

**ATSIDNQ**

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander  
Disability Network of Queensland

**Edition 23 - July 2019**



## Welcome to our New Members

On behalf of ATSIDNQ, I would like to give a BIG 'warm welcome' to all of our new Members. The trips and yarns within your regions were very enjoyable to be part of a vibrant network that is growing the 'voice' for our people with a disability, their carers and families. The valued stories that you are willing to share within the network as well, is priceless, so THANK YOU!!

Since our last newsletter we have signed up 97 new members.

Please continue to encourage our mob to become a member of ATSIDNQ to contribute to the 'voice' of disability and inform or provide change that best suit the

needs of our individuals, families and communities.

During my recent travels over the past 3 months, ATSIDNQ sought membership from community members. As service providers we know that you are a part of the Network and we recognize the great work that you do with our community members, so we would like you to become a member that 'supports' the network by 'ticking' the support box on the membership form.

<http://www.atsidnq.com.au/atsidnq-membership-application>

Thanks again to all the Service Providers who care about the well-being of our communities.

### *In this edition*

- NAIDOC Information
- Regional Visit Reports
- Gold Coast Disability Expo
- Nundah Film Festival
- Member Stories
- ATSIDNQ Policy

*ATSIDNQ cannot be what it is without the amazing 'life stories' shared by our mob. These stories we share within the Network are to build the connections between regions and membership that grows knowledge of our culture, language and stories.*

## Member Stories

### Uncle Alexander Eric Mendo



Uncle Alexander Eric Mendo was born in Tweed Heads on the 15th September 1932, he is a proud Bundjalung Nation Man.

Uncle Alex will be 87 years old this year and has been married for 61 years and is in good health.

Uncle Alex has 7 children, 25 grand children, 16 great grand children and 10 great, great grand children.

Uncle Alex has lived a 'good life'. In which he worked since the age of 13 years old on a farm receiving 10 shillings per week for his duties.

Uncle Alex also was a truck driver for 30 years in which he travelled to Mount Isa and Townsville a lot. He was also a fisherman in Moreton Bay for 10 years, and worked at Springbrook and Commera on a banana plantation for 10 years.

Uncle Alex has no regrets in life. His advice to others and especially young people is to 'set your goals and head for it'.



#### Can I access the NDIS?

To become an NDIS participant a person must:

- ✓ Have a permanent disability that significantly affects their ability to take part in everyday activities;
- ✓ Be aged less than 65 when they first enter the NDIS;
- ✓ Be an Australian citizen or hold a permanent visa or a Protected Special Category visa; and
- ✓ Live in Australia where the NDIS is available.

The NDIS is being introduced progressively around Australia from 1 July 2016.

#### Can I still receive support if I do not meet the access requirements for the NDIS?

A person does not have to be an NDIS participant to receive support from the NDIS.

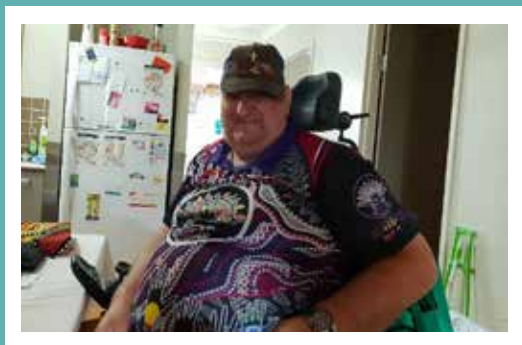


The NDIS will connect people with disability, their families and carers, including people who are not NDIS participants, to disability and mainstream supports in their community.

To find out more about information, links and referrals to community and mainstream support services visit [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au) or call 1800 800 110.



### Alan & Sylvia Williams



Alan and Sylvia Williams are a couple who both rely entirely on their Mobility Scooters and are often seen cruising about Cairns together shopping or just getting out of the house for a while to take in the North Qld scenery.

Alan is Noongar Man from W.A and Sylvia is from South Brisbane and they've been together since 2009 after meeting on the internet in Ipswich, when they were both independently mobile.

They got married in 2010 when Sylvia had an accident in London when her right leg began to give way without warning following knee surgery.

Alan had work for the ADF completing 2 tours of duty in Vietnam and served with the Police during the 1970's.

It was when Alan was working as a truck driver 1974 and was involved in head-on collision near Yass NSW where he sustained numerous injuries. The rescue effort took 5 hours to get Alan out of the mangled mess.

Prior to the accident Alan was 6ft.2 now he 5ft.11 despite losing 3 inches in height - Alan defied doctors to walk again.

