

Queenslanders with Disability Network

Annual Report 2018-2019

INFORM

CONNECT

LEAD

INFLUENCE

QDN

QUEENSLANDERS WITH DISABILITY NETWORK
NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US





Thank you to the talented QDN Members who contributed to the Art Competition.
The winning art features on the front cover of this Annual Report.
Congratulations to Jason Palethorpe and Leigh Elliott.
Also receiving distinction is the above art by Clare Gaudry.

QDN Annual Report 2018-2019



Leadership

- › 7 Leadership development events
- › 23 LSG Convenors
- › Peer Leaders Community of Practise
- › Policy leadership by people with disability
- › 19 events with QDN member sponsored attendance
- › QDN Housing Policy Champions Community Of Practice
- › 3 group convenor training days

Policy Contributions

- › 46 policy consultations and forums
- › 22 policy submissions
- › Peak Body Collaboration



Information and Communication

- › 6 E-bulletins
- › 54 e-blasts
- › 45,047 website page views
- › 16 media interviews
- › 7 media releases



Membership

- › 1,017 Ordinary members
- › 46 Corporate members
- › 297 Associates and Subscribers



Community and Stakeholder Education

- › 8 stall holding QDN promotional materials
- › 7 QDN lead and partnered events
- › 11 presentations at conferences or forums
- › 11 key events attended by QDN
- › 659 information referral
- › 17 policy areas



Governance and operations

- › Board governance and renewal strategic planning
- › Quality Management System recertification to ISO 9001:2015
- › Board of Directors Business Planning - QDeNgage



Local Support Groups

- › 20 established groups maintained
- › 1524 members across all groups
- › 152 face to face meetings held
- › Group convenor Community of Practice teleconference monthly



Vision

People with disability are active and valued citizens

Social media

- › Over 420 posts
- › 579 virtual network
- › 1922 followers of QDN page
- › Twitter/LinkedIn accounts established



Peer to peer advocacy

- › 1:1 support to 1066 NDIS participants
- › 369 group workshops



QDeNgage

- › Launched May 2019
- › 6 key bodies of work
- › 279 QDeNgage Consultants delivering this work



Getting on the NDIS Grid

- › 14 Peer facilitators engaged with over 8000 individuals
- › 2 development and training workshops



Nothing about us
without us

ATSIDNQ



- › 1024 members
- › 10 Yarning Circles
- › 4 newsletter
- › approx 3000 engaged across the state
- › 115 service providers engaged

Media Engagement

- › 6 media releases
- › 7 media articles/interviews



Information, Linkages and Capacity Building

- › 12 Changing Lives, Changing Communities community forums
- › 820 CLCC participants
- › Over 100 ideas generated



Engagement with Government

- › QDN election platform announced
- › State election Advocacy Kit for members
- › \$750,000 funding to QDN for Peer to Peer support
- › Engagement with members of Parliament and departmental staff

Contents

QDN Infographic 2018-2019.....	3
---------------------------------------	----------

Contents	4
-----------------------	----------

Part 1: Introduction 6

About Us..... 6

<i>Our Values.....</i>	<i>7</i>
------------------------	----------

<i>Our Vision.....</i>	<i>7</i>
------------------------	----------

<i>Our Mission.....</i>	<i>7</i>
-------------------------	----------

<i>Membership.....</i>	<i>7</i>
------------------------	----------

<i>Our Motto</i>	<i>7</i>
------------------------	----------

Chairperson's Report 8

Chief Executive Officer's Report..... 10

Part 2: Our Achievements 2018-19 12

Goal 1: To promote and maintain active, vibrant networks that inform our work 13

State-wide Member Network 14

Building Capacity of QDN Members:	15
---	----

<i>Event Participation and Development Opportunities</i>	<i>15</i>
--	-----------

<i>Summary of Events: Member Activities ...</i>	<i>15</i>
---	-----------

Building Capacity: Leadership Development ..	16
--	----

QDN's Website and Member Hub 19

Building Capacity: Information and Communication with Members	19
---	----

<i>e-Bulletin.....</i>	<i>19</i>
------------------------	-----------

Local Support Groups..... 20

Brisbane	21
----------------	----

Brisbane Hot Topics.....	21
--------------------------	----

Deception Bay	22
---------------------	----

Kallangur	22
-----------------	----

Mackay	22
--------------	----

Ipswich.....	23
--------------	----

Sunshine Coast	23
----------------------	----

Cairns	23
--------------	----

Sunnybank.....	23
----------------	----

Toowoomba	23
-----------------	----

Caboolture	24
------------------	----

Fitzgibbon	24
------------------	----

Gold Coast.....	25
-----------------	----

Gold Coast Hot Topics	25
-----------------------------	----

Normanton.....	25
----------------	----

Townsville	25
------------------	----

Women's Virtual Local Support Group.....	26
--	----

Launch of Hot Topics Stories 27

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network Queensland 27

QDN's Peer Leaders – Community of Practice 30

Local Support Group Convenors	30
-------------------------------------	----

Getting on the NDIS Grid	31
--------------------------------	----

Peer Leaders	31
--------------------	----

Goal 2: To let people know about the lives of people with disability and how to best talk with us 32

Community and Stakeholder Education 32

<i>QDN led and partnership events:.....</i>	<i>32</i>
---	-----------

<i>Presentations</i>	<i>32</i>
----------------------------	-----------

<i>Conferences, forums, workshops, and key events attended by QDN</i>	<i>33</i>
---	-----------

Information and Referral to People with Disability	34
Media engagement	35
Member e-Blasts	36
Social Media	36

Project Delivery.....38

NDIS Peer to Peer Advocacy	38
<i>Project Outputs:</i>	38
Getting on the NDIS Grid	39
Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Project: Changing Lives, Changing Communities	40
Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR)	42
Patient Information Booklet: Getting Ready for NDIS Access.....	43
Self-Advocacy Queensland Consortium	43
Ready to Go Project Celebration	44
QDN Business Streams	44
QDeNgage.....	44

Goal 3: Influence governments and others to bring about full and equal participation and citizenship.....45

Engagement with Government.....45

Federal Election.....	45
Engagement with Members of Parliament...	46
Engagement with Departmental Staff.....	46

Policy Leadership by and for People with Disability

Roundtable on Health and Intellectual Disability	48
Policy Submissions and Representations....	49

Goal 4: Grow an effective, sustainable and accountable organisation that reflects our values, vision and mission.....53

Board of Directors Strategic Planning.....	53
Board of Directors Business Planning – QDeNgage.....	54
Quality Management System.....	54
Board Development	54
Board Members	54
Staff	55
Casual staff.....	56
Consultants/Contractors	56

Part 3: Financial overview 57

Income.....	57
Expenditure	57
Surplus	57

Part 4: Appendix 58

Organisational structure 2018-2019	58
--	----

A core element of the work of QDN is connecting people with disability together to share information, connect, influence, and build leadership.

Part 1: Introduction

About Us

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) is a Company Limited by Guarantee, governed by a Board of Directors, who are all people with disability.

QDN receives funding from State and Commonwealth Governments for undertaking activities around information, referral and systemic advocacy, and for specific projects that align with our work and values.

QDN's work includes:

- › informing people about important issues and working together to create change;
- › referring people onto other Government and community agencies;
- › supporting local groups of peers to lead a good life in their community;
- › helping people with disability to have a voice in disability policy; and
- › projects that help improve the lives of people with disability.

QDN is a member driven organisation. It has three categories:

- › Ordinary Members – people with disability;
- › Supporter Members – family and others who support QDN's goals;
- › Corporate Members – corporate bodies that support QDN's goals;

Only Ordinary Members have voting rights and are eligible for election to the Board of Directors. New members are welcome. Membership is free.

Membership Application Form

Who are we?
Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) is an organisation of, by and for people with disability.

Type of membership
Please tick the type of membership that you would like to apply for:

Type of membership	Who	Voting Right	Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinary member*	person with disability	Yes**	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	support person	No	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> Support Organisation	organisation	No	\$35 (tax deductible)

*By this application you are applying to be a member of the company and agree to be bound by its constitution.
**Ordinary members have the right to vote and to be an Elected Director of the QDN Board. QDN is covered for \$20 000 000 in Public Liability insurance coverage.

Nominee
Applications for new QDN Membership need a QDN Member to nominate them.

Please tick whichever option below applies to you:

☐ I know a QDN member and they have agreed to nominate me.
Their name is _____

☐ I don't know a QDN member but would still like to apply for QDN Membership. QDN will contact you and a QDN Director will act as your nominee.



Our Values

AUTHENTIC VOICE:

We are with, and for, all people with disability and ensure those with limited or no voice are heard and valued.

COLLABORATIVE ACTION:

We work together to learn from the collective experiences, values and wisdom of people with disability.

RIGHTS:

We believe in and model a human rights approach that recognises disability as a social issue.

RESPECT:

We value human difference and diversity and build mutual respect through openness and fellowship.

RESILIENCE:

We are hopeful, even about the most complex challenges, and are here for the long term.

Our Vision

People with disability are active and valued citizens.

Our Mission

Empowering people with disability to be fully included as citizens in the social and economic life of the community.

Membership

QDN has the following membership numbers:

- **1,017** Ordinary Members –
- And an additional **1024** members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network who identify as Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders
- **603** Supporters
- **297** Associates and Subscribers
- **46** Corporate Members

Our Motto

Nothing about us without us.



Chairperson's Report

It is always a great privilege to take the time to reflect on the year for QDN as part of the Annual Report, to reflect on our work, the issues, the challenges and also the achievements. QDN has continued to grow and flourish during 2018 and 2019, to lead and influence both change in Queensland, but also nationally, to ensure it is nothing about us without us.



This year started out as the last year of transition of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland. What started out as an early transition and first year roll out for approximately 13,000 people with disability back in 2016 was due to reach full scheme at 30 June 2019 with over 90,000 people with disability. In that time, QDN has played a vital role in delivering NDIS participant readiness and targeted projects

focused on access, pre-planning and planning support and advocacy. There are almost 60,000 people with disability now accessing the scheme in Queensland, with many of the NDIS participants getting much needed disability support for the very first time in their life. It has been great to hear the inspiring stories of what this has meant for some of our QDN members and the changes that have happened in their life, such as getting a job, moving out into their own home, and getting out and about more in their community. However,

we know that for many people there have been challenges, both with accessing the scheme as well as navigating the NDIS, how it works and finding appropriate services in an often thin market in some parts of the state. The State Government and the Commonwealth Government have negotiated the bilateral agreement to extend the transition time for Queensland now until 30 June 2020. I know QDN will continue to work to ensure that the 30,000 potentially eligible participants yet to enter the NDIS get the support they need to make access and get the opportunity to receive disability services.

QDN has played a vital role in delivering NDIS participant readiness and targeted projects focused on access, pre-planning and planning support and advocacy.

I know that the NDIS is only a funding mechanism for about 10% of Queenslanders with disability, and that members continually tell us what is important to them. Having a place to call home, a meaningful job, transport that allows you to work or get out and about, access to good quality health care at the right time, right place and in the right way, learning and education opportunities are all important and critical things in people's lives. The Productivity Commission reviewed the National Disability Agreement this year, and the Commission handed down their report and recommendations. Critical to making all of these things a reality for Australians with disability is the National Disability Strategy. The current strategy is through until 2020, and moving into the future we need a strong, clear, strategy, that actually delivers action and change. We need a

strategy that holds each level of government accountable for action in a way that we can all be part of contributing to the change that needs to happen.

