



ATSIDNQ

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland

Edition 11 - April 2017



This year is flying! Easter and ANZAC day have come and gone along with the school holidays. Cyclone Debbie certainly made her presence felt along the Qld Coast and it will take some time before everyone's back on their feet. To all our members who were impacted, our thoughts are with you. If you need assistance we have some contacts inside this issue.

At the ADA Australia conference on the Gold Coast, ATSIDNQ members Jeff and Network Champion Uncle Willie, along with team members Barry Fewquandie and Lindy Harland met past and present Disability Discrimination Commissioners, Graeme Innes and Alastair McEwin. Both spoke passionately about the need for people with a disability to have

equal opportunities, encouraging a push forward in this environment of change. Past Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes spoke about his life and the challenges he's faced in his amazing career. He also spoke about the stories that he has heard from people along the way and how these have influenced him.

Our present Disability Discrimination Commissioner Alastair McEwin explained that as a Nation we have made only small inroads for the rights of people with a disability, and have a long way to go to ensure that all people with a disability have equal access in Australia.

Member's Story



Hi, I am Stephen Tatow. I was born in 1952 and brought up at Erakala in the Farleigh area. I moved into town (Mackay) in year 7 and went to Victoria Park State School, we lived at Scotts Street.

I was called the miracle baby by Doctor Berry as I was in and out of hospital all my life from 2 weeks of age. I wasn't meant to live, but I had my operation and was in intensive care. I firmly believe that prayer has pulled me through many things. I had a tumor in my brain at the age of 9 and by the time I was sent to Brisbane for tests and it had disappeared.

I started working at the age of 16 at Farleigh Mill. I did fruit picking and worked on the fettler gang on the railway, By this time I had to have a couple of knee replacements and my legs were getting weak.

I spent 15 years picking grapes until my wrists gave out and then I cooked for a few years.

"I still enjoy cooking and often cook for family. You should try my sponge and proper steam cloth puddings."

In my younger days I played for Carlton Aussie rules at Harrup Park Norths Team. Nearly everyone from the Mill was on the team including Jack Mundy founding member of the team.

I have had many other medical things crop up in my life including a triple bi-pass and vertabrae taken out of my neck. A few years ago I was also diagnosed with an aggressive cancer, but again a week later they couldn't find it and I have been in remission ever since.

I still keep very busy and active in my community and am happy to be a member.

**NO MATTER WHO WE ARE.
WE ALL HAVE A STORY
WORTH SHARING**

Share Your Member Story

We would love to hear from you about your life's journey or about anything you would like to share, so members can get to know each other in these newsletters.

To say thank you, we have fantastic art towels to give to any member that shares their story with us.

Call the Network team for more information
1800 718 969.

In the community

Front of our minds in the community has been all those people impacted by Cyclone Debbie as she hit our shores. We have put together a contact list below which may help any members who are still having difficulty. It can also be a great reference for all members going forward for any future events so you know who to contact.

Contacts for Queenslanders impacted by disaster

- Storm and flood assistance: SES on 132 500 or download the App by visiting <http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses/>
- Queensland Police Service Updates: Facebook page www.facebook.com/QueenslandPolice Twitter (@QPSMedia), or myPolice blogs www.mypolice.qld.gov.au
- Queensland Fire & Emergency Services: Facebook www.facebook.com/QldFireandRescueService/ Twitter (@QldFES)
- Extensive List of road Closures: Department of Transport and Main Roads www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au includes interactive map, or phone 13 19 40
- The only way to stay safe is to stay out of floodwater: <http://floodwatersafety.initiatives.qld.gov.au/>
- Information about preparing for future severe weather events <https://getready.qld.gov.au/>
- Concerned friends and family in affected areas can contact: The Red Cross 'Register Find Reunite', www.redcross.org.au
- Listen to ABC Local Radio, the emergency broadcaster in Queensland.
- Disaster affected people can contact the Community Recovery Hotline for information and support on 1800 173 349.

- The Insurance Council of Australia has declared a catastrophe for damage caused by TC Debbie. The Disaster Hotline (phone 1800 734 621) can help policyholders if they are uncertain which insurer they are with, or have general inquiries about the claims process.

- Take extreme care when handling damaged asbestos containing materials - as it could pose serious health risks. For information, contact your local authority on 13QGOV (137468) or go to www.deir.qld.gov.au/asbestos/

- For further information visit www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/cleaning-up

- Power concerns where water is present: contact Ergon Energy immediately on 13 22 96 to arrange disconnection, or go to www.ergon.com.au

- Reopening of schools: <http://closures.det.qld.gov.au/> Queenslanders needing emergency housing assistance can call 13QGOV.