Sylvia worked at Coles and held other service related jobs and as a factory worker, and then for a pharmaceutical company as the 2 children from a previous marriage grew older.

In 2004 Sylvia has also struggled with her health after being diagnosed with Pancreatic cancer having her pancreas, spleen, one kidney

removed as result. Sylvia was not expected to survive beyond 12 months. Sylvia credits natural therapies and an indigenous therapy Gumbi-Gumbi for her continued wellbeing.

It was also in 2014 that Sylvia's granddaughter Aurora Rose was born which encouraged Sylvia to take better care of health so she could see Aurora grow up.

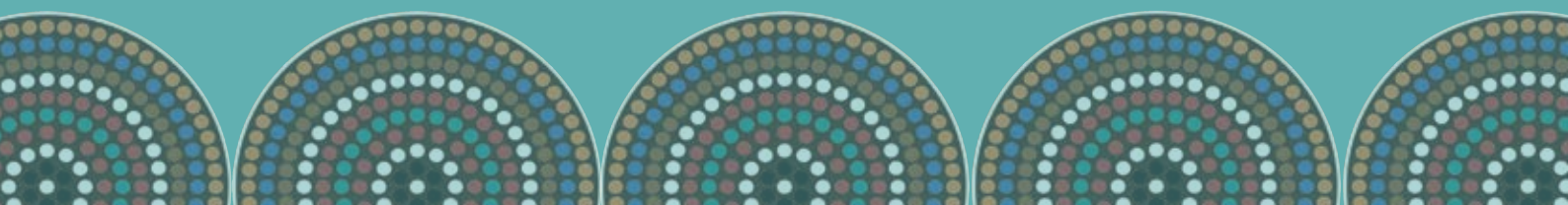
Alan and Sylvia bought a van and were travelling around Australia and decided to settle in Cairns where they have been for the past 5 years.

Alan and Sylvia are also active self-advocates as they have initiated actions with:

- local council on disability access issues to new public building in the Cairns region.
- Sun Bus for wheelchair access on the bus service, and the
- Earlville shopping centre on issues that directly impact on access.

ADA Australia recently worked with both Alan and Sylvia recently to change to a new Approved Providers as part of the National Aged Care Reforms.

Alan & Sylvia have no plans to slow down they have purchased another van and have plans to visit family & Kakadu in the Northern Territory. Their next big adventure ahead - is their anniversary holiday for 2 weeks on a Pacific Island cruise to New Zealand.



## Member Stories

### Uncle Colin Campbell



Uncle Colin is a proud Noonuccal man from Stradbroke Island. Born to a fisherman, his dad fished for over 40 years at Amity Point.

His storyline spans from Bribie Island to Stradbroke Island. Uncle Colin remembers the good old days of living off the shores and enjoying the simple lifestyle.

Uncle Colin left school at the tender age of 14 years to go

and help his dad fish. Fishing was the male leadership role of looking after and providing for their family. He also worked for a mining company on Straddie for 35 years.

Uncle Colin setup camp at Bribie Island when he first retired however, he now resides in Cleveland. He has been in Cleveland for the past 30 years. Uncle Colin has no regrets about his life and has really enjoyed attending Burringilly Respite Centre for the past 18 years. He really enjoys the activities and day trips that often occur.

## We are on social media!



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

Follow us to keep up to date on upcoming events, news and more!



## National Disability Strategy Beyond 2020

As you know, recently the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland set up a 'survey monkey' to include you into having a say about the National Disability Strategy beyond 2020. The following consultations were completed through the communities and regions of:

- Brisbane Burringilly Respite Centre, Woodridge
- Maryborough/Hervey Bay Regions
- Dalby, St George and Oakey Regions
- Nalingu, Zillmere
- NPA Bamaga, Siesia, Alau, Injinoo, New Mapoon
- Horn Island, Badu, Moa and Thursday Island
- North Stradbroke Island

Thank you to those that gave feedback, this is much appreciated. A Consultation Report will be given to the Department of Social Services, Canberra.



# VOICE TREATY TRUTH



**VOICE  
TREATY  
TRUTH** 07-14  
JULY 2019  
Let's work together for a shared future.

[naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au)

## NAIDOC Week 2019

NAIDOC Week 2019 invites you to walk in a movement for a better future. For generations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have sought recognition of our unique place in Australian history and society today as the oldest continuing culture on the planet.

