
**Response to the Department of Social Services on the
National Disability Strategy 2020-2030**

QDN

QUEENSLANDERS WITH DISABILITY NETWORK
NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

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About Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN)

QDN is an organisation of, for, and with people with disability. The organisation's motto is "nothing about us without us." QDN operates a state-wide network of over 2000 members and supporters who provide information, feedback and views from a consumer perspective to inform systemic policy to Government and peak bodies. All QDN's voting members are people with disability. QDN's submission is informed by the lived experience of QDN members with disability and key allies. QDN's work in providing feedback and input into National Disability Strategy (NDS) is based upon the organisation's core values (Appendix A) and the place of people with disability in an inclusive Australian society.

Overview

QDN welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Australian Government Department of Social Services on the review of the National Disability Strategy (NDS). QDN acknowledges that the NDS is part of a broader and changing policy landscape that includes the introduction and implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) from 1 July 2013, the review of the National Disability Agreement (NDA) in 2018 by the Productivity Commission, and the endorsement of the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 (NDS) in February 2011. Queensland has also endorsed the All Abilities Queensland: Opportunities for All: State Disability Plan 2017-2020 with linked individual departmental disability service plans that aim to deliver on the Queensland Government's vision to help build an inclusive Queensland for all Queenslanders, so the one in five Queenslanders with disability can thrive and reach their full potential as equal citizens.

QDN acknowledges that, over the past three decades, all levels of government have been working towards improving outcomes for people with disability and delivering more inclusive communities.

"The review of the National Disability Strategy is a major opportunity for people with disability to see their rights in this country improve over the next decade." (QDN member consultation - 23 October 2020)

The cross-jurisdictional and cross-portfolio responsibilities of governments for ensuring good outcomes for people with disability are clearly expressed in the 2008 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD provides the framework for Australia's international obligations across all levels of government. QDN believes this needs to underpin all agreements, strategies and reporting frameworks in order to deliver more inclusive lives of people with disability.

In line with the NDS's objective, QDN and our members are committed to ensuring people with disability and their carers have an enhanced quality of life and can participate as valued members of the community. Within this changing legislative and policy landscape, it is critical

that regulatory frameworks deliver governance, accountability mechanisms and ways of measuring outputs and outcomes that are informed by people with disability. The NDIS is part of large-scale transformational change delivering much needed supports for 10 percent of Australians with disability. However, it is important that the implementation of the NDIS does not overshadow the need for big picture responses and outcomes needed for all Australians with disability, and that an accountability governance mechanism exists to deliver coherent outcomes for people with disability who access services provided by Commonwealth, State and Territory and Local Governments. The National Disability Strategy provides the architecture for this.

QDN also notes that, going forward, it will be important that a NDA and NDS policy framework contains goals that are linked to specific actions and outcomes that can be measured and reported. QDN supports the actions that going forward the NDS needs to have a dedicated focus on measurable outcomes with a clear articulation of each of the governments' roles and responsibilities in achieving the outcomes and meaningful change within a combined agreement/strategy document. Each level of government has a responsibility for delivering accessible, affordable, safe and quality services for all people with disability. While the NDIS focuses on specialist disability supports, there remains problematic interface issues with mainstream services and challenges for Australians with disability in accessing these services. A revised strategy needs to be underpinned by stronger alignment with the CRPD, that provides greater accountability in ensuring that all levels of governments deliver on their CRPD obligations. Whilst Australia regularly reports on its obligations to this international instrument, consideration could be given to how this could be integrated as part of the accountability, measurement and reporting framework.

The NDS has been in place for the 4.4 million people with disability in Australia. QDN has observed that the implementation of the NDIS appears to be taking the focus away from the many issues that face thousands of people with disability, the majority of whom will not receive funded supports under the NDIS. In Queensland, this includes all 900,000 people with disability not only the estimated 10 percent or approximately 90,000 Queenslanders with disability who will be eligible for funded supports under the NDIS.

QDN members are reporting unintended consequences around the implementation of the NDIS including gaps in services and a lack of expertise to deliver services to people with disability within the mainstream service system.

