



**ATSIDNQ**

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander  
Disability Network of Queensland

**Edition 28 - Oct-Dec 2020**



## Welcome to Edition 28

There have been some big changes within the ATSIDNQ team! We said farewell to Bruce Simpson who has taken up the position of Assistant Director to the Queensland Community Engagement team for the Disability Royal Commission. As much as we will miss Bruce, we know he will be doing a lot of deadly work there supporting our mob! We welcome Melissa Grundon into Bruce's role. Mel has been supporting the Network on and off over the years in her advocacy position and will now join the team as the new Senior Project Officer.

Also new on board to the team is our Assistant Project Officer, Seini Sebasio. Seini commenced a few months ago and is already out and about promoting the Network. Welcome Seini, we are happy to have you as part of the team.

We are also excited to announce that we have two new Champions, Shaun Fabila and Leon Petrou. Shaun and Leon are keen to organise some deadly events for our members in 2021, so stay tuned! If you'd like to be part

of the ATSIDNQ team and are interested in becoming a Champion, please give us a call to yarn about the role.

Planning is already underway for ATSIDNQ in 2021 and it's shaping up to be a big one. Now that COVID restrictions are easing, we are planning to get our Yarning Groups back up and running again and we look forward to travelling out and connecting with our members across Queensland. In the meantime, you can still stay connected with ATSIDNQ on our social platforms through Facebook, the website and the newsletters.

Lastly, the ATSIDNQ team would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas! 2020 has certainly been a challenging year for our mob, particularly for our members and their families. As the year wraps up, we would like to thank you all for staying connected with the Network and we look forward to a bigger and better year in 2021!

Please note that our office is closed from 12pm, 24 December and re-opens 4 January.



## ATSIDNQ Members Only Facebook Page



*This private page is where people who have signed up as members can:*

- Connect with other members
- Yarn with other people about issues related to disability
- Access members-only information
- Find out what the Network is up to and when the Network team are in your community
- Find out about changes in the disability sector that may impact on you.

*Learn about resources that you may want to link in to  
To join the group you will need to:*

1. Login to your own Facebook account
2. Type ATSIDNQ Members Page in the search bar
3. Click the magnifying glass to initiate the search
4. Click on the group ATSIDNQ Members Page
5. On the page select 'Join Group'

This will take a few days for admin to approve.

## Brisbane PRIDE Fair 2020

ATSIDNQ were extremely excited to join in the celebration of the Brisbane Pride Fair Day at New Farm Park on Saturday 28 November 2020.

Pride Fair Day 2020 was an opportunity to reconnect people in the face of what has been a difficult time for our communities to connect socially and physically. It was a glamorous community fun filled day! ATSIDNQ helped join in celebrating the Visibility, Acceptance and Resilience of LGBTIQ+ people, allies and the communities that Brisbane Pride Fair Day brought on this very hot Saturday.

Pride Fair Day also provides a platform for LGBTIQ+ people to connect with and access vital services and stalls that are safe, visible and accessible to meet the needs and enquiries of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Also known as Queensland's largest LGBTIQ+ Festival we were able to hold an ATSIDNQ stall, where we not only enjoyed the festivities of the day but signed over 40 new members to the network.







# Become an ATSIDNQ Champion



ATSIDNQ would like to invite you to become an official Network Champion for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland (ATSIDNQ) within your region.

The Champion role will be vital in supporting the Network to grow and achieve its goal of ensuring that the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability can be heard.

You will be a valuable asset in helping the Network to grow. This means setting up Yarning Groups so that people with a disability, their carers, families and community have a safe place to yarn about challenges and successes.

Please call the ATSIDNQ Project Officer Melissa Grundon for further details on 1800 718 969 or email: [info@atsidnq.com.au](mailto:info@atsidnq.com.au)

## GOMA - Low Sensory Event

8.30AM THU 21 JAN 2021

[GOMA](#) | FREE

Visitors with autism, sensory sensitivity or disability are invited to experience [exhibitions](#) in GOMA before opening hours. Volumes will be lowered and high sensory areas signposted to provide a relaxed, welcoming environment for visitors. A quiet zone will also be available.

All exhibitions are free except for 'The Motorcycle'. Tickets for this exhibition

can be purchased in advance [online](#) or at the GOMA ticket desk. Accompanying carers and support workers with a valid Companion Card are entitled to complimentary entry to ticketed exhibitions.

Children's Art Centre exhibitions 'Ross Manning: Idling Engines' and 'Now is the Time' are suitable for all ages.

To assist with planning a visit, view or download the [information sheet and sensory floor plans](#).

## Welcome to the Team



Hi, my name is Seini Sebasio and I am a proud Erubian (Erub - Darnley Island) and Kaiviti (Fijian) woman.