*Early dawn light rises over Uluru, symbolising our continued spiritual and unbroken connection to the land. Our message, developed through generations, is echoed throughout the land: hear our voice and recognise our truth.*

Artwork: Awaken by Charmaine Mumbulla

#NAIDOC2019 #VoiceTreatyTruth



[facebook.com/NAIDOC](https://facebook.com/NAIDOC)



[@naidocweek](https://twitter.com/naidocweek)



[@naidocweek](https://instagram.com/naidocweek)



# Northern Peninsula Regions

## *In The Community*

Mid May 2019 I had the privilege of travelling to Bamaga and surrounding communities of Seisia, New Mapoon, Injinoo and Umagico. The community stories were so inspiring of what great stuff that is happening within the Northern Peninsula Regions.

As a team, we also managed to assist a family to access and receive more information to the NDIS supports, which was satisfying to witness.

Accompanied by Carers Qld and ADA Australia, ATSIDNQ was also a part of a Disability Expo which was situated near the Bamaga Post Office for communities to access information on the services mentioned. I was fortunate to welcome a few new members whilst visiting these communities.



## Torres Strait Islands

The ATSIDNQ meet and greet trip to the Torres Strait Islands was extraordinary. It was an honour and privilege visiting the beautiful islands of Thursday, Moa and Badu. The food was so yummy!! The scenery was like I had postcards in front of me and the local people were so welcoming and hospitable.

The engagement with the Torres Strait people and hearing their stories was a privilege for me to listen to. The culture, history and song lines are so strong, that I couldn't stop listening to the travels of the local people from island to island and the great work that was done for so many years.

The small plane flights from island to island also showcased the beautiful oceans that surrounds the Torres Straits. It was scary at times on those small planes as the weather was very windy on one of the days whilst travelling.

In spite of the beautiful place and people, there is still a lot of challenges within disability supports. However, the local people are utilizing their strengths of 'word of mouth' and generally helping someone in need to access service providers and community organisations that may assist.

The local service providers of the Health Services do such an amazing job of connecting the community to these supports. We visited St Paul's Community, Kubin Community. ATSIDNQ spoke to the Health Services about the challenges and successes of service provision.

I received a few ATSIDNQ memberships from these communities and look forward to revisiting to continue the advocacy and support that is required.

A big thank you to Robyne Bowie our Cultural Advisor from Cairns who has connections to Badu and the Torres Straits for her cultural guidance and knowledge of local language, culture and stories whilst we were visiting. I look forward to revisiting the Torres Strait!!





### Gold Coast Disability

ATSIDNQ participated in this year's Gold Coast Disability Expo on 7th-8th June. It was a great opportunity for ATSIDNQ to build networks with other providers, organisations and agencies in the region. It was also crucial to promote ATSIDNQ in the region to the Aboriginal Community and community organisations in giving our mob access to better their lives or receive disability information.



### Dalby, St George and Oakey

Firstly I'd like to thank the CEO of Goondir Health Service for arranging the ATSIDNQ 'meet and greet' trips to visit Dalby, St George, Oakey Elders and the Goondir Health Service Staff, which took place from the 15th - 17th June.

On my visits to these communities, I was fortunate to see some significant Cultural sites and hear the strong stories and song lines of the South West Region.

The Goondir programs of connecting our people to services and ensuring our mob are supported through a 'social determinants of health' model was fantastic to witness. The local communities of the South West Region are very pro-active and are keen to support the ATSIDNQ Network to grow and inform policy and better support our mob with a disability, their carers and families.

One of the key themes raised by the communities was that the NDIS access and referral pathways are very complicated and confusing for many to understand. ATSIDNQ will assist to pull together a 'forum' that may address some of these NDIS issues or make the process of NDIS referrals clearer and culturally safe. ATSIDNQ is looking forward to visiting the region again and will attend the 'NDIS forum' once scheduled.

Whilst in these areas ATSIDNQ was lucky enough to sign up 10 new members. The communities are keen to link again through the 'Skype' feature each month.





### Hervey Bay & Maryborough

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Regional Community Liaison Officer and Social Worker of the Social & Emotional Wellbeing Program of Galangoor Duwalami Primary Healthcare Service, who organised the ATSIDNQ 'yarning groups' for Maryborough and Hervey Bay 23rd-24th April. Also advertising the visit on WIN News on their website. (Fantastic).

On my visits to these beautiful places, I was fortunate to hear about the Traditional Land Owners restoring the local language within the region. Getting language back into schools and the libraries. Great Stuff!

We were blessed to have a Traditional Land Owner to 'Welcome' us to country prior to the yarning group.

In the Hervey Bay and Maryborough community it is clear that a good discussion is needed about how NDIS programs could be more effective and supportive, by connecting our people to services and ensuring our mob have a clear understanding of these processes, by the services that we present. The Yarning Group identified that this needed teasing out a bit more of what 'NDIS support' looked like for our mob? The Hervey Bay Yarning Group wanted to immediately start planning an NDIS forum, similar to the South West Regions.