“There has been a reliance by Governments on saying we have a strategy and that the NDIS will solve all the problems, but we have not seen the monitoring, measuring and reporting on outcomes. We have not heard from the voice of people with disability on how it has impacted or changed things in our lives.” (QDN member – consultation 23 October 2020)

There are a range of services and supports which people need to access across health, housing, transport, education, employment, justice, digital technology, culture, sport, and recreation. Because of the architecture of the bilateral agreements between State/Territories and the Commonwealth, since the NDIS rollout in Queensland, QDN members report the emergence of gaps in services for a broad range of people with disability. Going forward, the mechanism that the Commonwealth and State/Territories use to govern responsibility and outcomes for achieving better access, outcomes and experience across these key areas of people's lives needs to ensure that it is there for all Australians with disability and delivers accountability measures for everyone.

While the NDIS, NDS and jurisdictional disability plans increase the focus on the issues related to the impact of disability, there are still many accountability measures needed to ensure communities are truly accessible and inclusive. Having accessible communities is the first step towards inclusion and participation in community life, in employment and in housing and in engagement with communication and information systems.

“We don't actually collect the data and the information to be able to report on all aspects of the strategy.” (QDN member – consultation 23 October 2020)

QDN supports specific measurable goals against a newly created strategy, that are created in consultation with people with disability and are routinely measured by the Commonwealth Government and reported publically.

Through QDN's statewide member network, QDN members continue to raise the issues and challenges they face accessing mainstream services like health, housing, transport, employment, education, sport etc. Some believe that this is being exacerbated by the introduction of the NDIS and the poor delineation of responsibility between individual specialist disability support and mainstream service delivery.

“When Australia reported recently to the United Nations on the outcomes achieved, there were many gaps across the mainstream services.” (QDN member – consultation 23 October 2020)

While Information Linkage and Capacity Building (ILC) funding is an important way to improve community inclusion for people with disability, it does not respond to the investment in workforce activities needed to deliver the increased skill, knowledge and expertise required of mainstream services like health, housing, employment, education, police, the courts, and transport so they can to deliver appropriate, accessible, quality and safe services to all people with disability. This requires additional focus, targets, strategies and measures to deliver improved accountability and outcomes across all portfolio areas within State/Territory and Commonwealth Governments.

The Information Linkage and Capacity Building Framework (ILC) under the NDIS plays an important role in facilitating referral and linkages to and from mainstream service systems for

people with disability. QDN acknowledges the importance of the ILC, however its implementation and investment is inadequate to deliver on the critically important work and outcomes for all of the Australians with disability who are ineligible for funded supports under the NDIS. QDN argues the need for ongoing substantial investment in ILC and argues for the Commonwealth to fund ILC to a level that can achieve impact and outcomes and real change.

Given the transformational change involved in national reforms such as the NDIS and NDS and the touch points for disability across multiple portfolios, QDN supports mechanisms which give a central governance structure and focus on disability within Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments. A centralised and linked structure would ensure co-ordinated linking across disability national reforms and related National Agreements. These central agencies should also ensure specific engagement and representation by people with disability within dedicated advisory and monitoring bodies to inform the planning, design, delivery and implementation of these national policy mechanisms.

Critical to all of this is the access to funded independent individual and systemic advocacy for people with disability and their families and carers.

The Productivity Commission's review of the National Disability Agreement (NDA) Productivity Commission Study Report published in January 2019 outlines a range of recommendations and opening remarks that state that it no longer serves its purpose, has a weak influence on policy and its performance targets show no progress in improving the wellbeing of people with disability¹. In the Commission's report, it states that a new agreement is needed to promote cooperation, enhance accountability and clarify roles and responsibilities of governments. The report also goes on to state that the purpose of a new NDA would be to provide an overarching agreement for disability policy, to clarify roles and responsibilities, to promote cooperation and to enhance accountability. The new NDA should:

- set out the aspirational objective for disability policy in Australia — people with disability and their carers have an enhanced quality of life and participate as valued members of the community — and acknowledge and reflect the rights committed to by Australia under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities — outline the roles and responsibilities of governments in progressing that objective; the outcomes being sought for people with disability; and a nationally consistent performance reporting framework for tracking progress against those outcomes. It also states that the NDS should continue to play the essential role of articulating policy actions, with these actions explicitly linked to the new NDA's outcomes².