QDN took the opportunity to engage in the Federal election this year, and put forward 7 clear priorities across housing, health, transport, employment, NDIS, National Disability Agreement and National Disability Strategy, and the Royal Commission into the Abuse, Violence, Neglect, and Exploitation of people with disability. QDN congratulates the Morrison Government on their election and looks forward to working with the government to implement these key priorities and actions to deliver better outcomes for Queenslanders with disability. QDN was also pleased to see the bipartisan support for the Royal Commission and the calling of the Commission. This is a significant moment in history for people with disability, and I know that it will also be a challenging one.

QDN was also pleased to see the bipartisan support for the Royal Commission and the calling of the Commission.

Finally, I am pleased that QDeNgage was able to be launched this year. I thank Minister O'Rourke for taking the time to officially launch this initiative, and to Kevin Cocks for speaking at the launch. It's time to QDeNgage! Businesses, Governments, organisations and community can receive great benefits from planning, designing, delivering and evaluating their products, services, policy and environments with the input of people with disability. We make up almost 20% of the population, and are great contributors and



Federal Election Campaign



QDeNgage Launch

customers and want to be able to live, work, play and learn in all parts of our communities.

Many thanks to my fellow Board Directors for your work and governance this year, and your tireless dedication to this organisation. To QDN's staff, a big thank you for all your efforts, your energy, and your delivery on the Board's strategic goals and the work that does make a difference to our members and the broader community. To our allies and supporters, thank you for partnering with us, and working together on core shared issues and our shared goals. And lastly to QDN's members, thank you for engaging with the organisation, for your input and feedback, your work in your communities and helping lead and shape what we do and deliver nothing about us without us.

Nigel Webb

QDN Board of Directors – Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer's Report

I am proud of QDN's achievements this year, and the great work that has been delivered by a dedicated group of QDN members, our QDN peer leaders, staff and Board of Directors. It again turned out to be a very busy year, and our work covered many diverse areas including NDIS, housing, health, transport, and inclusive disaster responses.



The Getting on the NDIS Grid project was funded by Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors through to 31 December 2018 and the project achieved great outcomes in engaging with people with disability and the people that work with them who are considered hard to reach because they sit outside the disability service system. We worked with people who live in supported accommodation facilities, people who were homeless or at risk of homelessness,

...we were able to develop some great tools and resources that can continue to be used to help people into the future.

living in social and community housing, as well as people who were exiting child safety, juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. For many people, disability was an unfamiliar concept, and knowing about the NDIS and how it could help them wasn't something they had heard about before. The project had a creative approach to engaging people, and as well as people getting information about the scheme, we were able to develop some great tools and resources that can continue to be used to help people into the future.

This work led into the NDIS Peer to Peer Advocacy Project which was also funded by Queensland Government, Disability Services from 1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019. The work was delivered by a project team including people with lived experience of disability from pre-access right through to supporting people at their planning meeting. We worked with almost 1500 people in the project, and about a third of people had their access denied on often more than one occasion before they came to QDN for support. There are many positive stories that people have shared with QDN about the great impact of having someone to work alongside them to help navigate the process and give practical and helpful advice, to work with their GPs or allied health professionals and others in their lives in what can be a complicated and challenging process for people.

QDN also was successful in receiving a two year grant through the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) National Grant Round 2 for Changing Lives Changing Communities. This grant is in partnership with Queensland Council of Social Services, and we have also been joined by the Queensland Human Rights Commission in delivering six, two day forums in Toowoomba, Mackay, Brisbane, Caboolture, Gold Coast and Normanton. In each location we have established



Toowoomba Changing Live Changing Communities

a local hosting team of local leaders including two QDN members, and work in partnership with the local Council. The forums in year one have all been completed and successfully brought together people with disability, disability providers, families, Government workers and community. The forums have focused on how we can work together to create a community where everyone contributes, matters and belongs. They have generated energy, ideas and action to make change happen. I look forward to see how this work progresses in year 2 and encourage everyone to get involved in your community.

QDN has continued to work to influence the supply of accessible, affordable housing for Queenslanders with disability. The four housing principles that QDN developed, - rights, choice, inclusion and control were endorsed by the Minister for Housing, Hon. Mick De Brenni this year. We know that these four principles are core to getting changes in the way housing is planned, designed and built. These principles also are core to shifting the policy agenda that opens up opportunities for people with disability to have increased supply of secure, person-centred, accessible, affordable housing, as well as options for improved rent conditions, and options for housing ownership. Our policy paper, *Going for Gold: Affordable Accessible Housing*, now continues to play a key role in our work in housing, and shaping the work that is happening in this policy space.

As this financial year ends, I would like to thank all of our QDN members and peer leaders for working with us this year, for sharing your knowledge and insights and working to progress the rights of people with disability. To our friends, allies, supporters and partners, our thanks for your generosity, contributions and partnerships. To the QDN staff, you come to work every day with a commitment to what we do, giving your all, and sharing your skills and experience to help deliver great work and great outcomes. Finally to QDN's Board of Directors, for your stewardship and guidance in carrying out your role of governance, thank you for your hard work and all that you have contributed this year.

Paige Armstrong
Chief Executive Officer

Part 2: Our Achievements 2018-19

Nothing about us without us

QDN's Strategic Plan guides our work along with our vision, mission, values and motto.

There are four key goals in the strategic plan:

- Goal 1:** To promote and maintain active, vibrant networks that inform our work.
- Goal 2:** To let people know about the lives of people with disability and how to best talk with us.
- Goal 3:** To influence governments and others to bring about full and equal participation and citizenship.
- Goal 4:** To grow an effective, sustainable and accountable organisation that reflects our values, vision and mission.

This Annual Report provides an overview of the activities, outputs and outcomes achieved by Queenslanders with Disability Network over the 2018-2019 period, reporting against our four key goals.

QDN also has four pillars to support us as we go about delivering our work, the goals of the organisation and ensuring that it is nothing about us without us (see below).



Inform

Connect

Lead

Influence

Goal 1: To promote and maintain active, vibrant networks that inform our work

QDN continues to promote and maintain an active, vibrant member network that informs our projects, key activities and our systemic policy work.

A core element of the work of QDN is connecting people with disability together to share information, connect, influence, and build leadership. QDN supports members with disability to come together in different ways and locations across Queensland. QDN's state-wide network is a diverse range of people with disability with varying life experiences who contribute to informing QDN's work and key policy issues that impact directly on people in their day to day lives.



Ready to go end of project celebrations August 2018

**“People with disability are an integral piece of our community.
Let’s make them more visible and included.”**

– Leigh Elliot and Jason Palethorpe

State-wide Member Network

QDN's state-wide network is a network of people with disability who live in all areas across metropolitan, regional, rural and remote locations across the state. It is a network and knowledge base by and for people with disability, exchanging information about important issues, and offering an opportunity for people to have a voice around key systemic policy issues and experiences to deliver better outcomes for people.

QDN members continue to identify the key policy areas that impact upon their lives, and in 2018-2019 these areas have included transport, housing, employment, health, NDIS, and the power of peers (leadership, support and networks).

QDN continues to actively strengthen the voice of people with disability and the diversity of lived experiences so we can ensure Queensland is inclusive for all its citizens, and that everyone can have a voice and be heard.

QDN has undertaken activities through the projects and initiatives that we have carried out in the year, to grow and build the state-wide network. Additionally the Local Support Groups have led specific activities including stalls holding promotional material at events such as:

- › Discovering Disability and Diversity Awareness and Community Networking Day – Educating Everyone Event, hosted by Toowoomba Local Support Group.
- › Out & About in Our Community and Beyond Expo – hosted by Deception Bay Local Support Group.
- › Launch of Digital Stories by Brisbane Hot Topics group, at Griffith University Film Studios.
- › Community conversation about peer support and Local Support Groups, Toowoomba.
- › Gold Coast and Ipswich Fresh Futures Market Expo to promote QDN events and projects, hosted by Ipswich Locals Peter and Linda Tully.



Caboolture Changing Lives Changing Communities



Fresh Futures Market

Building Capacity of QDN Members:

Event Participation and Development Opportunities

People are enabled to engage and influence public policy by building on the foundations of access to information, skills development, and capacity building opportunities. QDN sees this as an essential way of growing the capacity of people with disability to be active contributors to public policy in design, development, implementation and evaluation.

One of the ways QDN supports this is through sponsorship of members to attend a variety of events, including ones that QDN has led, and others that QDN has partnered with other organisations.

During 2018-2019, some of these events have included:

- › Supported Independent Living (SIL) workshop.
- › Disability Action Week: Discovering Diversity, Toowoomba Local Support Group event.
- › Health and Intellectual Disability Roundtable, Brisbane.
- › Think Tank: Empowered and confident, disabling the barriers.
- › QAI Forum: Violence against people with disability in their homes.
- › Community Resource Unit Conference, Brisbane.
- › WWILD Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month Roundtable, Brisbane.

Summary of Events: Member Activities

QDN has a robust state-wide membership with a vast array of knowledge and lived experience of disability. Throughout 2018-2019 QDN members were represented at and contributed their knowledge and experience through their involvement in the following events, activities and consultations:

- › Changing Lives, Changing Communities (in collaboration with QCOSS) Townsville, 27-29 August 2018.
- › Micah Projects Moonlight Dinner Dance, 31 August 2018.
- › Launch of Brisbane Hot Topics Digital Stories, 11 September 2018.
- › Changing Lives, Changing Communities (in collaboration with QCOSS) Toowoomba, 9-11 October 2018.
- › Changing Lives, Changing Communities (in collaboration with QCOSS) Mackay, 16-18 October 2018 .
- › ASID Conference, Gold Coast, 14-16 November 2018.



Donna Best, Alex Baker, Rob Ellis and Paul O'Dea at ASID Conference Gold Coast

- › Changing Lives, Changing Communities (in collaboration with QCOSS) Brisbane, 28-29 November 2018.
- › Changing Lives, Changing Communities (in collaboration with QCOSS) Caboolture, 3-4 December 2018.
- › Changing Lives, Changing Communities (in collaboration with QCOSS) Gold Coast, 5 March 2019.
- › Roundtable: Health and Intellectual Disability: Upholding the right to health and life (in collaboration with ICAN, the Public Advocate and QCIDD), Brisbane, 22 March 2019.
- › LSG Convenor Training Days, Brisbane, 2 November 2018 and 26 March 2019.
- › QCOSS Community Champions training days, 27-28 March 2019.
- › Moreton Electorate Community Forum (pre-federal election), 30 April 2019.
- › Dickson Electorate Community Forum (pre-federal election), 5 May 2019.
- › Launch of QDeNgage, 28 May 2019.
- › Partnering for Growth, Partnering for Impact, Department of Housing and Public Works and QShelter Consultation, Gold Coast, 6-7 June 2019.
- › QCOSS Budget Breakfast, 18 June 2019.
- › Partnering for Growth, Partnering for Impact, Department of Housing and Public Works and QShelter Consultation, Ipswich, 20-21 June 2019.
- › Every Australian Counts – Let’s Make It Count – Day of Action, 3 May 2019.

Building Capacity: Leadership Development

Local Support Group Convenor Alignment and Training days: 2 November 2018 and 26 March 2019, Brisbane

On 2 November 2018, Local Group Convenors met in Brisbane for a training workshop.

The purpose of this workshop was to both inform the work of the existing groups going forward and to provide the basis for a funding submission by QDN in the Disabled Persons and Family Organisations Information, Linkages and Capacity Building funding round.