I am the new ATSIDNQ Assistant Project Officer and have been with the team for three months now.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the ATSIDNQ team, Champions and Members.

I am inspired by my late grandfather, Thomas Sebasio Snr, and am motivated to follow in his footsteps by providing a voice for our mob and creating a positive change in our communities.

I look forward to meeting people out in the regions and having a yarn about how the Network can provide support for you and your community.



freedom  
wheels

In 1975, a group of engineers decided to use their skills to profoundly change the lives of people living with disability.

Today, TAD Australia is the federation of seven state-based non-profit, assistive technology providers. Our collective purpose is to provide personalised assistive technology to people living with disability to achieve independence.

TAD Australia's volunteers, staff and therapists work with you to design and build custom assistive technology and equipment to help you achieve your goals. We work with people of any age and any disability.

We know the cost of living with a disability. As charities we keep costs as low as possible by working with our amazing volunteers, who give their time and skills for free. A quote is provided before any work commences.




We are a registered NDIS provider and can also help you connect with organisations that may assist by providing further funding.

For more information, visit [www.tadaustralia.org.au](http://www.tadaustralia.org.au)

**TAD/AUSTRALIA**

Have you heard about TAD Australia's other solutions? TAD Australia is the federation of seven state-based non-profit, assistive technology providers. We have a dedicated group of staff and volunteers who design and build customised assistive technology and equipment solutions for those living with a disability.

LEARN MORE

				
<b>Freedom Wheels Bikes</b> Our Freedom Wheels bikes include a range of attachments that have been designed to provide additional support for young riders. These bikes are available in 16", 20" and 24" bike frame sizes.	<b>Freedom Wheels Voyager</b> Our Freedom Wheels Voyager is suitable for teens and adults who are independent riders who have good safety awareness and can pedal without hip and trunk support.	<b>Gomier Trike</b> The Gomier Trike features a lower step through, allowing easy transfer onto the trike for teens and adults. It is the perfect trike for extra stability and carrying extra items like bags, shopping or a walking frame.	<b>Body Cycles Trike</b> Our Body Cycles Trike is designed for teens and adults needing extra support to ride. The trike offers additional postural support, stability and builds confidence. Our therapists will design a set of up supports.	<b>Recumbent Trike</b> Our Compendium Recumbent Trike is the perfect trike for a comfortable ride and lower transfers. Suitable for teens and adults, this trike will give balance and stability.

# Youth Human Rights Forum Townsville

**save the  
date**

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
or to  
PRE-REGISTER  
call  
4421 4000 or  
1300 130 670



18 March  
2021  
12-3pm



Queensland  
**Human Rights  
Commission**

powered by

 PIKTOCHART



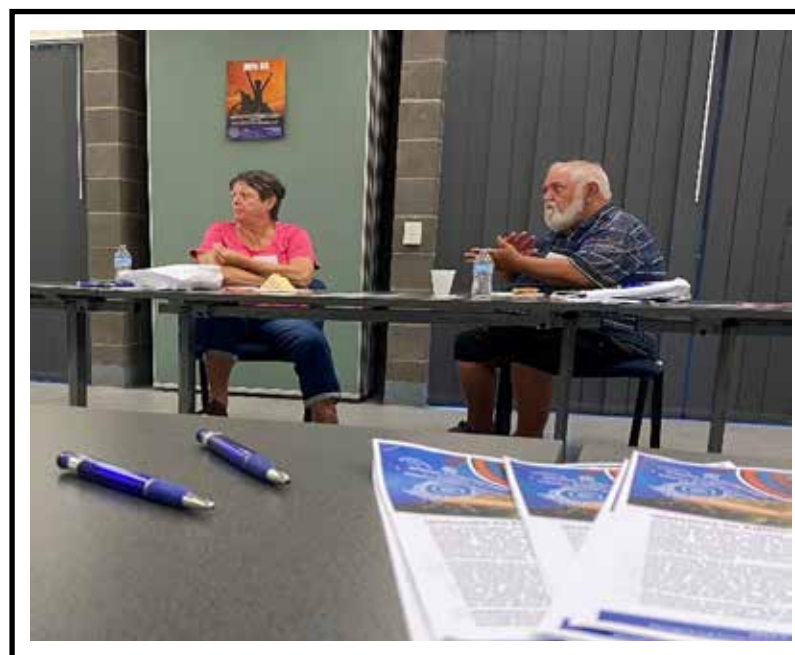


# Maryborough/Hervey Bay Yarning Group

On the 17-18 of November 2020 ATSIDNQ had its first Yarning Groups as part of the Power of Peers (POP) program with the Queensland Disability Network (QDN).