One of the key areas identified was the 0-6 years referral pathways through NDIS, which will be a part of the NDIS forum .

Through the yarning group conversations, partnerships and collaborative work was also required to enable access for our mob through NDIS. There was an immediate connection with a paediatrician and representative from an NDIS service provider through the Aboriginal Medical Service NDIS Coordinator. Awesome!! The NDIS service provider present is keen to present at the NDIS forum.

The NDIS planning also identified the need to get 'community feedback' by devising a few questions that the community could raise and have answered at the NDIS forum. These questions will be sent out through the networks, placed at the Health Service receptions and where programs are delivered. The questions could also be presented at current Elder and Community groups to inform the 'right' questions to ask at the forum.

We were excited to get 2 new ATSIDNQ Memberships from these visits.



# Burringilly Respite Centre

## *In The Community*

A huge thank you to the CEO of Burringilly Respite Centre who organised the ATSIDNQ 'Meet and Greet' for the Day Respite Groups.

On my visit to Burringilly Respite Centre, I met a few lovely Elders who weekly attend the respite centre. I met an Uncle who is still very pro-active in the community and ensuring that our people who needed support and services are represented in the most culturally safe way.

It was great to sit around and yarn about the ATSIDNQ Network and how they can contribute to the 'collective voice'. This was followed by a 'bingo' game which I enjoyed. There were 8 new ATSIDNQ memberships from these visits.

ATSIDNQ will also be visiting the other Burringilly Day Respite groups on their days to have a yarn to them regarding their needs and priorities. I look forward to visiting the Burringilly Respite again sometime soon.







# 2019 | Friday 19 July Goompi NAIDOC Community Day

With activities, information stalls, entertainment and food, don't miss this wonderful community celebration of NAIDOC Week 2019

**Date:** Friday 19 July

**Time:** 10am-2pm

**Where:** Ron Stark Oval,  
1 Junner Street, Dunwich

**For further information call:**

Yulu-Burri-Ba Aboriginal Corporation  
for Community Health on 3409 9596

Stall holders applications open now,  
visit our website: [www.goompinaidoc.com](http://www.goompinaidoc.com)



**VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH.** Let's work together for a shared future.



## Nundah Film Festival

It was a pleasure to accompany one of our ATSIDNQ Champions, Uncle Willie Prince, whose short film (Prince Willie) was showcased at this years' Nundah Film Festival. Uncle Willie is very pro-active in the disability community through the Arts. His short film was enjoyed by all and gave us some great laughs with his humour on display throughout the film. Well done Uncle Willie. ATSIDNQ is so proud of you.

PRINCE WILLIE' a short documentary directed by Ben Carr.

Synopsis: Since 1986 Willie Prince has been an institution at the State Library of Queensland. To many he is the friendly face when they visit at Brisbane's Southbank.

To others he is an inspiration.

Born in 1960 at Cherbourg Mission, Willie was hospitalised 16 times as a child. At two years old he was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and grew up in institutionalised care.

This film is about his role at the State Library championing the employment of people living with a disability. It's about his role in the community as an elder. However, it can only be a snapshot, an attempt to capture what Willie means to his community.

Because he has led an extraordinary life.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 5 JULY 9AM - 3PM	NAIDOC Cairns Fogarty Park, The Esplanade, Cairns
TUESDAY 9 JULY 9AM-3PM	NAIDOC Toowoomba Toowoomba Hospital
WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 10AM-2PM	NAIDOC Inala Family Fun Day CJ Greenfield Sporting Complex Freeman Rd, Richlands
FRIDAY 12 JULY 9AM-4PM	NAIDOC Brisbane Musgrave Park
FRIDAY 19 JULY 9AM-3PM	NAIDOC North Stradbroke Island Ron Stark Oval, 1 Junner St, Dunwich
THURSDAY 25TH JULY 9AM-2PM	NDIS Readiness Workshop QAIHC, 1st Floor, 36 Russell St, South Brisbane



Queensland Aboriginal & Islander Health Council (QAIHC) and the Inclusion Ready Project invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisations to a workshop on the Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grants.

These grants are available to organisations to deliver activities that help create positive and lasting change for people with disability and their communities.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Why is this workshop being run?

Over the next three years, the Australian Government is offering up to \$400M to local and national organisations to help them grow their capacity to deliver inclusive projects that directly benefit people with disability. This funding is being delivered through the National Disability Insurance Agency's (NDIA) new national Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) investment strategy: a blueprint for delivery of the ILC grants from 1 July 2019 to 2022.