Highlights identified by convenors from the first meeting in November included how, as individuals and groups, they are influencing change. Convenors also raised issues around the NDIS. These included the challenges around access and the lack of providers on the ground, especially in regional and rural parts of the state.



Group Convenors working together

Convenors also raised the need for people with disability and families to better understand plan management and self management. Additionally, through participation in expos, conferences and advisory groups, they have been able to link into the community. Groups are growing, with more people connecting with each other within this safe environment.

On Tuesday 26 March 2019, 15 Local Group Convenors again came together for an alignment and training day.

The purpose of the day was to review the work of local support groups, share information and build the capacity of group convenors in their work to support their groups, grow their membership, and grow the profile of the groups.

Convenors revisited QDN's values, vision and mission, and reaffirmed what the Local Support Groups offer people who come along. Responses included providing companionship, friendship, a safe space, information sharing and the opportunity to gain knowledge.

Convenors got creative as they considered ways to sustain and energise groups. Ideas



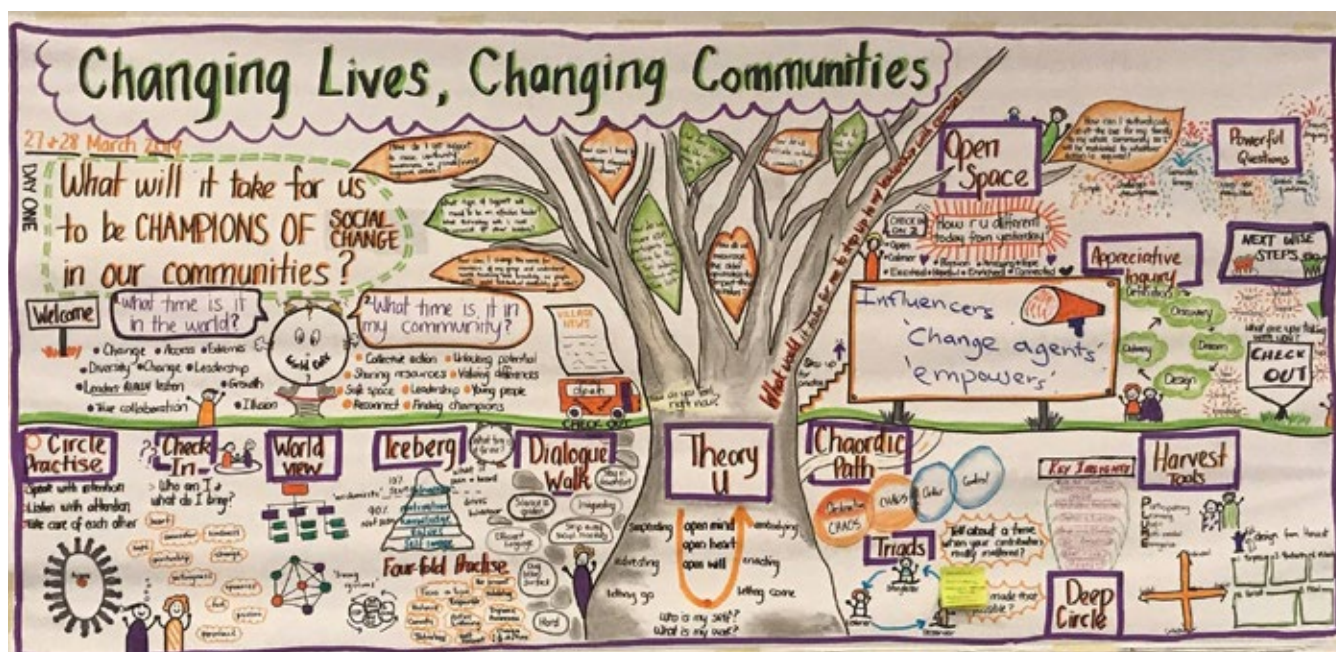
Wendy Lovelace and Gary Matthews

included increasing presence on social media, hooking into other local events as well as continuing to be informed by members around areas of interest and inviting guest speakers to share information around those topics.

Convenors had fun pitching to each other about their individual groups and a video was made about some of the highlights of being a convenor. This material has been edited into a couple of short digital stories that will be shared online to promote the groups.



Creative reflections of the work of the local support groups – year in review



Building on the work of Changing Lives, Changing Communities – a partnership between QDN and QCOS, with the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland (ADCQ, now the Human Rights Commission) – QDN co-hosted a leadership development opportunity for almost 70 people from around Queensland.

QDN sponsored a total of twenty-two QDN members who are Group Convenors and emerging leaders from across the state. The invitation went to the two QDN representatives who have been part of the hosting teams from the five locations where we have completed Changing Lives Changing Communities conversations: Mackay, Caboolture, Toowoomba, Brisbane and Gold Coast. Unfortunately our Convenor in Normanton wasn't able to participate. The invitation to participate was also extended to QDN Group Convenors and emerging leaders in our other locations so we were joined by Townsville, Cairns, Deception Bay, Sunshine Coast and Ipswich Convenors.

The training was focused on building participants' capacity in participatory leadership, designing, hosting and harvesting conversations that matter in communities. It was a full and successful event, with many QDN leaders stepping up to host and participate in processes, and lots of positive feedback received. Local Champions continue to be supported through online Community of Practice meetings, sharing information, learning new things and deepening skill, relationships and connections across the state as people go about the work of supporting social change in their communities.



World café conversations Community Champions leadership development training

QDN's Website and Member Hub

QDN's website continues to be our primary digital communication medium, fully accessible to WCAG standards for our members, supporters and the public. The growth in the profile of QDN has been reflected in the significant increase in traffic to our website, with 45,047 page views in the past 12 months.

We continue to enhance our website accessibility offerings with the support and insights from our members.

Building Capacity: Information and Communication with Members

e-Bulletin

QDN has had a strong focus on delivering communications that are accessible across our membership. Where appropriate, graphics are utilised to support text in communications. The use of multi-modal approaches to delivering communications have been well received, with the use of audio recordings or videos where possible.

The e-Bulletin is an external publication distributed by email to 1472 members, supporters and allies. This publication is also available through our website on a bi-monthly basis.

The e-Bulletin includes messages from the Chairperson and CEO, updates on policy work, project updates, policy news, a member profile, news updates from our allies and events information. The target group for the e-Bulletin is people with disability, families, supporters and partners in the community.



During the 2018-2019 year, QDN produced six e-Bulletins to inform members of the work of the organisation.

Distribution is to **1472** people across Queensland.

Local Support Groups

QDN's Board has continued to support the operations of local support groups across the state, given their key role in connecting people with disability through delivering peer support and peer leadership and being a collective voice to assist people to have the life they want in their local community. Government funding for this initiative ceased as of 1 July, 2018 after having been provided by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) for a time limited, two year project. QDN was funded as one of 18 national Disability Support Organisations (DSO) with responsibility for the development of a number of peer support activities across the nation.



Deception Bay LSG

As of June 2019, there are **20 local support groups** across Queensland, with four of these being virtual groups and the remainder meeting as face-to-face groups.

LSGs continue to thrive across Queensland, building individual and community capacity. Group members share information and tips in relation to accessible and affordable mainstream and community services, products and resources. Groups have also had a focus upon the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), supporting each other through NDIS application, planning, plan activation and implementation and review processes.

QDN's NDIS Peer to Peer Advocacy project visited and shared their resources with many of the groups. In addition, LSGs invited special interest guest speakers, engaged more broadly with their communities and initiated and attended community expos and other events.

QDN has continued to work collaboratively with the other national DSOs, developing an evidence base around the value and positive outcomes of peer support and advocating with the Commonwealth and State Governments for further funding for similar initiatives. This work has included the provision of information for:

- › The Australia and New Zealand School of Government and National Disability Insurance Agency review of Peer Support, May 2019; and
- › University of NSW Social Policy Research Centre's Peer Support Practice Review, April 2019.

QDN also collaborated with a number of other peer organisations across Australia to co-design a Peer Support Handbook. The project was led by JFA Purple Orange, South Australia.

The following provides a summary of some of the highlights and key activities of the groups.

Brisbane

Brisbane LSG Convenors Rachael Matthews and Lisa Mahoney have worked to support members through some of the highs and lows as they have applied for, received and used their first 12 months of NDIS funding. Throughout the year the group has had several guest speakers, including Paul Larcombe, standing as an Independent Senator; Ryan Foster, Social Inclusion Strategy Manager Brisbane City Council, discussing the Council's Draft Inclusion Plan and Faye Gibson, Community Engagement Officer, Brisbane City Council, discussing Disaster Management. During the next year the group is going to continue to work to engage with some more members, so they can share more broadly the support they all gain from each other.

Brisbane Hot Topics

Brisbane Hot Topics is facilitated by Donna Best. The year's highlight has been several group members receiving NDIS plans. In addition, QAI (Queensland Advocacy Incorporated) came along to discuss human rights and the group was assisted to fill in a questionnaire as part of a survey that went back to the United Nations. A digital story for the Self-Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) was produced that illustrated members' long history of advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities.



Brisbane Hot Topics LSG

The group had a number of guest speakers including Brisbane City Council; Queensland Health and the University of NSW. Some of the Hot Topics members were invited to advise the Department of Transport on issues affecting people with disabilities. Hot Topics is also working with QDN to provide feedback to the Commission looking at the abuse and neglect of people with disability. The group continues to have strong attendance and is gaining a reputation as an advisory group for different Government Departments on disability matters.

Deception Bay



Members of the Deception Bay LSG

Eileen Goodenough and Rebecca Bellis co-convene the Deception Bay Local Support Group. Local support group members' energy was focussed on planning for the very successful Disability Expo held in late 2018. The Disability Expo is an initiative of the group in partnership with the Moreton Bay Regional Council and local community groups and organisations. Other areas of interest were hosting conversations about the NDIS and My Aged Care, initiating a Community Wheelchair Ride with the local politicians, and representatives from Woolworths, Deception Bay discussing healthy food choices. Some great fun was had with the best dressed person and wheelchair scooter competition in celebration of Valentine's Day and St Patrick's Day.

Kallangur

The highlight for the Kallangur LSG was being a part of the Community Forum that was held in the lead up to the Federal Election where candidates were invited to share their party's platform on disability. The Forum was well attended - a lot of people came along and took part in an excellent discussion as they shared their knowledge and lived experience of disability in living on the Northside.



Kallangur LSG

Mackay

Gary Matthews, convenor Mackay LSG has been leading work to address some of the key issues for local support group members - social isolation and community participation. The group has been supporting each other to increase their knowledge and understanding of the community, what's available and fun things to do. Members have been involved in several activities such as Sailability, where members had an opportunity to go sailing. Sporting Wheelies was invited to a meeting where they discussed opportunities that are available in the sporting arena. Members have also lobbied the State Member in support of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme and have also helped friends and each other connect to services that everyone needs.

Ipswich

Ipswich LSG Convenors are Peter & Linda Tully, and Grandall Manning. The group has enjoyed guest speakers who have shared their knowledge of the My Health Record, assistive technology, purchasing supports, employment and volunteering. A Local Area Coordinator from Carers Queensland shared knowledge about how to plan for the second review of an NDIS plan. While Peter & Linda were travelling overseas, emerging leaders Grandall & Sarah Styles stepped up to be the hosts for the group. This led to Grandall taking on the Co-convenor role on a permanent basis. The group has expanded into holding a lunch at the RSL and a BBQ in the community.

Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast Group Convenors, David Thomas and Will Proctor have ensured a variety of guest speakers have come along and had discussions with group members. Guests in the last 12 months have included representatives from the Sunshine Coast Council who provided the group with an opportunity to share problems with roads and accessible paths, and a group from the Men's Shed to talk about what they do and how they can help in members' everyday lives. Members continue to share how much they appreciate the opportunity the meetings provide for getting out of the house to socialise and share ideas and experiences.

Cairns

Cairns LSG Convenor Wayne Maitland and members worked closely with the community over the past 12 months to support a positive future for people with disability in the Cairns region. The group has been focusing on the questions and answers that are most relevant to people currently negotiating support in rural areas. Members have continued to provide

a network of support. Members have spent time discussing people's NDIS journeys as well as continuing to supply QDN with a better understanding of what is happening in Far North Queensland. The local support group is excited to be working on a positive future for all our members.

Sunnybank



Sunnybank LSG

Mike Fisher convenes the Sunnybank LSG. The group is a very diverse group that continues to grow and support each other. It has had a varied range of meetings, speakers and engagement including sharing the experience of all listening to a replay of an ABC Radio program on the NDIS. It was great to share feedback and talk about the key things that everyone got out of the program, especially the individual impacts of the NDIS in peoples' lives. The group's June meeting was particularly well attended. As well as the regular members, a large group of African-Australian Swahili speakers came to hear a presentation on Avoiding Scams from The Department of Fair Trading.

Toowoomba

Toowoomba LSG Convenors are Sharon Boyce & Nadia Brady. Toowoomba's LSG continues to be a place where a diverse group

can share successes and take a group approach to problem solving individual challenges. When the group first started, NDIS was brand new and all had a lot to learn about it. Now that members are starting to get the hang of the NDIS, the group has explored a range of new topics this year. Guest speakers included visitors from the Council's CHANGE Program to talk about how to find accessible recreational programs. Sherie from Junk Made Art Studio also came to talk about sustainability and show how to make upcycled collages. So often it seems there is a focus on the life of people with disabilities as either a struggle or an inspiration. As members of a local support group, people don't have to feel like they can only show one aspect of their lives to one another, because everyone else in the group has some understanding of what it's like to be in their position.



Toowoomba LSG

Caboolture

Caboolture Local Support Group Convenor, Matt McCracken, regularly has between 26 and 30 people attending meetings, with the venue and catering kindly sponsored by the Caboolture Sports Club. Over the last 12 months Caboolture LSG has had multiple guest speakers including Carers Queensland, Local Area Coordinators; NDIA Access and Community Engagement Officers; a Lifetec Assisted Technology representative; First 2 Care, Plan Managers and New Life Perspective,

Support Coordinators. All have assisted members by providing valuable information in relation to NDIS access, planning and plan implementation. Coming together with each other provides an outlet for some of the members' frustrations as well as building friendships and the knowledge of the choices available in the local community.



Caboolture LSG

Fitzgibbon

Fitzgibbon LSG is facilitated by Bernadette Scalora. The group meets on a monthly basis and continues to come together to share information particularly in relation to people's journey and experience with the NDIS. This year, speakers included Angela Boyd from QDN's Peer to Peer Advocacy project to share information about the NDIS access process. Members were also involved in the Community Forum that was held in the Dickson Electorate where the local candidates were invited to share their party's platform around disability.



Fitzgibbon LSG

Gold Coast

Bev and Warwick Best are the Group Convenors for the Gold Coast LSG. During the year the Gold Coast local support group spent a considerable amount of time talking about how to get prepared for the NDIS. Bev and Warwick shared their personal and lived experience of their NDIS pre-planning and planning conversations and implementing their NDIS plans. Members also participated in the recent Gold Coast Changing Lives, Changing Communities Forum. Bev and Warwick stepped up as leaders at this event, acting as group hosts across the two days.

Gold Coast Hot Topics

Robert Ellis is the Group Convenor for Gold Coast Hot Topics. The group has had a great year with a lot of different speakers on topics such as how to catch public transport, how to vote, healthy eating, and advocacy and what it means to people with disability. The group has also supported each other and been sharing meals together to strengthen their friendships and relationships.

Normanton

This group is led by Tony Melksham. This year the group shared information, made connections and received additional support from key people and organisations in their local community including, Georgina Dray the NDIS Local Area Coordinator, Denise Robertson from People With Disability Australia, Alison Marten from Cootharinga and North West Remote Health Centre. In 2018-2019 QDN appreciated the ongoing support for the Normanton Local Support Group from local services, including Bynoe for providing the meeting venue and North West Remote Health for providing transport assistance for members to attend meetings.

Townsville

Townsville LSG is convened by Peter Gurr, with Marion Rowley recently joining him as co-convenor. The main topics of conversation have been sharing NDIS experiences, providing practical assistance which built the capacity of members having the ability and confidence to navigate their planning meeting conversations with success.



Rob from the
Gold Coast LSG

Women's Virtual Local Support Group

QDN has a women's LSG that operates via Facebook. The group has 33 members and in 2018-2019 shared 168 posts and had over 1500 views, interactions and comments. The group shares information across a broad range of issues relating to women including:

- › Women's leadership;
- › domestic and family violence;
- › sexual violence;
- › abuse;
- › Federal election;
- › human rights;
- › disability policy;
- › Royal Commission into violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of people with disability;
- › A&TSI issues;
- › reproduction and contraception;
- › NDIS;
- › Specialist Disability Accommodation;
- › education, employment, housing and transport;
- › information technology and e-safety;
- › inclusive health, beauty and fashion;
- › consumer rights;
- › media engagement;
- › parenting and children; and
- › young people with disability.

A snapshot of highlights
for 2018-2019

Local Support Groups

1524 attendees across all
the groups at meetings
throughout the year

152 face to face
meetings held across
Queensland by peer led
local support groups

20 established groups –
16 groups meet regularly
in geographical locations
and 4 virtual groups
connect through
social media or zoom

4 Group Convenor
Community of Practice
teleconference/Zoom calls

Wayne Maitland - Group Convenor

“ I joined QDN after I finished my diploma of counselling and the timing was just right. I do a support role with the Local Support Groups. I believe that I'm in a position where I can say what needs to be said and I can have a voice. I'm learning and we have some members who are really positively contributing. The positive thing about the group is that we know we've just got to keep getting out there, and we can do it together. Over the coming months we want to get into shopping centres and things so that we can increase the group numbers and spread QDN's message.”

Launch of Hot Topics Stories

QDN and the Brisbane Hot Topics Local Support Group partnered with Griffith University and the University of Queensland to produce eight digital stories, including seven individual stories and one group story in September 2019.

The work was part of research to look at the effectiveness of digital story telling as a tool for change and a way of communicating about inclusive policies and practices by and from people with disability to influence decision makers. Mr Morrie O'Connor, President of Queensland Division of Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability officially launched the digital stories and the Director General, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors Clare O'Connor spoke about people's stories influencing social and community perspectives and change at individual and systemic levels. The event was attended by 60 guests including family and friends of QDN's Brisbane Hot Topics members, as well as different policy and decision makers and key community leaders across the disability sector with a strong commitment to supporting the voice of people with intellectual disability to influence and inform public policy.



Hot Topics digital stories launch

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network Queensland



QDN has auspiced Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia (ADAA) to operate and support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network Queensland (ATSIDNQ). QDN receives funding from Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services for this network.

ATSIDNQ has had a noticeable surge in new members and activity over the year, and this was slow building as ATSIDNQ was without a dedicated project officer earlier in the year.

Also retained this year were two Network Champions: Uncle Willie Prince (Brisbane) and Semah Mokak-Wischki (Brisbane). The Network Champions have participated in meetings as well as representing the Network at events as required. The Champions have worked with Network staff to identify top priorities for their work. Having a voice and policy were the two topics identified as the focus of the work for Champions.



ATSIDNQ staff and Network Champions engaged with communities at a range of events including: NAIDOC events in Caboolture, Brisbane, Rockhampton, and Townsville;

- › Strong Mind, Strong Spirit Community Day – Toowoomba;
- › First Peoples Disability Conference – Tamworth, NSW;
- › Children’s Day celebrations – Pine Rivers;
- › Community event – Hervey Bay;
- › NDIS information and access support – Disability Yarn up Inala Indigenous Health Centre of Excellence;
- › Community Resource Unit – Inspiring, Connecting, Acting for Change;
- › Discovering potential, realising dreams - “Honouring the past, embracing the future” Forum at the Brisbane Convention Centre;
- › Access Arts NDIS information session;
- › Mater Hospital Elders Morning Tea;
- › Spinal Life Australia Wellbeing Series – Accessible Travel Conference;
- › ASID National Conference – Gold Coast; and
- › Intellectual Disability and Health Roundtable.

ATSIDNQ has participated in a range of industry consultations, providing input on the issues impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability in Queensland. Over the past year ATSIDNQ reflected member feedback and experience through participation in the following National Arts and Disability Strategy Review at the Queensland State Library;

- › NDIS briefing peak bodies, Queensland State Library;
- › Joint submission with ADAA to Productivity Commission’s National Disability Agreement Review Issues paper;
- › ADAA and ATSIDNQ joint response to National Disability Agreement Review;
- › ADAA and ATSIDNQ joint response to Reshaping the Disability Services Act 2006;
- › Submission to Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health – sent to ATSIDNQ Members for feedback;
- › Response to the consultation on the Draft Terms of Reference for a Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability;
- › National Disability Strategy beyond 2020 – ATSIDNQ in partnership with ADAA Policy Officer developed culturally appropriate questions for the Strategy consultation;
- › Response to Issues Paper Mental Health;
- › UN Special Rapporteur expert workshop ‘The Rights of Older Persons with Disabilities’.



Angela Ruzai Fracia

ATSIDNQ is committed to ensuring that all information distributed by the Network is both accessible and culturally appropriate. Over the last 12 months this has been achieved with the adoption of the following strategies:

- › Media release forms were used to ensure culturally acceptable practices when collecting and using images of members for publication;
- › Accessibility and wheelchair access is always the primary consideration for venues used for yarning group meetings and events;
- › The Acknowledgement of Country is always performed at all ATSIDNQ events;
- › The closed Facebook group offers a platform for members to engage and share their stories in a culturally safe space for discussion. Only members are added upon request;
- › Members continue to be offered access to culturally appropriate support and information from Indigenous Network staff;
- › Engagement of cultural advisors for regional/remote visits, for example to the Torres Strait.

ATSIDNQ, in partnership with the ATSIDNQ staff team, was instrumental in assisting ADAA to launch the 'Innovate' Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in April 2019.

QDN looks forward to continuing to work with ADA Australia, and the work it is doing to increase member communications and engagement facilitating a stronger voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with Disability in Queensland.

A snapshot of 2018-2019 highlights

1024 members (a **24.7% increase**)

4 newsletters produced and distributed

Engagement with an estimated **3,000** people across a wide range of communities across Queensland

10 yarning circles across **5** regions

Face to face engagement with **400+** people

300+ emails related to ATSIDNQ project work, **700** people per email

115 Service providers engaged



QDN's Peer Leaders – Community of Practice

QDN's leaders demonstrate the power of peer support and peer leadership as a powerful way to make change in individual lives and local communities. QDN's work in 2018-19 continued this focus on peer leadership and support.

QDN knows that community must invest deeply in leaders with disability, through training and development opportunities and ongoing communities of practice, to share information, ideas and learnings as leaders in their own lives and communities.