¹ Australian Government, Productivity Commission. (2019) Review of the National Disability Agreement Productivity Commission Study Report. <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/disability-agreement/report/disability-agreement.pdf> page 2

² Australian Government, Productivity Commission. (2019) Review of the National Disability Agreement Productivity Commission Study Report. <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/disability-agreement/report/disability-agreement.pdf> page 2

QDN supports the recommendations of the Productivity Commissions' report and believes they need to be a critical consideration in the development of the NDS 2020-2030 and the architecture of these important mechanisms to drive real action and real change.

Current strategy and vision

The NDS is an important policy tool that has the opportunity and potential to drive change and deliver outcomes for Australians with disability. Through QDN's consultation with members for this submission, feedback was consistent that whilst some acknowledged that in the past ten years there are some things in their lives and communities that have changed, the overwhelming feedback was that there is a still long way to go to see the change that is expected and needed.

QDN acknowledges and supports the proposed vision for the new strategy "An inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to fulfil their potential as equal members of the community." It is complementary to QDN's vision that is "people with disability are active and valued citizens" and QDN's mission that is "empowering people with disability to be fully included as citizens in the social and economic life of the community."

QDN supports the six outcomes areas under the current Strategy as the most appropriate areas and can be retained in the next strategy going forward.

In addition to this, QDN recommends that Outcome 6 include specific goals and strategies around disability inclusive disaster risk reduction and inclusive emergency preparedness, response and recovery. 2019 and 2020 have demonstrated the catastrophic impact of natural disasters like bush fires, floods, cyclones, and a global pandemic with COVID-19. These recent events and many more throughout recent times highlight the disproportionate disadvantage and exclusion from emergency preparedness, response and recovery that people with disability experience and the risk and impact that this has on people with disability's lives.

Internationally, it has been acknowledged that people with disability have been left behind in disaster preparedness and consequently, experience greater disadvantage and challenges. People with disability are disproportionately affected before, during, and after disaster triggered by natural hazard emergencies.³

QDN peer leaders and QDN members across the state have been engaged in internationally leading research and work in this area over the past 18 months. Through the Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Project in partnership with the University of Sydney,

3 Stough, L., & Kelman, I. (2017). People with disabilities and disasters. In H. Rodriguez, J. Trainor, & W. Donner (Eds.), *Handbook of Disaster Research* 2nd ed., pp. 225-242. Cham, Switzerland: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-63254-4_12

Community Services Industry Alliance (CSIA) and Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Queenslanders with disability have been engaging in inclusive disaster risk reduction and preparedness and developing tools and resources to support others to do this. This work has received two awards – the Queensland Inspector General Emergency Management Champion of Change Award 2020 and the Queensland Community section of the 2020 Resilient Australia Awards. For information about the project and resources [click here](#).

Australia is a signatory to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) (2015-2030) (UNISDR, 2015) that outlines responsibility to find ways to ensure everyone is well prepared for disasters. The Sendai Framework established, for the first time, that people with disabilities are to be regarded as contributing stakeholders in DRR noting that, “Persons with disabilities and their organizations are critical in the assessment of disaster risk and in designing and implementing plans tailored to specific requirements, taking into consideration, inter alia, the principles of universal design” (Para.V.36.iii, p. 23). Upholding Australia’s commitments to international frameworks and conventions (e.g., the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability) requires the inclusion of people with disability in the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery of disasters.

Governments play a vital role during disasters and emergencies to ensure all members of the community can access the information they need to:

- assess their risk;
- understand and make a plan for the steps they need to take to ensure they can stay safe, before, during and after a natural hazard or other emergency;
- make informed decisions about the actions to take during the emergency, and;
- take care of their health and well-being and adapt to the impact of the disaster and know where to go for help if they need it.

Further to this, cross-sector collaboration and responsibility is critical to delivering responsive, integrated strategies to deliver reduced risk and increased safety for all members of the community, and particularly for people with disability. To build the capacity and resilience of people with disability, they need to be included, and have access to the information, tools and effective mechanisms that support their full participation and work collaboratively with their support networks and broader services to deliver this. The reduced capacity of people with disability to take effective action in emergency situations increases their risks and also impacts upon recovery⁴. The vulnerability of people with

⁴ Adams, R., Eisenman, D., & Glik, D. (2019). Community Advantage and Individual Self-Efficacy Promote Disaster Preparedness: A Multilevel Model among Persons with Disabilities. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*, 16(15), pp. 2779. DOI:<https://dx.doi.org/10.3390%2Fijerph16152779>

disability is further increased because people with disability have not been included in community-level disaster preparedness⁵.