ATSIDNQ teamed up with the crew at Galangoor Duwalami Primary Health Centre, where we yarned with participants at the Maryborough Neighbourhood Centre on the 17th and then had another meeting at the Hervey Bay PCYC on the 18th. Thank you to our new members who signed up on the day, your Welcome Packs will be coming to you shortly.

In the new year, we hope to organise more Yarning Groups throughout Queensland. If there's a meeting near you, pop in for a cuppa and a yarn. We hope to see you soon at a Yarning Circle near you.



# Disability Royal Commission Update

## Some highlights are:

- Hearing 8, 'The experiences of First Nations people with disability and their families in contact with child protection systems' took place in Brisbane from November 23-27;
- 2021 dates for Public Hearings has been released - see table below; and
- You really have to check out the fabulous YouTube clip for the KingStones - a group from Logan formed with the help of the Kingstones Music Therapy program - sending a message of being valued and encouraging people without disability to see their true worth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1C7KOMFbLU&feature=youtu.be>

## Public Hearings 2021

Hearing #	Dates	Location	Topic
11	16-24 February	Brisbane	Justice
12	Week of 19 April	Sydney	NDIS and service providers
13	Week of 17 May	Sydney	NDIS and service providers
14	Week of 7 June	Brisbane	First Nations and out-of-home care
15	Week of 26 July	Sydney	Restraints in education
16	Week of 16 August	TBC	The health and safety of women and girls with disability
17	Week of 27 September	TBC	Employment
18	Week of 1 November	TBC	TBC
19	Week of 6 December	TBC	Disability support workforce issues



# APOLOGY 2021



QPAC CONCERT HALL FOYER  
FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2021  
10AM START



All welcome, please RSVP to 3638 0411 or [contact@link-up.qld.org.au](mailto:contact@link-up.qld.org.au)





## Come join us and get connected by checking out our Website

ATSIDNQ is a network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability. It was established to raise awareness of the cultural and social needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability, their families and carers.

The ATSIDNQ Website [www.atsidnq.com.au](http://www.atsidnq.com.au) is a fantastic starting point for anyone interested in the Network and the support it provides for all visitors. The website not only showcases the great work of the Network, but also shares what is happening in your region and how you can connect to those supports and remain connected.



## ATSIDNQ Facebook Page

To keep up to date with what is happening in the Network, ATSIDNQ has a PUBLIC page that we encourage you, your friends and family to LIKE and share with your networks. Help us spread the word about the ATSIDNQ Network and how to join to make the network stronger.

<https://www.facebook.com/Aboriginal-Torres-Strait-Islander-Disability-Network-QLD-418621321682340/>



The Network can only get stronger when we hear and see the deadly stories that are happening out in the regions and communities.

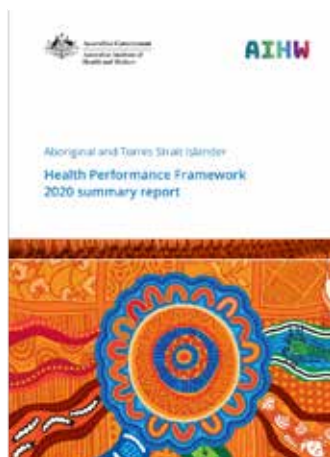
When you share your story, you will be featured in our bi-monthly ATSIDNQ Newsletter and website along with your consent to include a beautiful photo of yourself.

You will also receive an ATSIDNQ Bag and Towel in addition to the Cap that you already receive when you become a member.

If you would like to share your story, please call the ATSIDNQ Project Officer for further details on 1800 718 969 or email [info@atsidnq.com.au](mailto:info@atsidnq.com.au)



## Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Group



and data visualisations, that brings together health outcomes, health system performance and the broader determinants of health in one area.

The Productivity Commission has released the [Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report](#), which measures the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across 52 indicators including in governance, leadership and culture, early childhood, education, economic participation, health, home environment and safe and supportive communities.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released the [2020 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework](#), along with a new website with analysis, implications

The report has case studies on governance with a specific focus on arrangements supporting shared decision-making between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Australian governments.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS: Inquiry into the NDIS

### Have your say

The Commission has released its [draft report into the NDIS market in Queensland](#).

Public hearings are scheduled for 5 and 8 February. All stakeholders are invited to [register](#) to attend the public hearings, either to respond to the draft report and discuss inquiry issues, or simply to observe the proceedings. Stakeholders can attend the hearings in person in Brisbane or online.

The Commission is also inviting submissions due by 4 February 2021. Further information on making a submission is available on our [website](#).

The final report will be submitted to the Queensland Government on 30 April 2021.

## NDIS Workshop with Carers Queensland in Caboolture

On Wednesday 2 December 2020, ATSIDNQ were invited by Carers Queensland to meet some of their Indigenous NDIS participants & their families from the Caboolture area.