Staff Profile

Melissa Ah Wong



Where do you live with?

I live on the north side of Brisbane.

Favourite food:

My Ma's lasagne but my weakness is ice – cream.

Favourite movie:

Apocalypto and Beauty Shop

Hobbies:

Exploring new places, going to concerts (I'm strictly a 90's RnB Baby) juggling, eating and fashion

Travel:

I've travelled to a few different places and my highlights are going into the Grand Canyon in a helicopter, snorkelling at North Shore in Hawaii, watching the sunset in Alice Springs and partying on the strip in Vegas.

Why are you here?

I'm passionate about ensuring that our mob have access to the right information and supports and because I believe that the Network can make positive changes for our people with disability.

Join us and spread the word

We have some new ATSIDNQ posters and membership forms/flyers in circulation around the state. Help us spread the word about the Network, if you would like some to distribute or display please contact our office.

Check out our website www.atsidnq.com.au

Call: 1800 718 969

Email: info@atsidnq.com.au

PLEASE ENSURE YOU UPDATE YOUR DETAILS WITH US IF YOUR ADDRESS OR CONTACTS CHANGE

Like us on Facebook and help spread the word! 'Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Disability Network QLD' Share your member story.



The Network also has a Facebook group just for members.

Login to your Facebook account and search for "ATSIDNQ Members Page" request to join us.

FAQ about NDIS

What does reasonable and necessary mean?

NDIA staff make decisions about what is 'reasonable and necessary' based on the rules within the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (NDIS Act).

To be considered reasonable and necessary, a support must:

- be related to the participant's disability
- not include day-to-day living costs that are not related to a participant's disability support needs
- represent value for money
- be likely to be effective and beneficial to the participant, and
- take into account informal supports given to participants by families, carers, networks, and the community.

Who are planners?

Planners are staff nominated and endorsed by the NDIS who work with you to identify your goals and the supports you need to achieve your goals.

These staff could be called planners or Local Area Coordinators (LACs).

You have the right to provide feedback and if you do not feel comfortable with your planner, you can ask for another person to work with you instead.

Is there enough funding for everyone?

Yes. The NDIS has run on time and to budget since the trial began in 2013. Before the NDIS trials started, the government asked experts to develop a model of how the funding would be used and how much would be required to run the insurance scheme properly.

The NDIS reports on this every quarter and you can see these reports on the NDIS website.

NDIS Tips

Can I change my plan?

Yes, if your needs or circumstances change, you can ask to review your plan at any time. The NDIS or an LAC can help you through the process to request a change to your plan.

Does NDIS fund medications ?

Medication is not usually funded in people's plans. Medication falls under the responsibility of the health system and therefore would not be an NDIS funded item.

How do I find more info?

www.ndis.gov.au has further information on the NDIS. Sign up for the NDIS e newsletter or call the NDIS Hotline on 1800 800 110.

Sign up to the Queensland NDIS e-blast www.qld.gov.au/disability or call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) for information about current services for Queenslanders with disability.

- follow on Twitter @NDIS and @disabilityQLD
- for people with hearing or speech loss TTY 1800 555 677 • speak and listen 1800 555 727 • for people who need help with English TIS 131 450

NDIS FAQ continued

What do I do if I am unhappy with the NDIS or NDIA?

There are several ways you can seek support. If the problem is around unhappiness with your plan, or if you were refused a plan you can:

1. Go back to the NDIA and ask for an internal review
2. Seek an external review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) on 1800 887 688

If you have general complaints about the NDIA service or systemic issues about the NDIS you can contact the Commonwealth Ombudsman by phoning 1300 362 072 or accessing an online complaint form at www.ombudsman.gov.au/contact-us

If you are confused as to where you should go for help, you can contact Lindy Harland at ADA Australia who can assist to point you in the right direction. Email: lindy.harland@adaaustralia.com.au or phone 1800 818 338.

When are the next NDIS information sessions?

To check out NDIS information events go to: www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reformrenewal/disability-services/national-disabilityinsurance-scheme-queensland/ndis-eventscalendar

Network Yarning Groups

Come Join us for a YARN!