It is broadly acknowledged that people with disability face additional risks, barriers and impacts in emergency planning and response. This relates not only to their health and disability needs, but is also impacted by individual and contextual factors such as age, gender, socio-economic status, family environment, where someone lives, whether they are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and whether they are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

It is important going forward that the NDS includes disability inclusive disaster and emergency preparedness, response and recovery as critical outcome and actions to drive the change needed and deliver better outcomes for people with disability in this area.

QDN also believes that the outcomes need a stronger focus and emphasis on the leadership of people with disability. Key to driving change is the leadership by people with disability and QDN supports any strategies and outcomes that have a key focus on leadership.

Guiding principles and community attitudes

QDN members identified that the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (CRPD) are key to delivering a more inclusive Australia. QDN members also identified the principle of 'nothing about us without us' and the need for people with disability to be front and centre; to ensure they are more empowered and included, as full equal citizens.

QDN supports the principles outlined in addition to Article 3 of the UN CRPD and the need for meaningful engagement with people with disability in the planning, design, delivery and evaluation of the services and supports and the outcomes of the NDS.

Throughout the consultation with QDN members, a consistent theme was the critical need for change in community attitudes. Members talked about the importance of shifting community perceptions about the potential of people with disability, their contributions to community rather than see people in the context of their disability.

Article 8 of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* requires the government to:

⁵ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR/UNDRR). (2014). *UNISDR 2013 Survey on Living with Disabilities and Disasters: Key findings*. New York: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Stough, L., & Kelman, I. (2017). People with disabilities and disasters. In H. Rodriguez, J. Trainor, & W. Donner (Eds.), *Handbook of Disaster Research 2nd ed.*, pp. 225-242. Cham, Switzerland:Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-63254-4_12

Raise awareness ... foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities... combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices ... [and] promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.ⁱ

***“The incentive for change needs to be strong enough to drive action to meet the targets.”
(QDN member – consultation 23 October 2020)***

The Disability Royal Commission (DRC) continues to receive evidence about the impacts and outcomes of poor community attitudes about disability and the significant harm, abuse, exploitation, violence and preventable deaths experienced by people with disability. As reports and submissions to the DRC highlight, community attitudes not only impact on the enablement of inclusion and participation but also the exclusion and abuse. It is critical going forward that the NDS is able to lead true change built on the foundations of collaboration across all areas community, Government, non-government and business.

“Hear from the Disability Royal Commission Report and spend time with Australians with disability.” (QDN member survey October 2020)

Some of the key areas raised by QDN members included employment, education, health and housing and the inclusion and participation of people with disability. Progress in these areas continues to be significantly low and QDN supports this continuing to being an important focus and the NDS needs to include a range of measures, incentives, targets and considered strategies where there is lack of progress.

Strengthening accountability , measuring outcomes and reporting

Given the contemporary policy environment, QDN believes it is important that any agreement between Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments delivers accountability for all levels of government around the outcomes of their investment and more broadly around the outcomes for people with disability accessing mainstream and community services.

QDN believes it is important that a strong national governance mechanism is in place for all Australians with disability, that supports and delivers objectives, outcomes, performance indicators, roles and responsibilities and policy actions for all levels of government.

Not all service delivery for people with disability sits within the NDIS and therefore NDIS Bilateral Agreements, so it is critical that an overarching National Disability Agreement and National Disability Strategy between State/Territories and the Commonwealth is in place to measure progress and report on outcomes of specific performance indicators that will drive change for people with disability. The mechanisms also needs to include mechanisms to require Local Government to report on outcomes. It is critical that the National Disability

Agreement/Strategy is integrated with the other National Agreements with a reporting architecture which is consistent of outcome measures for people with disability and gives prominence and importance to these issues.

“We need to make sure that reporting mechanisms are rigidly followed and complied with at all stages.” (QDN member survey October 2020)

People with disability are citizens who need access to all services within the community, regardless of whether they are administered by Commonwealth or State/Territory jurisdictions. A mechanism which enables all levels of government to be accountable to deliver services, programs and policies within their purview to people with disability is critical. Alongside this mechanism, is the scope to be able to measure and be required to report on outcomes in line with Australia’s international obligations under the CRPD. It is important that a national disability strategy and national disability agreement, underpinned by Australia’s obligations under the CRPD commits all governments to work together to fund and resource policies and programs so that people with disability, whether funded by the NDIS or not, are able to: (1) live independently; (2) participate in all aspects of life; and (3) have access on an equal basis as others to the physical environment, to employment, to transportation, to information and communications and to facilities and services provided to the public in urban and rural areas.