In 2018-19, QDN provided regular opportunities for our peer networks across the different projects to come together to do this important work:

- › Local Support Group Convenors – peer led networks to enable people with disability to learn about NDIS, and bring about change in their local communities;
- › Getting on the NDIS Grid – co-design of project activities by peer leaders, and delivery of engagement activities with participants of the project

Local Support Group Convenors

Local Support Group Convenors came together this year via teleconference (and now online on Zoom) for four community of practice meetings to assist each other in peer mentoring, offer mutual support, and create space for reflective practice about their work in their local communities. It is also an opportunity for members to discuss and action local issues and to provide feedback on big picture policy issues in line with QDN's Strategic Plan.

In 2018-19 Group Convenors provided advice on the following policy areas: NDIS interface issues (transport, assistive technology, community care and health), the QDN Federal Election platform, the Commission of Inquiry into the New Generation Rolling Stock, the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport and My Health Record Opt-Out.

QDN's leaders demonstrate the power of peer support and peer leadership as a powerful way to make change in individual lives and local communities.

Getting on the NDIS Grid



Getting on the NDIS Grid Team

Peer Leaders

The 14 Peer Leaders on the Getting on the NDIS Grid Project came together to co-design and co-deliver the varying activities of this project which focused on engagement with marginalised people with disability who are not connected to the formal disability service system.

Community of Practice	Activity	Total
Local Support Group convenors	Teleconferences/Zoom calls	4
Local Support Group convenors	Training and development	3
Getting on the NDIS Grid	Training and development	2
TOTAL		9

Goal 2: To let people know about the lives of people with disability and how to best talk with us

QDN has undertaken a wide range of activities to raise awareness about the lives of people with disability and how to engage with us.

Community and Stakeholder Education

QDN led and partnership events

- › Roundtable on Health and Intellectual Disability, Brisbane, 22 March 2019;
- › Official launch of QDeNgage by the Hon. Coralee O'Rourke, Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, 28 May 2019;
- › QCOS and Peaks Budget Breakfast, 18 June 2019;
- › Changing Lives, Changing Communities in partnership with QCOS and QHRC, Toowoomba, Mackay, Brisbane, Caboolture and Gold Coast;
- › Election Campaign Disability Community Forums, federal electorates of Dickson and Moreton, Local Support Groups in partnership with local organisations, May 2019;
- › Disability inclusive disaster management and planning forums, in partnership with the Centre for Disability Research and Policy at the University of Sydney and the Queensland Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS), Brisbane, Townsville, Ipswich and Rockhampton, May/June 2019;
- › Ministerial NDIS Forum, Toowoomba, QDN Board Director and Chairperson of Queensland Disability Advisory Committee Sharon Boyce co-hosted, 4 October 2018.

Presentations

- › Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability, 14-16 November 2018, Gold Coast, 3 presentations:
 - Getting on the NDIS Grid – Presentation by Alison Maclean, Paul O'Dea and Paige Armstrong
 - The Long and Winding Road of Self-Advocacy in Queensland – Key note presentation by Donna Best, Paul O'Dea and Alex Baker
 - We are the heroes of our stories: Hot Topics Shakes it up



Roundtable on Health of People with Intellectual Disability



Presentation by QDN members at Disability Support Worker Conference

- › Disability Support Worker Conference, 18-19 February 2019. Paul O'Dea, Alex Baker and Donna Best, Brisbane;
- › Workability State Advisory Group QDN Presentation on NDIS, March 2019;
- › WWILD Domestic & Family Violence Prevention Month Roundtable, QDN presentation on Domestic Violence and NDIS interface, May 2019;
- › Department of Housing and Public Works and QShelter, Partnering for Impact, Partnering for Growth State-wide workshops. QDN presented on disability and housing issues: Gladstone, Cairns, Brisbane and Townsville, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Ipswich – May - June 2019;
- › Inclusive approaches to Disaster Management hosted by Department of Communities – Disaster Recovery, panel member, May 2019;
- › National Disability Insurance Agency Board and senior national executives – two presentations on QDN's work August 2018 and May 2019, Getting on the NDIS Grid and NDIS Peer to Peer Advocacy Project;
- › Every Australian Counts National Day of Action – panel members May 2019;
- › Self Advocacy Resource Unit project, Donna Best, February 2019.

Conferences, forums, workshops, and key events attended by QDN

- › ANZSOG Peer Support Workshop;
- › Stakeholder workshop with Commissioners of Royal Commission into the Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability;
- › Accessible National Consultation;
- › Every Australian Counts National Day of Action;
- › TDSA Transport and the NDIS Forum;
- › Thriving and the NDIS Workshop;
- › QAMH Queensland Transition to NDIS for Mental Health Strategic Forum;
- › Bowel Cancer Screening discussion;
- › Get Building SDA National Conference 2019;
- › Sexual Violence Prevention, Brisbane Consultation Forum;
- › Tariffs Residential Customer Forum.



Paige Armstrong and Karin Swift present on housing

Information and Referral to People with Disability

In 2018-2019 QDN continued to provide an information and referral service to people with disability and their supporters, service providers, government departments and the wider community. In this period QDN had a total of 659 contacts with people seeking assistance. QDN's funding for information and referral finished on 30 June 2019 due to this becoming part of the NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building funding. People sought information and assistance across a wide variety of areas including:

- › Accessibility: toilets in local park;
- › Advocacy: support;
- › Abuse;
- › Discrimination: airlines;
- › Education: accessing TAFE;
- › Employment: Peer networks;
- › Health: GP affordability, My Health Record Opt Out, update on Halwyn Centre;
- › Housing: affordability, alternatives, Building Code;
- › Insurance claims;
- › Member support;
- › NDIS: access, appeals, eligibility, NDIA/LAC contact details, pre-planning assistance, self-management, waiting times, over 65s, transgender issues, Specialist Disability Accommodation;
- › QDN projects: Peer to Peer, LSGs;
- › Recreation;
- › Research;
- › Services: information, provider issues;
- › Social support;
- › Transport: Taxi Subsidy Scheme.



QDN members

QDN had a total of **659** contacts with people seeking assistance

Media engagement



(left and right) Federal Election Disability Matters Forum

QDN produced seven media releases in the past 12 months, across a broad range of policy areas. A summary of media releases include:

May 2019	Taxi subsidy to continue post 30 June for another year;
April 2019	QDN 2019 Federal Election Platform;
April 2019	Federal Budget 2019-2020;
February 2019	QDN welcomes bi-partisan support for Royal Commission into abuse and neglect and urges Government to act now;
February 2019	Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Reforms to improve choice, inclusion and control for Queenslanders with disability;
February 2019	New report from Productivity Commission calls for reforms to deliver on national outcomes and inclusion for all people with disability;
July 2018	ACCC Report shines spotlight on needs of energy consumers.

A summary of media related interviews and comments across press and radio include:

August 2018	ABC Radio Townsville, Changing Lives, Changing Communities, Michelle Moss;
August 2018	Queensland Government Website, Peer to Peer Advocacy;
October 2018	WIN News Toowoomba, Changing Lives, Changing Communities, Michelle Moss;
October 2018	The Chronicle Toowoomba, Changing Lives, Changing Communities;
October 2018	Street Cred News, Peer-to-Peer Advocacy;
October 2018	Townsville Bulletin, Local Support Group Convenor Townsville, Daniel Flynn;
October 2018	QCOS Focal Point, Changing Lives, Changing Communities, Sharon Boyce;
October 2018	Quest Newspaper, Disability Action Week, Deception Bay Local Support Group;

November 2018	ABC News North Queensland, Housing;
November 2018	7 News, Housing;
May 2019	Rockhampton Bulletin, Federal Election Issues, Des Ryan;
May 2019	Minister Media Release, Launch;
June 2019	ABC Radio National Breakfast, NDIS, Paige Armstrong;
June 2019	ABC Radio Capricornia, Inclusive Disaster Responses, Des Ryan;
June 2019	4ZZZ Radio, Local Support Groups, Louise Abson and Donna Best;
June 2019	ABC Radio Capricornia, Disability Employment, Des Ryan.



Minister Coralee O'Rourke launching QDeNgage with Nigel Webb, QDN Board Chairperson

Member e-Blasts

In addition to our bi-monthly e-Bulletin QDN distributes e-Blasts to members and supporters on a range of policy and special interest topics. During the 2018-2019 financial year, QDN published 53 e-Blasts to members, supporters and allies. E-Blasts distribution outlets include email, website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Social Media

In 2018-2019, QDN launched into the additional social media platforms of Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Facebook continues to be our most engaged platform, with QDN posting over 420 Facebook posts, followed by 1922 people. We continue to see strong growth in engagement across all platforms.

QDN Facebook page has 1,922 followers and QDN's Member Facebook page (Virtual Network) has 579 members.

Communications, Marketing and Media

QDN's public profile and reputation has undoubtedly been strengthened over the past year. This has been reflected in the numbers of engagements with community and political leaders across the state.

QDN's brand remains strong and research indicates increased brand awareness. With the launch of QDeNgage in May 2019, our brand reach has widened. We have seen a steady increase in engagement with our social media platforms and website.

Our capacity to deliver fully accessible communications across many platforms has expanded and we are a sector leader in the area.

QDN has been engaged to produce resources across many policy areas, with significant interest in NDIS resources.

Queenslanders with Disability Network STRATEGIC DIRECTION

QDN
QUEENSLANDERS WITH DISABILITY NETWORK
NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

Vision
People with disability are active and valued citizens.

Values
Authentic Voice, Collaborative Action, Rights, Respect, Resilience

Mission
Empowering people with disability to be fully included as citizens in the social and economic life of the community.

Our Four Strategic Goals

Goal	1	Goal	2	Goal	3	Goal	4
To promote and maintain active, vibrant networks that inform our work.	To let people know about the lives of people with disability and how to best talk with us.	Influence governments and others to bring about full and equal participation and citizenship.	Grow an effective, sustainable and accountable organisation that reflects our values, vision and mission.				

Areas of Focus

Health	Employment	Housing	Transport	NDIS	Human Rights	Power of Peers - leadership, support, networks
+	\$	🏠	🚗	🇦🇺	👤	👥

Phone 1300 363 783 | Email us at qdn@qdn.org.au | www.qdn.org.au | NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

QDeNgage
It's time to...
Connecting you to people with disability to help grow your organisation.

Got Questions?
email engage@qdn.org.au
phone 1300 363 783

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) is an organisation by and for people with disability.
www.qdn.org.au

QDN
QUEENSLANDERS WITH DISABILITY NETWORK
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NDIS Peer to Peer Advocacy

The NDIS Peer to Peer Advocacy project was funded by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors from 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019 with a purpose to support people with disability around the NDIS including access, pre-planning and planning.

The target group for the project were people with disability who were new participants to the scheme including people who are hard to reach and experience a range of complexities and interfaces, often with multiple service systems across homelessness, child safety, juvenile justice, domestic and family violence, health, and criminal justice systems. The project team consisted of Project Officers and Peer Advocates with lived experience, as well as a Project Lead.

Project Outputs:

During the 12 months the project delivered:

- › 1:1 support to 1,066 individuals (80% of these individuals were new participants to the NDIS); and
- › 369 small group workshops.

The project provided individuals with pre-access, access, pre-planning and planning meeting supports. A breakdown of the data showed that:

- › 22% of individuals were provided with pre-planning and planning meeting assistance only;
- › 78% of individuals were supported from pre-access through to planning meeting; and
- › 31% of people were provided with support following an access denied decision.