The meeting was setup for the local participants to come and meet new people in the area with similar experiences; and to provide feedback on their NDIS plans; to introduce them to ATSIDNQ and the Benevolent Society.

## Champions Christmas Lunch



A few of the Champions were able to make it along to our last get together for 2020. The team had a great time catching up with Uncle Willie, Leon and Shaun over some good food.

From all the Champions and the ATSIDNQ team we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



## Autism Alert card

ATTENTION

I am  
Autistic



The Autism Alert card is designed to assist Autistic individuals to communicate their need for support to others, in situations that may be challenging. Aspect are offering these cards free to people on the autism spectrum.\*

### I am on the autism spectrum

- I am likely to be **extremely anxious** in unfamiliar situations
- I may become **uncommunicative or nonverbal** under stress
- My behaviour may appear to be **unpredictable or inappropriate**
- I may be **oversensitive** to light, touch or sound
- I may need the **help** of someone who is familiar with autism

Aspect is also working to provide autism information to police and other services in community settings with Aspect's Autism-Friendly Australia team.

The cards are funded by Aspect and are free. To order your card go to <https://www.autismspectrum.org.au/alert-card>

The Aspect Autism Alert card is an Autistic led initiative. The Autism Alert Card has been designed by Autistic individuals and this particular card will be most suitable for adolescents and adults.

#### Because of my autism, I may

- Panic if yelled at, and lash out if touched or physically restrained
- Misinterpret things you tell me or ask me to do
- Not be able to answer your questions
- Appear not to be listening or paying attention
- Tend to interpret statements literally
- Appear rude or say things that sound tactless, especially when anxious or confused
- Have difficulty making eye contact
- Speak too loudly, too soft or with unusual intonation

#### I would like to cooperate. To help me, PLEASE:

- Clearly state who you are
- Please be patient
- Speak to me in a normal and calm tone.
- Allow me time to process what you have said
- Avoid touching or restraining me
- Tell me exactly what I need to do clearly, simply and step by step.
- If necessary, call one of my emergency contacts.

#### What to know about meltdowns

- They are: a way that a person on the autism spectrum may respond to stress.
- Might look like: crying, physical aggression, thrashing about, rocking, pacing, or fainting.
- What to do: if safe, allow meltdowns to pass. Do not restrain them, unless necessary for safety.

For more information visit:  
[autismspectrum.org.au/alert-card](https://autismspectrum.org.au/alert-card)

This is an Autistic led initiative

## Information and referrals for people with disability and their supporters about coronavirus (COVID-19)

Disability Information Helpline.

Do you have a question about coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Do you want to know what it means for you?

Do you need help because things have changed?

Do you want to know how you can support

someone you live with, care for, or support?

Help for you is here.

Contact the Disability Information Helpline on 1800 643 787.

The Disability Information Helpline is available Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm (AEST). It is not available on national public holidays.



# Peer Support Groups



An inclusive place for our mob with disability to get together



**ATSIDNQ**

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander  
Disability Network of Queensland

Meet deadly people



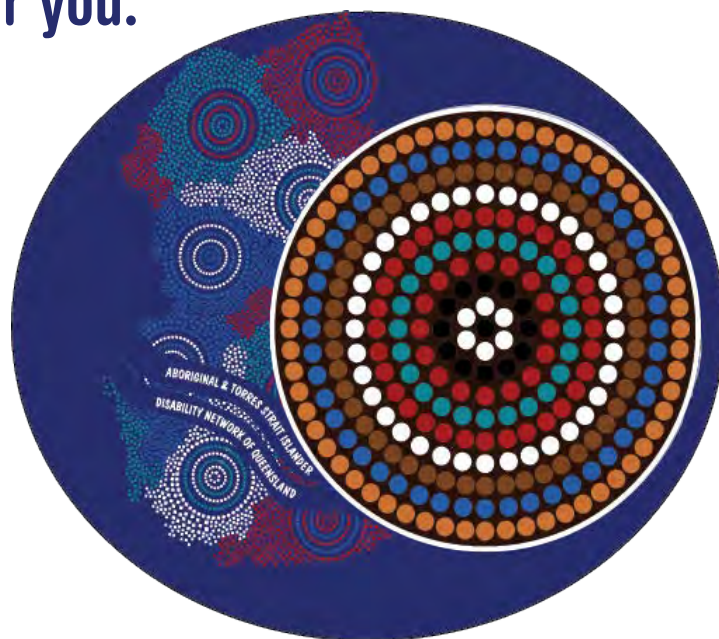
Yarn

SUPPORT



Belonging

Contact ATSIDNQ to find out how to join a yarning group near you.



phone 1800 700 600



info@atsidnq.com.au



atsidnq.com.au