QDN members identified that people with disability need to be part of the governance mechanisms and this could be achieved through inclusion of disabled person organisations in the governance strategy. QDN believes that an important part of measuring performance is that the end-users of the service are involved in the reporting and evaluation of output and outcome measures.

Additionally, it is important we build the capacity of people with disability and their families and carers to understand the roles and responsibilities and accountability so they can act from an informed place to measure impact, change and outcomes.

“We need genuine information in a format that can be understood and an opportunity for grass roots feedback, not just through organisations or government” (QDN member survey October 2020)

QDN members identified critical factors around measuring outcomes and reporting needs to include people with disability themselves. QDN members also identified that it is important that there is independent impartial monitoring mechanisms in place.

“Reporting on outcomes needs to be done through monitoring by the national disability community themselves.” (QDN member survey October 2020)

As outlined in the Productivity Commission’s review of the National Disability Agreement (NDA) Productivity Commission Study Report published in January 2019, the roles and

responsibilities in the NDA need to be updated to reflect contemporary policy settings, to reduce uncertainty and to address gaps in several areas — including in relation to advocacy, carers, and the interface between the NDIS and mainstream service systems. The NDS should continue to play the essential role of articulating policy actions, with these actions explicitly linked to the new NDA’s outcomes.⁶

“We need a mechanism where people with disability can give feedback openly and honestly without a pre-determined outcome.” (QDN member consultation – 23 October 2020)

“If government is reporting on government, we are concerned about the potential biases embedded in the reporting.” (QDN member consultation – 23 October 2020)

QDN members identified that access to individual, systemic and citizen advocacy are all critical to realising the vision and outcomes of the NDS.

Additionally, the issue of data and data collection was raised by QDN members. Data needs to be captured from all parts of community, and acknowledge that whilst Government services deliver a range of mainstream services and supports, the non-government sector plays a critical role and must be included in the implementation, monitoring and measurement of outcomes. QDN acknowledges the work being undertaken around the National Disability Data Asset (NDDA) and sees nationally consistent data as a critical step in being able to measure and then therefore improve outcomes for Australians with disability.

QDN would like to see longitudinal outcome data collected on people with disabilities’ whole-of-life aspirations, employment, community inclusion, self-determination, choice and decision-making, satisfaction with services and supports, and measures against inclusive and accessible communities, rights protections, economic security, personal and community support, learning and skills, and health and wellbeing which are in line with the principles and obligations of the CRPD.

Important consideration needs to be given to the architecture of collecting and reporting on the data, but key to driving change will be regular, public, accessible and transparent reporting of outcomes and QDN members recommend that this reporting is done annually. QDN recommends that there are requirements for Local, State/Territory and Commonwealth Governments to inform and input into the report.

⁶ Australian Government, Productivity Commission. (2019) Review of the National Disability Agreement Productivity Commission Study Report. <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/disability-agreement/report/disability-agreement.pdf> page 2

“Statistics and reporting is great but if nothing is done, if targets aren’t met or the reporting is so infrequent it is irrelevant and then it is pointless.” (QDN member survey October 2020)

Putting policy into action

QDN acknowledges that the NDS is very broad in scope and purpose covering 4.4 million people with disability in Australia, but is also a very important policy mechanism that can drive action and deliver improved outcomes and inclusion for people with disability.

QDN notes in feedback from members, allies and stakeholders more broadly that there is very limited understanding in the community and by many people with disability about the National Disability Strategy, its purpose and therefore its impact to be able to drive the real change and action that is needed. Critical to successful implementation is broader community awareness and understanding at all levels of the strategy, its goals, and actions. QDN supports a coordinated, collaborative approach that includes people with disability as key partner in the communication strategy going forward and its implementation.

QDN supports the Targeted Action Plans that deliver a nationally consistent approach with key time frames. QDN members noted that the five yearly review of the NDS 2010-2020 contributed to a lesser focus on progress and outcomes. QDN supports mechanisms that sharpen focus, accountability and transparency on delivering action and change and recommend annual reporting and three year action plan cycle.