ILC grants play an important role in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

National Disability Services (NDS), the peak body for disability service providers, recognises the gap in understanding about the ILC. NDS has partnered with QAIHC to deliver a bespoke workshop for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, community groups and individuals in urban and rural and remote locations with an interest in providing disability services and accessing ILC grants.

### What does the Workshop cover?

This workshop is specifically designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, community groups and associations, people with disability, their families and carers to understand:

- the revised ILC strategy and how it might impact the sector
- what grants to apply for, and when they will open
- what grant decision makers are looking for
- how to write a successful grant: tips & tools

Scenarios will focus specifically on disability service needs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. There will also be scenarios on rural and remote projects.

**ILC is more than just a grant program – it's an opportunity to be an agent for change in your local and national community.**

This is a [FREE](#) event.

**Where?** QAIHC, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 36 Russell St, South Brisbane

**When?** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 9:30am for a 10am start. 2.00pm close.  
Lunch will be provided.

To register please follow this [link](#).



Black History Month was launched in 2008 and was developed after talks with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community groups indicated strong support for a specific cultural program.

The communities suggested a range of activities for the broader community to enjoy and better understand the history and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Brisbane.

Black History Month runs throughout July each year and is a showcase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, heritage and cultures which acknowledges and celebrates First Australians' achievements and contributions.

Black History Month continues to attract a growing audience and interest from across academia, education, corporate and community sectors.

The 2019 program will offer unique experiences from Family Fun Days, children story time, dance, art exhibitions and more.

To view the program [CLICK HERE](#) or go to <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/whats-on-and-events/search?parent=1936>

If you would like to learn more about Black History Month, phone Council on 07 3403 8888.



Synapse developed a Yarn Up Cards resource which was designed to start conversations about the NDIS and provide examples of some of the types of supports and services available. If you would like some cards to facilitate NDIS discussions, contact Synapse:

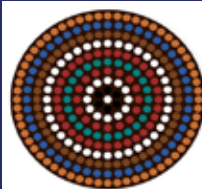
**Phone:** 1800 673 074 or **Email:** [info@synapse.org.au](mailto:info@synapse.org.au)



# 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](http://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. Please contact us if you are interested.



**ATSIDNQ**

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander  
Disability Network of Queensland

**Phone: 1800 718 969**

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

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

If you know someone who would like to become a member, tell them to contact us!



**Trakka App can help you get connected with local events, places of significance and local services!**

Get connected with local Indigenous culture. Whether you're an Aboriginal Elder in remote Australia, a young Aboriginal person living in the city, or a non-indigenous Australian, Trakka will keep you informed about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) cultural events, significant places and services in any location throughout Australia.

Featuring a calendar of local events and festivals, links to relevant local services and info on key local significant Aboriginal places, Trakka will keep you up to date and connected with local Indigenous culture. With a direct chat forum to local government, it's also a great way to have your say.



An app for women with disability to learn about violence and abuse

**1800RESPECT**  
NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC  
FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE

**WOMEN  
WITH  
DISABILITIES  
AUSTRALIA  
(WIDA)**



We are a **growing** network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people offering connection to **those with a disability, their families and carers.**

**ATSIDNQ**





# Seniors Guide to Qld Help

This app can help seniors and those who support seniors to:

- find information, help and support for specific life issues (transport, community services, future planning, aged care, retirement villages and more)
- understand seniors rights
- know where and how to make and resolve complaints



Now available free on



## ROCK THE BOAT

2019 National Elder Abuse Conference

**SAVE THE DATE**

**22-23 July 2019**

**Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre**

The 6th National Elder Abuse Conference is a chance for delegates to come together and exchange insights and ideas that lead to change, for the better.



**caxton**  
legal centre inc

[neac2019.com.au](http://neac2019.com.au)

## 2019 National Conference Addressing Abuse of Older People

To be held on the 22 and 23 July in Brisbane, NEAC 2019 will help safeguard the right of older Australians to live free from abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect.

NEAC 2019 is an opportunity to drive real change as the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety unfolds and a National Plan to address the abuse of older people is in the spotlight.

The theme, ***Rock the Boat***, means we will harness their insight, creativity and passion to challenge the status quo and drive action to end elder abuse.

NEAC 2019 will not be a 'talkfest', it will instead have a clear focus on developing solutions to serious issues to produce much needed change.

With your support, we are determined to progress the discussion around responses for older Australians who are experiencing abuse in a range of situations.

***Come on board and help us rock the boat.***

**To register go to [neac2019.com.au](http://neac2019.com.au)**