

QDN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



ACN 161 701 944

*Date: Saturday, 28 October 2017
Venue: Ithaca Room, Brisbane City Hall
64 Adelaide Street, Brisbane City
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OPENED AT 10:40 AM

Members Present: as registered/signed in

Guests, Observers and Meeting Support Present:

- Masters of Ceremony for the QDN 15th Anniversary Celebration: Alex Baker, Ready to go Peer Facilitator and Alison MacLean, Getting on the Grid Peer Leader
- Noel Muller, CEO, Queensland Voice for Mental Health
- Personal Care Support Workers - Maree Fairbanks and Nephi from Staffing Options
- QDN staff: Paige Armstrong, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Michelle Moss, Sharyn McManus, Olivia Spadina, Margaret Micale, Paul Gabbert, Denise Sands, Jen Barrkman, Julie van Oosten

Apologies – Invited Guests:

- Mark Henley, CEO, Queensland Council of Social Services (QCROSS)
- The Hon Coralee O'Rourke, MP, Queensland Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors, Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland

Apologies – Members (from the floor)

Philia Polites	Kim Netterfield	Nick Darby
David Thomas	Peter Gray	Lyn Coyle
Danny Graham	Bobbie Noone	Ted Jones
Geoff Rowe	Josey McMahon	Bob Cleland
Graham Cleland	Cathy Cleland	Karen Knight

OPENING FORMALITIES - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Paige Armstrong, CEO QDN called the meeting to order and acknowledged the record numbers attending, despite the surprise closing of Adelaide Street for a parade to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of the Charge of the Australian Light Horse Brigade.

Nigel Webb, Chairperson QDN declared quorum and opened the AGM at 10.41 am.

Welcome to Country observed by Willie Prince.
No Conflict of Interest Disclosures were declared.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. **Minutes of previous AGM** – tabled to the meeting. Minutes were read by Company Secretary, Mrs Colleen Papadopoulos QDN Board of Directors.

Resolution: The Minutes of the AGM of Queenslanders with Disability Network Inc. held on 29 October 2016 be accepted as a true and fair record of the meeting.

Moved: Rachel Matthews and Willie Prince
Seconded: Matt McCracken and Grahame Robertson
Opposed: None Abstaining: None Carried by Show of Hands

2. **Business Arising** – none

ORDINARY BUSINESS – REPORTS FOR THE 2015-16 FINANCIAL YEAR

3. **Chairperson and Directors' Report: Nigel Webb**

- a) The Chairperson presented a written report for the year in review, thanking the directors of the board and acknowledged the contribution of time and commitment to the work over the year past.
- b) Thanked the CEO and QDN staff for leading with strong systemic policy work in a year of disruptive change, and indicated that QDN has travelled to many spaces and places, raising our profile and numbers, bringing increasing participation and support.
- c) Indicated housing and transportation were key areas where QDN mobilized to get better outcomes/change for people with disability:
 - Indigenous stories a key influence to the Queensland housing strategy
 - The reversal of unexpected changes to the taxi subsidy scheme was an outcome of our success, along with a commitment to a longer term strategy, and due to work QDN initiated with our allies in transport, main roads and child safety to raise the impacts this unexpected policy change incurred in- their lives.
 - Bright Sparks has worked to address issues of cost, supply and interruption to energy for people with disability
 - The issues around public transport and rolling stock continue to need addressing in policy, as passengers needing assistance boarding no longer have access.
- d) QDN directors developed and approved our business plan to develop our Knowledge Network, QDeNgage and LEAD Institute Initiatives. This work is critical to QDN's future as we will not receive government financial support beyond June 2018.
- e) Businesses and governments are being called upon to implement a disability impact statement to better ensure that change and policy do not

negatively impact upon people with disability. There is also a need for Queensland government and the NDIA to find funds to support an independent Review and Appeals process to address impacts incurred by the transition to the NDIS.

- f) In closing the Chairperson acknowledged the commemoration of QDN's 15th anniversary, and the work of so many to found QDN and to contribute to its success. Encouraged everyone to learn more about QDN and be more involved, and to enjoy the 15th Anniversary Celebration that follows.