Research is a critical area that needs to inform policy and practice, and therefore research needs to be part of performance measures to ensure this is consistently implemented and outcomes are being achieved across all jurisdictions. People with disability as co-researchers is an important part of research, and ensures that the voice of people with disability is part of the dialogue and the evidence base to drive better practice and outcomes.

QDN recommends the implementation of key regulatory legislative and policy mechanisms that include prescribed requirements for the development of engagement plans at all levels of Government and government funded services to include and engage people with disability in the development of policies, programs and services. The regulation could also prescribe requirements for the involvement of people with disability in the delivery and monitoring of the strategy.

Conclusion and Recommendations

QDN is pleased to provide this feedback to the Department of Social Services in the development of the National Disability Strategy 2020-2030. QDN's submission has focused on number of key issues that have been raised by members based upon their lived experience of disability.

To inform the development of the NDS 2020-2030, QDN recommends the following to be included in the strategy:

- Human rights focus underpinned by the CPRD
- Inclusion of requirements to implement and report on the National Disability Strategy outcomes in each National Disability Agreement and other Commonwealth/State/Territory National Agreements across cross-jurisdictional portfolios like health, housing etc.
- Inclusion of disability inclusive disaster risk reduction and inclusive emergency preparedness, response and recovery within Outcome 6 – Health and Wellbeing.
- Inclusion of key outcomes to implement strategies and outcomes focused on the leadership of people with disability.
- Investment and clear measureable outcomes to improve community attitudes and values about people with disability.
- Investment in individual, systemic and citizen advocacy
- Improved data capture around people with disability and service provision to evaluate the effectiveness of the NDA and NDS.
- Strong national governance strategy and structure that is integrated with state/territory and local governance mechanisms to ensure the coordinated and coherent implementation of the strategy and accountability measures. This needs to include senior officials across the Government and non-government sectors as well as Disabled Person Organisations.
- Clear actions and plan to build the capacity of people with disability and the broader community to understand the NDS, the roles and responsibilities, and accountability so they can be informed to measure impact, change and outcomes.
- Establishing an independent and impartial monitoring mechanism that delivers an independent perspective on progress, outcomes and measurements.
- Reporting framework to be established that enables people with disability to provide feedback, input and measure progress of outcomes.
- dedicated centralised governance structure within the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments to ensure the coordinated and coherent implementation of disability policy and programs
- A requirement for a bi-annual report to be tabled publically that is accessible and transparent and communicated effectively to people with disability, families and carers and the broader community. This reporting should include an Annual Progress

Report informed by data from each local government authority and state/territory jurisdictions that must include data and feedback from people with disability directly.

- Development of a regulatory legislative framework and policy mechanism that includes prescribed requirements for engagement plans that mandate the inclusion of people with disability in the development of policies, programs and services across all levels of Government and government funded services.

QDN looks forward to continuing to work with the Commonwealth Government, the Department of Social Services and all levels of Governments, industry, business and the broader community to ensure that this county is an inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to fulfil their potential as equal members of the community.

QDN – 30 October 2020

Appendix 1. QDN's Value Statement on People with Disability

QDN's work in providing feedback and input into systemic policy issues is based upon the organisation's core values and the place of people with disability in an inclusive Australian society.

QDN believes that:

- all people with disability have a right to a place in the community and have contributions to make to community. This is as empowered, free citizens who are as valued, present, participating and welcomed as members of any dynamic and diverse society
- the place of people with disability in the community is not just about people with disability having a house in the community. Core to this is that they are welcomed in the community as ordinary citizens, where they are genuinely given opportunities to contribute and actively participate. People with disability need to be in communities where their individuality, their talents and their lived experiences of disability are recognised and acknowledged
- culturally and historically, people with disability are not afforded the same value, opportunities or access to community life
- any inclusion in community for people with disability is conditional and vulnerable to withdrawal
- many people with disability in Queensland are excluded from the most basic experiences of ordinary lives
- current exclusionary practices are unacceptable and must be challenged
- these issues affect not only people with disability but the whole community
- the responsibility is shared. It lies within government (federal, state and local) and the community at large, to ensure that people with disability have a place and are resourced to belong in community.

¹ *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, opened for signature 30 March 2007, 999 UNTS 3 (entered into force 3 May 2008), art 8.