian Constitution was intended to unite Australia under a continuing agreement of the Australian people, but the first peoples of Australia were excluded from the discussions concerning the creation of a new nation to be situated on their ancestral lands and territories.

The Australian Constitution expressly discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A referendum held in 1967 allowed changes to occur in the constitution which provided Aboriginal people with a symbol of their political and moral rights.

It enabled the federal parliament the power to make laws in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to allow for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be included in the census. This marked a historic event for Aboriginal people, for until this time they were legally classified not as people, but as plants or animals.

Our Network Champion member Uncle Willie prince remembers this time and what it was like to live with a disability. Before this day aboriginal people living with disability were considered property of the Chief medical examiner with no individual rights of their own.

*We remember all people who lived under this and many other discrimination and reflect especially on the disadvantage of our mob who also lived with disability.*

# Willie Prince

I was born October 13th 1960 on the Aboriginal Reserve/Settlement Cherbourg. During this time I was admitted to the Cherbourg local hospital some 16 times before my 2nd birthday due to illness and thus I was brought the attention of the State Medical doctor. He consulted with the Administrator to make arrangement for my removal.

I was transferred to the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane and at this point of time my life was in the hands of the Government of the day. I became a ward of the State for the next 18 years. Throughout this time I lived with a number of foster families and stayed in an Institution/Home for Crippled Children.

I recently visited the location of the 'Chief Protectors desk', where all the papers were signed and the decisions were made for many people, including me for my life. I remember and celebrate the referendum anniversary for its impact on changing my life.



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CELEBRATING  
**NAIDOC Week**

 WILEY-BLACKWELL

All our languages matter and are important to us as Indigenous Australians. My artwork reflects this year's theme by incorporating some of the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations and languages around Australia.