

ATSIDNQ

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Disability Network of Queensland

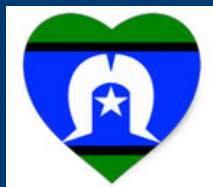
Edition 10 - February 2017

Happy New Year!

Christmas seems a dim memory as we go full steam ahead towards Easter. A lot is happening around Queensland as more areas roll out for the NDIS.

January was also a time of reflection for some of our mob as Australia Day was held.

This month February was love month.



Lets make sure we celebrate the people we love all year round. It's easy to let time go by without saying thank you for being in my life.

In this issue we give you the March NDIS Information session dates that are being held all around the state. This is not a complete list, and more will come up as the year progresses. Please use the link provided for updates and the finer details of the times for these sessions.

We have a new Network Champion and have loved hearing from members about their thoughts for submissions on behalf of the Network. We look forward to more engagement with our membership, so please always feel welcome to give us a call.

ATSIDNQ TEAM



New Network Champion

Semah Mokak-Wischki is a proud Aboriginal Malay woman of the Djugun Yawru people and a new Networking Champion for ATSIDNQ. Semah has lived in Brisbane for many years with her husband and their son Gabe (pictured above).

Semah is excited to be on board with the Network and is passionate about being an advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities, ensuring that their voices are heard.



In the community

We recently held a Yarning Group in Maryborough with members meeting at Galangoor Duwalami Primary Healthcare Service.

Mel from the Network team, Uncle Ted our Network Champion in the area, and those attending were very keen. Their vision is to strengthen the ATSINDQ group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities, their families, and carers in the region.

Members are looking forward to connecting again in another few months. Some of our existing and new members are pictured above. Thank you to the healthcare service for hosting, and for all those who attended. If you would like to participate in the next meeting please contact us.

Your voice in Queensland planning

The "Towards an all abilities Queensland" consultation paper was launched recently to develop Queensland's new state disability plan. Queenslanders had their say about the direction, priorities and actions needed over the next three years to build a state where people with disability can experience and participate in all aspects of life.

Thank you to the members who let us know their thoughts for this paper in response to our call out. ATSINDQ met with the Department and is submitting a paper on behalf of the Network. If you would still like to have input please email us or give us a call.



DATES THE NDIS WILL BE AVAILABLE WHERE YOU LIVE:

1 July 2016

- Townsville, Hinchinbrook, Burdekin, West to Mt Isa, up to the Gulf

1 November 2016

- Mackay, Isaac, & Whitsunday Island

1 January 2017

- Toowoomba areas & west to the border

1 July 2017

- Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim, & Somerset area

1 October 2017

- Bundaberg area

1 January 2018

- Rockhampton, Gladstone & west to border

1 July 2018

- Gold Coast & Gold Coast Hinterland

1 July 2018

- Logan City & Redland City

1 July 2018

- Fraser Coast, North Burnett, South Burnett, & Cherbourg

1 July 2018

- Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Tablelands, Croydon, Etheridge, Cape York, Torres Strait

1 July 2018

- Brisbane City, North and South of the Brisbane River

1 January 2019

- Sunshine Coast, Noosa and Gympie

1 January 2019

- Moreton Bay, Strathpine and Caboolture

Getting Ready for NDIS

The NDIS is rolling out across the state. It is a good idea to have a check when the NDIS will be coming to your area. (See previous page picture).

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) knows that families and carers play an irreplaceable role in the lives of their family members with disability.

We know that families and carers give love, care and support to their family member. They do whatever they need to do to make sure their family member has the best opportunities in life.

We also know that families provide help and support that cannot be replaced by formal services or paid support workers.

The NDIS aims to support you in that role – as a Mum or Dad, partner or spouse, brother or sister, grandparent or extended family member.

Getting ready for your family member to participate in the NDIS

For many NDIS participants, the views and experiences of their families will play an important part in helping them prepare for the NDIS and to help them get going with their first NDIS plan.

The My NDIS Pathway booklet describes the first experiences your family member will have with the NDIS to develop their individualised plan.

If your adult family member requests it, or if your family member is a child or young person, your knowledge, experience and understanding of your family member will be needed when preparing for and speaking with the NDIS.

This might include thinking about what support they have now and what is needed for your family member to live the life they want.



NDIS support for families and carers

Each NDIS participant will have their own plan reflecting their goals, personal circumstances and disability support needs.

While the focus of the plan is the person with disability, the types of supports in the participant's plan may also have direct or indirect benefits for families and carers.