Brisbane North - The Brisbane North Yarning Group will be held on the 5th of May in Zillmere, for more information contact the Network office 1800 718 969. We also have yarning groups in:

Brisbane South
Mackay /Sarina
Maryborough

For the latest event invitations go to our website www.atsidnq.com.au and check out the event page. If you are interested in starting a group in your area please contact the ATSIDNQ team to discuss.

DID YOU KNOW?

Disability groups renew call for Royal Commission into violence against people with disability



Disabled
People's
Organisations
Australia

Key facts:

- people with disability experience far higher rates of violence than the rest of the community;
- 90% of women with intellectual disability have been sexually assaulted in their lives, and 60% before the age of 18;
- children with disability are three times more likely to experience abuse than other children
- in many cases, people with disability experience violence in places where they are meant to be receiving support;
- people with disability can't always rely on the police for protection against violence;
- people with disability are often treated as 'unreliable witnesses', or are not even permitted by law to provide testimony at all.



We raise awareness of the cultural and social needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability, their families and carers.

Workshops: school leavers, parents and teachers

My Future My Life will be delivering a Think Prepare Plan workshop on Wednesday 24th of May at the Logan Central Library.

Think Prepare Plan workshops are aimed at parents and carers of secondary students (no age or year level restrictions) with disability; educators of secondary students with disability; disability professionals working with secondary students with disability and interested others.

Workshops are designed to assist participants to build their capacity to support students to identify their strengths and interests, think creatively about how to turn these into goals and plans, and begin identifying what it would take to put them into action.

My Future My Life also offer Information Sessions and conduct Transition Preparation Support Sessions.

Information Sessions are tailor made sessions to provide an overview of the My Future: My Life initiative and the support options available, these sessions are typically delivered in schools for students, parents, educators and disability professionals.

These sessions are a unique opportunity for students (and those who support them) to get some assistance to explore the students likes and interests and discuss ways these could be used to identify possible opportunities for life after school.

www.myfuturemylife.com.au
1300 697 526

Free Legal Presentations

The workshops are hosted by Pave the Way and are free for people with disability and families to attend

These 3-hour workshops provide an overview of vision-driven planning, decision-making (including guardianship and powers of attorney) and wills, trusts and special disability trusts.

Ipswich: 22 April Time: 9am -12pm

Rockhampton: 2nd May 9am – 12pm

To register or enquire contact via email admin@dlq.org.au or call 07 3622 1250.

Autism Aboriginal Way

'Autism Aboriginal Way' is a national group that connects through Facebook. Members are parents and carers of Aboriginal kids and young people with Autism, as well as Aboriginal adults identifying as autistic.

You can't do anything Aboriginal Way unless you do it family style, and they are very proud of the grandparents, aunties, uncles, cousins and siblings travelling with them on their journey.

They believe that autism is a valuable set of strengths that would have been highly valued traditionally and that Autism has much to teach us in the current world. They know Autism is just another way of being too deadly, and they want everyone else to know it too.

You can join their group on Facebook search 'Autism Aboriginal Way'.

Mobile eye clinic

Aunty Barbara Lenoy loves her home on the shores of Palm Island. But the 64-year-old worries her little piece of paradise may one day be little more than a memory.

She's one of at least 200 Palm Islanders living with type two diabetes. Left untreated, the illness can cause blindness, which is up to 10 times more common amongst First Nations people over 40.

Remoteness and social poverty make it difficult to access the healthcare. But a new model of treatment is changing this.

The Indigenous Diabetes Eyes and Screening (IDEAS) van drives up to 80,000 kilometres each year to run free eye health clinics in eight communities across Queensland, including Palm Island, Toowoomba, Cherbourg, Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Charleville, Mount Isa and Rockhampton.

Its mission: to stamp out avoidable blindness in the state's Indigenous communities.

The groundwork is laid before the van arrives. Community health workers use a special camera to photograph the eyes of their diabetic patients. The photos are sent to Sydney for grading, and each patient is told whether they need to attend the van.

A visiting ophthalmologist has found a small aneurism in one of Aunty Barb's eyes, and issued strict instructions to stop it from threatening her sight: "get your sugar really well-controlled, blood pressure controlled and your cholesterol".

Another regular patient 68-year-old Joe Reuben also has type two diabetes. Thanks to early detection, Uncle Joe was able to identify and treat his cataracts and now his vision is near-perfect.

CEO Lyndall De Marco hopes the model will provide a blueprint for the future of remote health.

Edited story by Ella Archibald-Binge, Source: Living Black



Uncle Joe being tested



Aunty Barb being tested



1800 718 969 www.atsidnq.com.au