4. Chief Executive Officer's Report: Paige Armstrong

- a) The CEO presented a written report – year in review, highlighting the many achievements and challenges of the year, drawing the members' attention to the last page of the Annual Report which provides a visual record of the year's accomplishments.
- b) Introduced peer leaders and the work they do in running support groups across the state (Ready to go and Getting on the Grid), 22 Housing Champions (Going for Gold), Local group conveners (24 across the state).
- c) Acknowledged the leaders we have in the room, because without whom QDN would not have accomplished the enormous work over this past year and over QDN's 15 years existence.
- d) Of particular mention is the work done to raise the awareness and support for accessible, affordable housing and long term, affordable rentals. QDN undertook a range of work culminating with the Going for Gold and Digital Housing Stories.
- e) The successful campaign around the Taxi Subsidy Scheme restoral would not have happened without the active work from the local support groups, particularly in Townsville, where the impact upon NDIS participants was first known.
- f) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Group – ADA growing in strength, numbers and activities to ensure that ATSI members with disability are aware of the initiatives rolling out across the state.
- g) Ready to go (intellectual and multiple disability) and Getting on the Grid (vulnerable and hard to reach people). Our websites and online forums get thousands of hits a year, and QDN has a vibrant network of people who involve themselves in furthering the work done to advocate and support people with disability.
- h) Commitments undertaken throughout the year to meet the enormous change and challenges in our sector.

5. Financial Position and Auditor's Report: Acting Chair of Audit and Compliance Committee (ACC) John McPherson, and Auditor Sally Byrne, Chartered Accountant, Certified Auditor

- a) The Auditor introduced herself and stated her qualifications as a Chartered Accountant and Certified Auditor, and presented the independent, external audit report for the 2016-17 Financial Year.
- b) The Auditor gave her opinion that financial reports, performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date of QDN have been prepared in

accordance with Division 60 of the ACNC Act 2012, and are a true and fair view free from material misstatements.

- c) Indicated the independent external audit report resulted an unqualified audit opinion report on QDN's financial position as of 30 June 2017.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Report Presenters remained on stand to field questions from Members.

Q – Are there any local support groups near to Gympie?

A – (CEO) The closest local support group to Gympie is the Sunshine Coast local support group led by Peter Parkes, who is here in the room with us today, so you may wish to talk with him after the AGM. Also, we would welcome the formation of a local support group in Gympie as there would be sufficient local interest and leadership to make that happen.

Q – Can the audience please hear more about the Griffith University initiative.

A – Donna Best – the initiative is called VOICE – is about people with disability telling their stories and learning how to put a digital story together.

Q – Nigel talks about there being competition in the future, which makes me ask 'will people with disability have difficulty finding help to find out how to get the people we need to help us and advocate for us?'

A – (Chairperson) great question and believe me QDN is wondering along with you. Certainly there is now activity taking place – about 15-20 advocacy groups across the state which are working in this space and they're to provide advocacy and support. Critically important this work continues and that it is funded to continue to support and advocate in the future.

Q – When I look at Facebook- and discussions that are happening with NDIS, people are worried that if QDN becomes a registered provider it will be a conflict of interest. I wanted assurance that it will not be.

A – (Chairperson) QDN is the only registered DSO in Queensland – we need to ensure that this continues, particularly in the southwest corner of the state where nothing is in place as yet. We continue to work with NDIS and with the state departments to try to make transition to NDIS work. We will just need to change our approach to the rapid changes taking place in our sector.

Q - Not a question but a thank you to all the conveners and for First2Care, as this has been very helpful for me.

A - (CEO) Thank you. We are pleased to hear that you have found this support helpful.

Q – When will NDIS come to me and I am worried about how it will work out for me.

A – (CEO) NDIS will roll-out in southeast section of state as of the 1st of July 2018, however the productivity report that just came out may affect this implementation schedule. We continue to have conversations with people as to what they want to get out of the scheme and how can QDN help. Given the feedback about how I put my

plan together and how do I self-fund – numerous requests to provide further assistance, so from next year we will run a series of workshops to help people take the initiative to self-fund if they so choose. A number of conveners have been working dual roles in supporting people as advocates and support as they work to transition to the NDIS.

Q – (Alex) still want to be involved even though I am too old to be registered on the scheme. Also hearing and vision impairment matters.

A – (Chairperson) thank you Alex – I recognise you are active and that you want to continue to be involved. Although not eligible for the scheme there are other supports that may help. We welcome your ongoing participation.

MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AND APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Motion: To accept and approve the Chairperson’s Report, the CEO’s Report and the Auditor’s Report as presented, and to continue with the current auditor for the financial year -2017-18.

Moved: Chairperson

Seconded: Alex Baker, Donna Best

Carried by Show of Hands None Against. None Abstaining.

Chair moved to commend the Annual Report

Chair invited the members to show their support by raise of hands

Carried by Show of Hands. None Against. None Abstaining

From the floor: Rachel Mathews moved to thank the Board and directors

Chairperson invited the members to show their support by raise of hands

Carried by Show of Hands. None Against. None Abstaining

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF QDN

6. Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements

Members and guests thanked for attending. **Chairperson invited the members to convene for the 15th Anniversary Celebration and declared the meeting closed at 12:00 PM sharp!!** Confirmed as a true record.

[Nigel Webb, Chair QDN Board of Directors](#)—

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[date confirmed](#)