An NDIS participant's plan may include things like:

- Personal care – to support a participant in their home or the community.
- Social and community supports – to enable a participant to enjoy social and community interaction without relying solely on family members.
- Assistance with daily living – including help to improve a participant's ability to do things for themselves.
- Training for family members – to provide care that is reasonable in relation to the participant's age and your family circumstances.
- Employment services – guidance for participants to move to employment programs

NDIS Resource book may be of help - Endeavour

The Discover Guide is a resource for helping people to plan for their future by Endeavour. Discover provides the information needed to navigate the new National Disability Insurance Scheme. This resource combines complex information alongside Easy Read sections to enable people with impaired decision making to be supported through all stages of planning under NDIS.

To access this free comprehensive guide go to:
<https://www.endeavour.com.au/media-news/press-releases/discover-guide>



FAQ about NDIS

How do I find out more information about the NDIS?

www.ndis.gov.au has lots of 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

Having problems with the NDIS /NDIA?

Are you unhappy with your NDIS package?

Are you upset or unhappy with a decision that the NDIA has made? Such as not qualifying, or being assessed as not needing a particular support?

Do you have a complaint about the NDIA? Have you been told that your family or support people aren't allowed to be with you when you talk the NDIA?

ADA Australia's Guardianship Advocate Lindy is a referral contact for members of ATSIDNQ.

Contact Lindy:
Lindy.harland@adaaustralia.com.au or call 1800 818 338 and she can refer you to a service that will help you with any issues.

NDIS Calendar of events

We encourage you to attend NDIS information sessions. here are the upcoming sessions you can attend around Qld. For details go to the NDIS calendar, or call us and we can give you the details.
www.ndis.gov.au/news/events/qld

March 1

ILC Forum - Toowoomba
NDIS Readiness Workshop - Caloundra
NDIS Readiness Workshop - Murgon

March 2

ILC Forum - Ipswich
What is the NDIS- Dalby

March 3

Readiness Workshop - Bundaberg
What is the NDIS - Millmerren

March 4

NDIS Getting Informed- Mt Ommaney

March 6

ILC Forum - Rockhampton
NDIS Get Ready - Gold Coast

March 8

NDIS Readiness Workshop - Gladstone

March 10

ILC Forum - Brisbane

March 13

NDIS Getting Informed - Blackwater
NDIS Information session - Mossman

March 14

ILC Forum - Brisbane
Getting Informed - Emerald
NDIS Readiness - Nambour
NDIS Readiness - Biloela
Plan Ahead Part A - Sunshine Coast
Get Ready - Jimboomba
NDIS Get Ready - Redlands
Young Families NDIS - Mt Ommaney
Are you ready - Nanango
Sharing NDIS Strategies - Emerald

March 15

Plan Ahead Part one - Runcorn
NDIS Information Session - Atherton

March 16

MI Way Information session - Herston

March 17

NDIS Readiness - Bundaberg
NDIS information session - Cairns
NDIS Getting Informed - South Brisbane

March 21

ILC Forum - Cairns
NDIS Readiness - Rockhampton
Plan Ahead Part two - Sunshine Coast
Full Scheme Carers Workshop - Yeronga
NDIS Readiness - Caboolture

March 22

Getting Informed - Biloela
NDIS Readiness - Emerald
Plan Ahead Part 2 - Runcorn
Sharing Practical Strategies - Biloela

March 23

Getting informed - Murgon
Getting Informed - Monto
Sharing Practical Strategies - Monto

March 24

NDIS Getting Informed - Kingaroy
NDIS Practical Strategies - Kingaroy

March 27

Readiness Workshop - Caloundra

March 28

Readiness Workshop - Redcliffe
Getting Informed - Corinda
Sharing Practical Strategies - Corinda

March 29

ILC Forum - Bundaberg
NDIS Readiness Workshop - Gladstone

April 4

Are you ready - Biloela

For continued April dates and detailed information on sessions, google NDIS Calendar of events, or go to:

<https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reform-renewal/disability-services/national-disability-insurance-scheme-queensland/ndis-events-calendar>

NDIS – have your say



We're keen to hear about member's experience with the NDIS for those who have already transitioned. In particular, your feedback from the following questions:

- Did you feel prepared for the introduction of the NDIS in your area?
- How could preparation be improved?
- How did you find the sign up process?
- How could the sign up process be improved?
- Are you happy with the plan you received?
- How could your plan be improved?
- Has your experience with NDIS been culturally appropriate?
- How could the NDIS experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people be improved?
- Did you feel prepared for the introduction of the NDIS in your area?