The project has resulted in significant outcomes for people with disability in getting access to the NDIS. QDN has developed critical skills, relationships and knowledge about what works and what does not when accessing the NDIS. For people with disability, data has demonstrated that the supports provided through the project have increased their capacity in relation to the NDIS and their ability to feel confident to navigate the NDIS. QDN continues to advocate on the systemic issues that were identified during the project, including the barriers to access, assessments, and the need to provide information and education to General Practitioners and allied health professionals about access and functional impacts. There are an estimated 30,000 people with disability eligible for the NDIS in Queensland who are yet to gain access to the scheme, and it is critical that these people get access to the independent and targeted support they need.

Getting on the NDIS Grid

QDN delivered the NDIS Targeted Strategies: Getting on the NDIS Grid project from December 2016 to December 2018 with support from a consortium of partners – QCOSS, Micah Projects, Community Living Association (CLA), and Community Resource Unit (CRU).

The project was funded by the Department of Social Services until 30 June 2018, with further funding provided by the Queensland Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors through to 31 December 2018. Alongside Peer Leaders with disability, the project co-designed approaches, tools and resources that built the confidence, skills and knowledge of people with disability considered hard to reach, in learning about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and how to access the scheme. This included people with disability in boarding houses and Level 3 supported accommodation, transient accommodation, homeless or at risk of homelessness, exiting child safety services, criminal justice and juvenile justice, and LGBTQIP+. The project also built capacity of the mainstream and community services sectors and health professionals around the NDIS.

In its two-year lifespan, the project engaged with over 8,000 individuals from community voluntary and mainstream organisations, faith-based groups, social housing services, caravan parks, supported accommodation facilities, neighbourhood/community centres, and health professionals.

QDN held a celebration of the end of the Getting on the Grid project in January 2019 with peer leaders, consortium members, staff and key allies to recognise their significant achievement.

As part of this work, QDN convened a strategic working group included supported accommodation owners and managers,



Getting on the NDIS Grid Activity



Getting on the NDIS Grid Art BBQ



Peer leader Tim connecting with potential NDIS participant

support organisations, Communities Disability Services, Department of Housing, Public Guardian, the NDIA, LAC and Metro North and South Hospital and Health Service representatives. The focus of the group was smoothing the NDIS access and planning pathway for residents eligible for the NDIS. The group came together regularly throughout the year to discuss issues arising and their impacts from their various perspectives and potential solutions.

Michael Cherry – Grid leader

“As a Grid Leader, the highlight of this project for me has been that I can help to get the message out there that the NDIS is happening. I love to see and help people get involved in the process of accessing the NDIS.”

“The Grid project is giving people with disability support in getting ready for the NDIS and giving them information they need so they know what they have got to do when planning.”

“Peer leaders have made a difference to the project by talking about it and doing presentations and getting it out there. It’s great because it makes me feel like I’m contributing. The more I talk about the NDIS with other people the more I understand it myself.”

Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Project: Changing Lives, Changing Communities

Changing Lives, Changing Communities (Year 1) is a series of two-day events across Queensland that bring together all parts of the community to build and strengthen relationships, and co-create solutions to ensure people with disability, and everyone, are included in their community. This work is delivered in partnership with Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS) and the Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC),

In total, Changing Lives, Changing Communities (CLCC) has been held in 12 communities across Queensland, reaching into diverse communities across metropolitan, regional, rural and remote locations. Six of the Changing Lives, Changing

Communities events in Toowoomba, Mackay, Brisbane, Caboolture and Gold Coast and have had a dedicated focus around disability and building individual and community capacity and inclusion, and have been funded through the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) National Readiness grant.

QDN has led work at these locations, in partnership with QCOSS and a local hosting team, to ensure approximately one third of all participants are people with disability. The other six locations have been led by QCOSS, and investment has been made by the QCOSS’ Board in this work. The work has been delivered in partnership in each location with the now, Queensland Human Rights Commission, and with each local council. Local councils are playing an integral role in the partnership and in delivering on community inclusion in their local communities. The role of local





Graphic harvest Changing Lives Changing Communities

councils in the hosting teams, and as partners in the work has been critical. The engagement of the local Councillors and/or Mayors to date in the 12 locations has been strong.

The following forums are funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and provides a summary of the total of 445 participants across the six ILC locations.

- › Toowoomba – 79 participants;
- › Mackay – 73 participants;
- › Brisbane – 93 participants;
- › Caboolture – 63 participants;
- › Gold Coast 102 participants;
- › Normanton – 35 participants (Held in July 2019).

For the 12 locations, there have been a total of **820** participants.

The forums have enabled exchange of knowledge about inclusion focused initiatives and actions in each community, and an opportunity to showcase people who are leading, shaping and influencing their own

lives and change in their communities. Day two focuses on turning ideas to action and to date across the 12 communities, there have been 100 ideas generated, identified by community and led by community.

The projects have provided a focus point for participants to generate ideas, actions and energy to initiate change. Stronger relationships and networks have also developed within the community, enabling a greater exchange of information, and supporting people to feel more confident in leading and influencing change in community.

QDN and QCOSs have also facilitated four 'Momentum Meetings' in Toowoomba, Mackay, Brisbane and Caboolture designed to continue the momentum of energy generated at the events.



Gold Coast Changing Lives Changing Communities

Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR)

The Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) framework and toolkit for Queensland is a project in partnership with the Centre for Disability Research and Policy at the University of Sydney, and is funded by, and in partnership with, the Queensland Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS) and the Community Services Industry Alliance (CSIA).

During May 2019 and June 2019, QDN delivered on cross-sector engagement across four Local Government Areas (Brisbane, Townsville, Ipswich and Rockhampton) in a series of consultations. The consultations brought together people with disability, family members and support workers, emergency services, local council, disability service providers and community organisations to share their insights about how to make disaster planning, management and recovery inclusive of the diverse needs and experiences of people with disability.

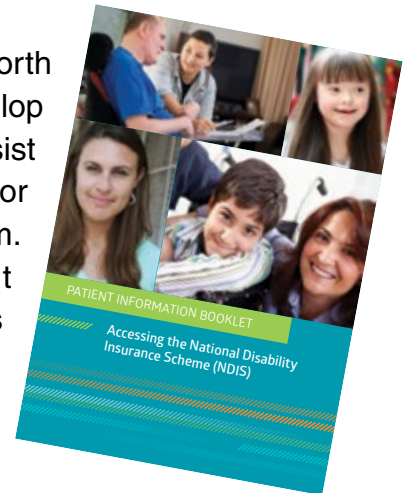
- › Brisbane – 2 consultations, 55 participants;
- › Townsville – 2 consultations, 64 participants;
- › Ipswich – 2 consultations, 42 participants;
- › Rockhampton – 1 consultation, 29 participants.



As part of this project a Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Advisory Committee has been initiated by the Department of Communities, of which QDN is a member. The Advisory Committee includes state and national level decision makers in the emergency management, disability, health, social welfare sectors and local and state government. The Advisory Committee supports the project by assisting with stakeholder engagement and providing high level support with interpretation of findings and advising on recommended actions for practice and policy.

Patient Information Booklet: Accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Following on from the work that QDN did in partnership with Brisbane North Primary Health Network, the two organisations partnered again to develop an information booklet for patients, who are people with disability, to assist them to get ready for their appointment with their General Practitioner or Allied Health Professional to complete their NDIS access request form. The resource has been well received and has been shared nationally. It was launched at the Caboolture Changing Lives, Changing Communities forum on International Day of People with Disability on 3 December 2018.



Self-Advocacy Queensland Consortium

Self-advocates across five organisations, including QDN's Hot Topics Brisbane and Gold Coast groups and representatives from those organisations have been coming together to work towards supporting and growing the voice of self-advocates in Queensland. The work has been built on partnership and collaborations over many years. The Community Services Industry Alliance identified this work as one of four strategic projects, and provided investment to support the group to build their capacity to put in a grant in the NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building funding. One part of this work was to co-design an accessible approach and resource using the Theory of Change with the Centre for Social Impact. The group came together for a fun workshop for the Theory of Change and the development of a resource that can be used by other people, including an easy English resource for other self-advocates to be able to use Theory of Change to help them identify their common goal and then the work that goes with it.



Self-advocates Theory of Change workshop

Ready to Go Project Celebration

The Ready to Go project finished on 30 June 2018 after four years of funding and delivery of over 560 activities across the state, to over 7000 people. In recognition of the impact of the project and the dedicated work of everyone involved, a celebration was held on 2 August 2018. All previous staff, current and past peer facilitators and Advisory Committee members were invited to a formal celebration and acknowledgements at the QDN office, followed by dinner. It was a great tribute to the work that has been undertaken, QDN's commitment to peer leadership and the impact that this project has had on individual's lives across the state.

QDN Business Streams



(left and right) QDeNgage Launch

QDeNgage

QDN's new initiative QDeNgage was launched by Hon Coralee O'Rourke MP, Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS) on 28 May 2019 at Royal on the Park in Brisbane, and attended by over 50 people. QDeNgage connects businesses, government, departments and organisations to people with lived experience of disability as Consultants and Representatives, to provide their expertise, feedback, and advice.

Since the launch, QDeNgage has successfully delivered on a range of work for customers including:

- › National Disability Insurance Agency;
- › Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors;
- › Community Services Industry Alliance;
- › Department of Transport and Main Roads;
- › Metro South Health; and
- › Queensland Health.

QDeNgage has engaged 278 people with disability as QDeNgage consultants and representatives to deliver on this work in varying capacities – as consumer representatives, panel facilitators and speakers, and co-designers.

Goal 3: Influence governments and others to bring about full and equal participation and citizenship

QDN works to influence Local, State and Commonwealth Governments through systemic policy activities and advocacy to ensure the voice of people with disability is represented and heard.

QDN's members, supporters and allies have continued to play a critical role in 2018-2019 by informing our systemic policy work and providing grass roots information to inform decision makers about the direct impacts of policy decisions in the day to day lives of people with disability.

QDN also engaged regularly and frequently with members of parliament, departmental representatives and key decision makers about issues important to our members and the lives of people with disability.

During 2018-2019, QDN made contributions at:

46 policy submissions/consultations/forums

Submitted **22** formal policy submissions.

Engagement with Government

Federal Election

QDN engaged strongly in the 2018 Federal Election, delivering a comprehensive QDN platform to candidates and parties.

The Election Platform was focused on seven key areas which include:

- › National Disability Insurance Scheme;
- › National Disability Agreement and National Disability Strategy;
- › Health;
- › Housing;
- › Transport;
- › Royal Commission on the Abuse, Violence, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability;
- › Employment.

An Advocacy Toolkit and a summary of the candidates across each Queensland federal electorate was developed for members.

QDN also held two community 'Disability Matters' forums in the electorates of Dickson and Moreton. Each was held in partnership with services in the electorates. The Dickson Forum had four of the candidates and over 50 attendees, and the Moreton Forum had three candidates and over 60 attendees. Both events were successful engagement in the election campaign and raising the profile of people with disability as voters in the political landscape.

QDN also worked as part of a national campaign led by Jim Simpson from New South Wales Council for Intellectual Disability around health and intellectual disability.

The QDN Board, staff and members had many meetings and communications with candidates and parties during the campaign and QDN thanks members for their advocacy during the campaign.