Email your responses to info@atsidnq.com.au

Members contributions will help inform the Networks comments for submissions on behalf of members. A prize draw will be held for members who contact us about this feedback.



**DITCHING
THE 'DIS' IN
DISABILITY**

NDIS goes virtual

The NDIS are introducing a 'Virtual Assistant' named Nadia on their website portal. Nadia is an interactive animated customer service helper. Nadia will provide people with information about the NDIS. Initially Nadia will be used to answer the most common questions people have about the Scheme, but over time, will develop the capacity to provide detailed responses to a wide range of queries.

Nadia has been co-designed by people with disability and will be available to take questions 24 / 7 on the My Place portal in coming months. Nadia has the voice of actress Cate Blanchett, so if she sounds familiar, now you will know why!

Champion News

Our local Champions are meeting once a month via tele-link with the Network team to discuss issues in their communities. Recently they have also added valuable input into discussion papers for the Network.

A note from Uncle Ted:

Our recent meeting in Maryborough had a very good turn out. I believe I was the only male in attendance, or so I've been told, but you know how it is, people could tell me anything and I wouldn't have a clue cause I have no sight, so I'm taking a stab in the dark! People acknowledged that such a networking group was very much needed in the region. I was happy to hear in the group a couple of potential leaders, mothers with children with disabilities, able to speak up and wanting to find answers to their questions. I look forward to seeing this group go forward.

Are you looking after a loved one with a mental health condition?

The NDIS/FYI website is a place where you can get mental health information for NDIS. You will find tools, resources, factsheets, reports and other documentation on the NDIS relevant to the mental health sector.

It's updated with the latest information, and with the NDISFYI newsletter is part of your toolkit for staying up to date and having what you need to effectively engage with the NDIS, and find out the details relevant to mental health.

Check out: www.ndisfyi.org

NAIDOC 2017 theme

The importance, resilience and richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages will be the focus of national celebrations marking NAIDOC Week 2017.

The 2017 theme - **Our Languages Matter** - aims to emphasise and celebrate the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity, linking people to their land and water and in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites, through story and song.



Our Languages Matter

2-9 JULY 2017



Members on Facebook

Remember the Network has a closed Facebook group just for members!

This is a great place for members to share information with each other and articles of interest. It is also a way that members from all around the state can connect.

To join the group, go into your Facebook account and search:

ATSIDNQ Members Page

It will take a few days for admin to approve, then you can connect and share with other Network members.

Some ideas for contributions could be:

- Introduce yourself
- Share your interests
- Ask questions
- Answer others questions
- Share your experience of NDIS
- Share interesting articles
- Celebrate achievements

Or just be anonymous and learn from others.



Help others join our Network

We are encouraging community members to join our group, so if you have friend who would like to hear news about NDIS and what's happening in their area perhaps suggest they join the Network.

People can apply easily on line on our website www.atsidnq.com.au

Help us spread the word so the Network can continue to grow.

Want to share your story?

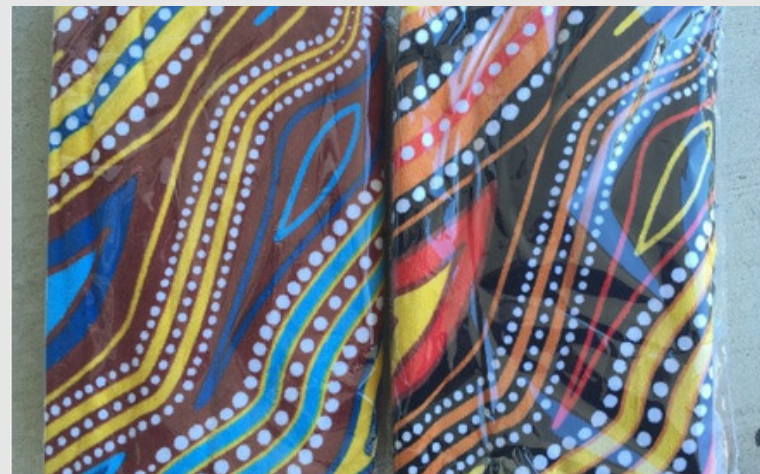
Sharing story can be a way of helping people to feel connected and less isolated, Members of the Network who share their story can inspire others and help build our community. To view other member stories check out our website page www.atsidnq.com.au

We have some fantastic towels that we would like to gift to members who share their story with us. Sharing your story just involves a 10 minute phone conversation with one of our team, or they may be able to meet you at your place if that is easier for you. Contact us if you are interested.

Want to know more?

www.atsidnq.com.au

1800 718 969



The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands in which we work and honour the elders past, present and future