Engagement with Members of Parliament



Meeting with Federal Member Terri Butler about health and intellectual disability



Hon Coralee O'Rourke and Sharon Boyce

QDN has met members from major parties in Queensland including the Hon Coralee O'Rourke, Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, the Hon Mick De Brenni, Minister for Housing and Public Works, and the Hon Steven Miles MP, Minister for Health and Shadow Minister for Disability Services Dr Christian Rowan MP. At the Commonwealth level, QDN has met with Member for Griffith Terri Butler MP, Ali France, Candidate for Petrie; and Senator Jordon Steele-John and advisor Larissa Waters. QDN also attended the QCOSS and Peaks Budget Breakfast.

These meetings and events have provided QDN with the opportunity to raise the issues important to our members and ensure that the voice of people with disability is heard within Governments.

Engagement with Departmental Staff

QDN meets regularly with Departmental Director Generals, Deputy Director Generals, Executive Directors and other public servants to advocate on key issues. In Queensland, QDN has met with staff from the Office of the Premier and Department of Premier and Cabinet; Department of Housing, Deputy Director General; Executive Director, Strategic Policy, Queensland Health; Director of MASS, Qld Health Strategic Policy Unit; and Executive Director, Metro North HHS.

In addition, QDN nurtures positive relationships with the NDIA and this year has met with the Chief Executive Officer, acting CEO; Deputy CEO; State Manager; National General Manager, Government; State Manager, Governmental Relations; and Regional Manager, NDIS Central Qld. Peak Body Collaboration.

QDN takes a highly collaborative and open approach to collaboration with other peak bodies in Queensland and is known and respected for this approach. This work flourished in 2018-2019.

The 14 Community Sector peaks worked together to promote four key issues in 2018-2019:

1. The NDIS;
2. A Human Rights Act for Queensland;
3. Affordable and Accessible Housing; and
4. Family Matters– a campaign aimed at stopping the high proportion of children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds coming into the child protection system.



QDN staff with the signed Family Matters campaign notice

All four issues impact upon people with disability and the 14 peaks working together enabled the promotion of strategic initiatives around each issue, leveraging off the community connectedness and strength of the many hundreds of community organisations and consumer groups that sit under the peaks. The peaks welcomed the news that a Human Rights Act was passed in the Queensland Parliament on 27 February 2019.

The fourteen peak bodies are:

QDN, Queensland Council of Social Services, Council on the Ageing, Volunteering Queensland, National Disability Services, Community Services Industry Alliance, QShelter, Community Legal Centres Queensland, Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, Peak Care, Queensland Alliance for Mental Health, Child Protection Peak, Tenants Queensland, Health and Community Services Workforce Council.

In relation to the NDIS, a meeting of several peak body CEOs including QDN met with Minister Coralee O'Rourke and the Regional Manager, NDIS Central Qld to discuss the peaks' NDIS work. From this meeting, the peaks, Government and the NDIA and partners committed to work together to implement a range of engagement strategies. The strategies aimed to maximise opportunities to assist transition of the 60,000 eligible participants to the NDIS in the final year of rollout. The peaks endorsed key headline messages which they all publicly promoted over the year.

The Peaks also collaborated to host the QCROSS and Peaks Budget Breakfast on 18 June 2019.

QDN will continue to work together with other peak bodies, believing that we are better together and that collectively, we can make a difference. #powerofpeaks

Policy Leadership by and for People with Disability



Roundtable on Health and Intellectual Disability

QDN believes that it is essential that people with disability are leading the policy changes and reforms that affect them in their lives. Good governance is derived from having all parts of the system involved in planning, designing, delivering and evaluating policy and services.

On 22 March 2019, QDN joint hosted the Roundtable on Health and Intellectual Disability in partnership with the Office of the Public Advocate, Griffith University ICAN! and Queensland Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disability to progress the recommendations of the Public Advocate's report Deaths in Care (tabled in Parliament 16 March 2016).

More than 80 people attended the roundtable, including people with intellectual disability and family members and invited key stakeholders including Hospital and Health Services, Primary Health Networks, Government representatives from Health, Disability and Premiers and disability and community providers. A summary report with key outcomes from the discussions was distributed in April 2019. QDN will continue to work with the Public Advocate, Professor Nick Lennox, Professor Harry McConnell, and QCIDD to progress this work.



Roundtable on Health and Intellectual Disability

QDN believes that it is essential that people with disability are leading the policy changes and reforms that affect them in their lives.

Policy Submissions and Representations

In 2018-2019 QDN has made policy submissions and representations and has been represented in consultations and on committees across key policy areas:

National Disability Insurance Scheme

Consultations, Committees and Representations

- › Ministerial Advisory Group member: QTAG – Queensland Transition Advisory Group, National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Paige Armstrong, Deputy Chairperson;
- › Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services Partnership forum member;
- › Queensland NDIS Workforce Strategy Advisory Group – Workability Strategy;
- › National Disability Insurance Scheme Independent Advisory Council National Advisory Group on Intellectual Disability;
- › National Disability Insurance Agency – Psychosocial Disability;
- › National Disability Insurance Agency – Complex Needs;
- › NDIA Briefing for QTAG members on ILC, Brisbane, May 2019;
- › Presentation to NDIA National Executive Meeting of CEO Rob De Luca and national executive team on QDN's work and key NDIS rollout challenges for Queensland, Brisbane, July 2018;
- › Meeting with NDIA National Executive including action CEO Vickie Rundell, and Board Chair Helen Nugent, May 2019;
- › Queensland Transition to NDIS for Mental Health Strategic Forum;
- › Meeting with Productivity Commissioner to inform the Productivity Commission's



review of the National Disability Agreement Review;

- › Shaping the future of disability policy for 2020 and beyond – developing the new National Disability Strategy consultation, Brisbane, April 2019;
- › Australian Disability Federation Organisation hosted national meeting with key invited representatives from each state to discuss NDIS and Health Interface issues, June 2019.

Submissions

- › QDN survey response to NDIS Thin markets project May 2019;
- › Contribution to the Summer Foundation's Submission on Specialist Disability Accommodation July 2018.

Abuse/ Neglect/ Violence

Consultations, Committees and Representations

- › Sexual violence prevention: Brisbane Consultation forum October 2018;
- › Workshop with the Commissioners of the Royal Commission into the Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, June 2019.

Submissions

- › QDN submission to the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill (2018), July 2018;
- › QDN response to Royal Commission into

Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, Draft Terms of Reference, March 2019;

- › QDN response to the Civil Liability (Institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2018.

Government

Consultations, Committees and Representations

- › Cabinet-in-Confidence Confidential Briefing – Forensic Disability Service System Review Report, August 2018;
- › Electoral Commission of Queensland regarding accessible polling booths, advice provided, March 2019;
- › Queensland State Budget Briefing, Premiers Department, June 2019;
- › National Disability and Carers Advisory Council, Nigel Webb, QDN Chairperson, Council Co-Chair;
- › Department of Communities, Thriving Communities Leadership Group, Brisbane, June 2019;
- › Department of Communities Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Advisory Committee, May 2019;
- › Department of Communities; Information/Referral Clinic;
- › Attendance at Government House for QCOSs' 60th birthday celebrations, June 2019;
- › Department of Social Service meeting, National Disability Strategy - Beyond 2020;
- › A National Disability Strategy for Beyond 2020, Consultation, 29 April, 2019.

Submissions

- › QDN submission on Reshaping the Disability Services Act 2006, November 2018;
- › QDN Federal Election Platform, April 2019;
- › QDN submission to Register of Births,

Deaths and Marriages Review, April 2019;

- › QDN submission to Productivity Commission's National Disability Agreement Review Issues paper, August 2018;
- › QDN submission to Shaping the future of disability policy for 2020 and beyond – developing the new National Disability Strategy, May 2019;
- › QDN response to Disability Services and other Legislations Amendment Bill 2019, April 2019;
- › QDN response to A City for Everyone: Draft Inclusive Brisbane Plan 2019-2029, February 2019;
- › QDN letters to Ministers for Health and Disability regarding Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme issues on behalf of QDN, COTA Qld and HCQ, July 2018.

Housing

Consultations, committees and representations

- › Ministerial Housing Council, Department of Housing and Public Works;
- › Ministerial Housing Council Sub Committee on Disability, Department of Housing and Public Works (Paige Armstrong, Chairperson);
- › Renting in Queensland Industry Forum, Department of Housing and Public Works;
- › Meeting with Department of Housing and Public Works regarding QDN's housing work;
- › QDN support for Fair Rent in Queensland Campaign;
- › Partnering for Growth planning, Department of Housing and Public Works;
- › Australian Network for Universal Housing Design (ANUHD);
- › Queensland Action for Universal Housing Design;

- › Liveable Housing Working Group Member;
- › Make Renting Fair Queensland Alliance Meetings;
- › Australian Building Code Board Consultation, Brisbane, 30 October 2018.

Submissions

- › QDN Response to ABCB Accessible Housing Consultation and Options Paper, October 2018;
- › QDN response to Open Doors to Rental Reform, November 2018.

Transport

Consultations, Committees and Representations

- › Ministerial briefing in Queensland's position on extension of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme, 3 April 2019;
- › New Generation Rollingstock – accessible toilet design, telephone consultation, February 2019;
- › Price Waterhouse Coopers Queensland Rail Consultation, May 2019;
- › Queensland Rail DDA Advisory Group;
- › Transport and Main Roads Access Reference Group;
- › Public Transport Focus Group;
- › Opportunities for Personalised Transport (OPT) Review Taskforce Panel;
- › New Generation Rollingstock – accessible toilet design, telephone consultation, 13 February 2019;
- › Wheelchairs and Motorised Scooters consultation, 8 April 2019;
- › Queensland Taxi Subsidy Scheme – Campaign Sector Strategy Working Group;
- › Price, Waterhouse, Coopers Queensland Rail Consultation.

Submissions

- › QDN Submission to the Third Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002, October 2018;
- › QDN Submission to Draft Queensland Transport Strategy, Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Health

Consultations, Committees and Representations



Roundtable on Health and Intellectual Disability

- › National Roundtable on the Mental Health of People with Intellectual Disability Queensland Transition to NDIS for Mental Health Strategic Forum working group member;
- › Roundtable on Health and Intellectual Disability, March 2019;
- › Metro South Hospital and Health Disability Advisory Committee;
- › Metro North Hospital and Health Service Community Board Advisory Group.
- › Health Alliance Core Group (Metro North HHS and Brisbane North PHN) – People with complex health and social needs.
- › Meeting with Member for Griffith Terri Butler MP regarding national campaign about health and intellectual disability.

Submissions

- › QDN submission (and comments at hearing) to Queensland Parliament Inquiry into Aged Care, Palliative Care and End of Life, April 2019;
- › QDN written feedback to Metro North Hospital and Health Service Draft Bowel Cancer Screening participation plan, June 2019.

Advocacy and human rights

Consultations, committees and representations

- › Disability Forensic Service System Review Advisory Group member;
- › Disability Forensic Service System Review Ministerial Roundtable, December 2018;
- › Meeting with Electoral Commission of Queensland regarding accessible polling booths, March, 2019.

Submissions

- › QDN submission to Queensland Disability Advocacy State-wide Review, The Future of Advocacy in Queensland, January 2019;
- › QDN submission to the Human Rights Bill 2018.

Energy

Consultations, committees and representations

- › Tariff Reform Working Group – Department of Energy and Water Supply, member;
- › Energy Queensland Customer Council Member;
- › Electricity Queensland regarding proposed new Tariffs, Face-to-face individual consultation, March 2019;

- › Workshop on Energy Queensland Proposed Tariffs – QCOSS, March 2019;
- › Queensland Competition Authority Consultation on Smart Meters – QCOSS, June 2019;
- › Energy Made Easy Website Usability Testing.

Submissions

- › QDN submission to Australian Energy Regulator's Issues Paper: Queensland Electricity Distributors' Tariff Structure Statements.

John MacPherson – Board Director

“ I represent QDN on the QueenslandRail, Transport and Main Roads (TMR), and Brisbane Airport Corporation Accessibility Reference Groups. This involves regular quarterly meetings and irregular meetings when issues arise. I have met weekly for the last few months with TMR as part of the Next Generation Rollingstock (NGR) Project Working Group (PWG). The PWG has been working through the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT) non-compliances in the NGR train”

“The TMR ARG is a group of representatives from broad range of stakeholders, and we have been seeking strategic focus which puts forward inclusion and access for people with disability as a key priority is important for TMR now and into the future.”

“I was primary author of the QR / TMR ARGs' submission in response to the State of Queensland's application for temporary exemption from the DSAPT. It is important that people with disability have a seat at the table to ensure we are there as partners and from the beginning of the planning, design, delivery and evaluation.”

Goal 4: Grow an effective, sustainable and accountable organisation that reflects our values, vision and mission

QDN's Board of Directors have led the organisation during 2018-2019 with strategic foresight, dedication, and commitment to QDN's mission, vision and values. QDN has continued to deliver an effective, sustainable and accountable organisation. The changing environment with the NDIS has meant that QDN's Directors and Senior Management have had to continue to work with the emerging and often changing environment to continue to ensure QDN's work delivers for members, and our projects are quality and effective for people with disability.

The work of the past 17 years has laid strong foundations to continue to move forward, and maintain a clear focus on what lies at the heart of this organisation in leading and influencing change for a more equal and inclusive community and that it is nothing about us without us.

During 2018-2019, QDN's Board of Directors have undertaken the role of corporate governance with rigor and commitment, contributing each of their skills and expertise to position QDN now and into the future.

Board of Directors Strategic Planning

QDN's Board Directors held their annual strategic planning day on 13 December 2018. The Board members reflected on QDN's achievements and identified priorities and strategic actions for the year ahead, their governance and stewardship of the organisation and implementation of the strategies of their business plan.



QDN Board of Directors

Board of Directors Business Planning – QDeNgage

QDN Directors and senior management have been developing and implementing business planning for several years. This year has seen QDN launch QDeNgage, which is a new initiative that delivers a workforce of people with disability to help shape, influence and create business, policy, products, services and environments that are more inclusive for people with disability, almost 20% of the Queensland population.

Quality Management System

QDN completed a second Surveillance Audit against ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System on 7 May 2019. The audit was conducted by the Institute for Healthy Communities Australia Certification Pty Ltd. QDN received a clean audit report, with no unresolved issues or non-conformities. The auditor was highly complementary of the work QDN does and the integrity with which QDN does its work.

Board Development

QDN's Board of Directors met regularly during the year to make decisions on strategic direction, governance, staffing and financial matters.

The election for positions for the Board was held at the 2018 Annual General Meeting, after 4 Directors stood down as per the constitutional requirements. The 2018 elected Board Directors were Peter Gurr, Gary Matthews, Des Ryan and Hayley Wesbro. Matt McCracken subsequently rejoined the Board as an appointed Director in May 2019.

Board Members

Name	Position	Location	Director since
Nigel Webb	Chairperson	Brisbane	2012
John McPherson	Vice Chairperson	Brisbane	2012
Sharyn Boyce	Director Elected	Toowoomba	2013
Peter Gurr	Director Elected	Townsville	2015
Colleen Papadopoulos	Company Secretary	Brisbane	2015
Gary Matthews	Director Elected	Mackay	2018
Matt McCracken	Director Appointed	Caboolture	2019
Des Ryan	Director Elected	Rockhampton	2018
Hayley Wesbro	Director Elected	Brisbane	2018

Staff

QDN's staffing remained consistent during 2018-2019, however we did see some transition of staff joining the team as well as some that we had to farewell. We welcomed the NDIS Peer to Peer Project team who all worked during this year, and we said farewell to Denise Sands who set off on an adventure caravanning around Australia. We also welcomed and farewelled Lisa McDermott, Helen Higgins, Leigh Elliott, Laurie Perkins, Melissa Hill and the Peer to Peer Project Peer Advocates Stephanie Dower, Kylie Rogers, Peter Parkes and Jo Walters, during this year. We also said farewell to Sharon Turner who has been the administration officer with us for a couple of years.

Position	Staff	Status
Chief Executive Officer	Paige Armstrong	Current
Business Development Manager	Michelle Moss	Current
Projects Lead	Melissa Hill	To July 2019
Projects Lead	Denise Sands	To Feb 2019
Finance and Administration Coordinator	Mark McKeon	Current
Communications and Marketing Officer	Sharyn McManus	Current
Policy Officer (Networks)	Karin Swift	Current
Policy and Engagement Officer	Helen Higgins	To Sept 2018
Project Officer	Angela Boyd	Current
Project Officer	Kate Burton	Current
Project Officer	Louise Abson	Current
Project Officer	Rebecca Wesson	Current
Project Officer	Lisa McDermott	To Nov 2018
Project Officer	Laurie Perkins	To Mar 2019
Project Officer (Local Support Groups)	Leigh Elliott	To May 2019
Project Support Officer	Margaret Micale	Current
Administration Officer	Sharon Turner	To July 2019

Casual staff

Position	Staff	Status
Finance Administration Officer	Joanne Galvin	Current
Administration Support Officer	Cindy Hannam	Current
Project Support Officer	Maree Fairbanks	Current
Project Officer	Mischelle Surawski	Current
Peer Advocate	David Swift	Current
Peer Advocate	Mike Fisher	To August 2019
Peer Advocate	Stephanie Dower	To June 2019
Peer Advocate	Kylie Rogers	From Sept 2018 to Jan 2019
Peer Advocate	Joanne Walters	From Sept 2018 to Mar 2019
Peer Advocate	Peter Parkes	From Sept 2018 to Jan 2019

Consultants/Contractors

A number of consultants worked alongside QDN staff during 2018-2019 and we thank them for their valuable contribution, and for their dedication and commitment to QDN, our members and producing quality work:

- › Elissa Farrow (About Your Transition)
- › Rebecca McElroy (Bright Films Projections)
- › Clare Locke (Clocke Design)
- › Jane Geltch (Purpose Partners)
- › Peter and Linda Tully (ASD)
- › Janette Manley
- › Jo Cochrane (Multicultural Advice and Support Consultancy)
- › Valmae Rose (Marsden Families)
- › Cinta Graves (My Designer)

Part 3: Financial overview

Income

QDN's total income for the 2018-2019 financial year was \$2,178,052 (2017/18: \$1,470,796). This was primarily comprised of:

\$419,617	QDN core business
\$950,000	<i>NDIS Peer to Peer Advocacy</i> and <i>NDIS Readiness</i> projects
\$250,000	<i>Getting on the NDIS Grid</i> project
\$256,540	<i>Changing Lives Changing Communities</i> – ILC funded project
\$301,895	Other income from projects, QDeNgage and investments

Expenditure

QDN's total expenditure for the 2018-2019 financial year was \$2,097,328 (2017/18: \$1,604,470).

Surplus

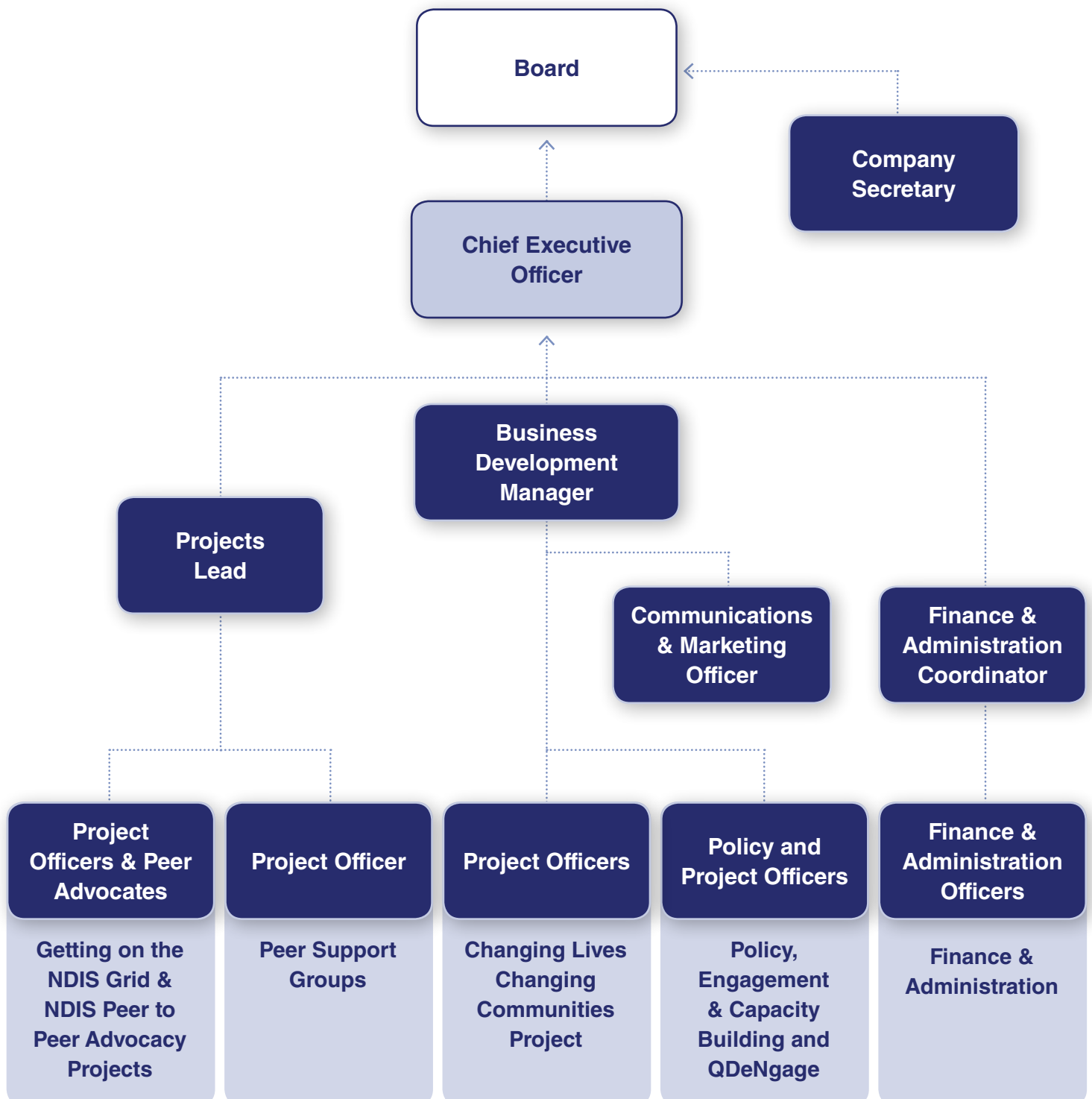
QDN generated an operating surplus of \$80,724 for the 2018/19 financial year (2017/18: \$133,674 deficit), principally as a result of successful investment activities.



Changing lives, Changing Communities Forum

Part 4: Appendix

Organisational structure 2018-2019



INFORM

CONNECT

LEAD

INFLUENCE

Queenslanders with Disability Network

is an organisation by and for people with disability.


**NOTHING
ABOUT US
WITHOUT US**

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