

2022/ 2023

ANNUAL REPORT



QDN
QUEENSLANDERS WITH DISABILITY NETWORK
NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the people who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Land on which we gather. We thank the peoples of the land past and present for their custodianship and for the opportunity to meet in this place. Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) also acknowledges people with disability who have come before us and died in institutional settings, as well as those who are still trapped in institutions or silenced by institutional practices. We take on the responsibilities of being clear about the rights of ALL people with disability and, where necessary, speak in an informed and considered manner, for those who cannot speak for themselves.

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QDN ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

VISION:

People with disability are active and valued citizens



Leadership

- 38 Group Convenors
- 23 Emerging Leaders
- 156 Peer Leaders
- 116 QDeNgage Consultants
- 8 Digital Champions
- 7 Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) Peer Leaders



Policy Contributions

- 89 Committees and Consultations
- 18 Presentations
- 46 Policy submissions



Community and Stakeholder Education and Policy

- 83 Eventbrite listings
- 27 QDN events (policy events, 20th year celebrations, forums, Power of Peers showcase)
- 44 Digital Inclusion events
- 12 DIDRR events
- 261 Zoom meetings with over 3,700 participants



Web presence

- 16,041 total clicks/visits
- 832,367 total impressions



QBloggers

- 7 meetings
- 8 blog posts written
- 13 QBloggers actively involved



Social Media

- 385 posts across social media
- 4277 Facebook followers
- 607 Linked in followers



Media Engagement

- 67 mentions of QDN on TV, radio, and online stories in the media
- 18 issues that matter to people with disability discussed
- 15,248,500 people have seen or heard QDN's members' issues
- 59% of the Australian public have heard or seen the issues we talked about



Communication

- 16 e-blasts
- 16 e-news editions



Governance and Operations

- Board Planning Day
- Staff Planning days
- Staff training workshop (digital security)
- Recertification Quality Audit April 2023



Power of Peers

- 31 groups
- 227 meetings
- 1,808 contacts at meetings



QDeNgage

- 80 projects
- 35 customers
- 794 payments to consultants



Membership

- 1,679 Ordinary Members
- 71 Support Organisations
- 873 Supporters



Information and Referrals

- 6,641 people with disability supported through information and referral via phone and email.



Disability Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Queensland

- 89 participants in Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) workshops in 5 locations
- 172 participants in 5 Building Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Communities community forums
- 80 P-CEP Peer Leaders throughout Australia completed a capacity-building course



AAA Digital Inclusion Pilot project

- 7 Digital Champions
- 470 Devices donated to participants
- 80 workshops held
- 1,470 instances of individual support
- 35 Volunteers engaged



AAA Digital Inclusion Phase 2

- 8 Digital Champions
- 458 Devices donated to participants
- 92 Workshops held
- 1,026 instances of individual support



QDN led and partnered events

- NDIS Review Panel Peer Support Group visits
- DIDRR Luncheon at UN's Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
- Facilitation at Longreach Town Hall with Minister Crawford and community re NDIS
- Australia's Disability Strategy Queensland Forum
- Flood Forums
- Queensland Women's Strategy Forum
- Building Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Communities – forums
- International Day of People with Disability online summit
- Power of Peers Parliament House Showcase

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

ONE



WHO WE ARE

Our motto is NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

We're an organisation of, by and for people with disability, a company limited by guarantee and governed by a Board of Directors, including elected directors, all people with disability, and up to two appointed directors. As we go into our 21st year, our reach and influence are growing, and we are proudly working towards our vision of people with disability as active and valued citizens of Queensland.

QDN believes that people with disability have a right to belong and contribute as empowered, free citizens who are valued, present, participating and welcomed. The place of people with disability in community is welcomed where they are genuinely given opportunities to contribute and participate. People with disability need to be in communities where their individuality, talents, and lived experiences are recognised. People with disability are not currently afforded the same value, opportunities or access to community life, and inclusion is conditional and easily withdrawn. Many people with disability are excluded from the most basic experiences. Current exclusionary practices are unacceptable, must be challenged and affect the whole community. Responsibility to ensure that people with disability have a place and are resourced to belong in community is shared.

QDN receives funding from Governments for activities engaging people with disability across the state-wide network, systemic advocacy, peer support, disability inclusive disaster risk reduction activities around person-centred emergency preparedness, digital inclusion, employment, developing responses to policy, and driving social and economic changes on issues that align with our values.

QDN acknowledges the following Government agencies for funding received by QDN in 2022-2023, for delivery of work during this financial year.

Commonwealth Government

- Department of Social Services
- Department of Health and Aged Care
- Department of Industry, Science, and Resources

Queensland Government

- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Department of Housing
- Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services
- Queensland Health
- Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority

We are grateful for the opportunities for 'nothing about us without us' that funding brings.

QDN also generates income from consultancy activities under the QDeNgage banner.

QDN's work includes

- informing people about important issues and collaborating for change
- referring people on to groups of peers to lead a good life
- helping people with disability to have a voice in disability policy
- projects that help improve the lives of people with disability

QDN is a member led organisation. There are three membership categories

- Ordinary Members (people with disability)
- Supporters
- Support Organisations



OUR DIRECTION



Our strategic direction
and goals are shaped
by four pillars

INFORM
CONNECT
LEAD
INFLUENCE

Our Vision

People with disability are active and valued citizens of Queensland.

Our Mission

We lead, inform, connect, and influence to empower people with disability to be fully included as citizens in the social and economic life of the community as per the rights recognised in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

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.

RIGHTS

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

COLLABORATIVE ACTION

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

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. We have grown in member numbers, continually adding to the strength of our voice.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



As we gather here to reflect on the year that has passed, I am filled with a profound sense of accomplishment and pride. The journey we embarked upon, building upon the foundation of our past 20 years, has been one of growth, empowerment, and amplified impact.

Our commitment to the principle of 'nothing about us, without us' has been unwavering, and the results speak volumes about the collective strength of our community. Our 20th year celebration really demonstrated that, where members from all over the state came together across 10 locations to celebrate QDN and everything we have achieved.

A significant moment of change marked this year, with the retirement of our esteemed CEO, Paige Armstrong. Paige's leadership was pivotal in shaping the direction of QDN, and her legacy will continue to guide us. The smooth transition to our new CEO Michelle Moss, underscores the resilience and adaptability of our organisation.

In this year's Chairperson's Report, we wish on behalf of the Board to extend our deepest appreciation and recognition to individuals whose dedication and commitment have been instrumental in shaping the journey of our organisation. This report serves as a tribute to the remarkable work done by John Macpherson, Colleen Papadopoulos and Peter Gurr, who have stepped down

from the board. John, Colleen, and Peter have each played a pivotal role during their tenure with the board, contributing their expertise, passion, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of QDN. Their tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on our organisation and have significantly advanced our mission to advocate for the rights and empowerment of individuals with disabilities. Their leadership along with Des Ryan in the role of Chairperson has been invaluable throughout the years.

As I acknowledge these transitions, I also want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our board members. Each member has brought unique perspectives, skills, and insights to the table, contributing to QDN's growth, impact, and continued success. The board's collective commitment to QDN has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Our commitment to informing change through advocacy remained steadfast. The NDIS review, Disability Inclusive Procurement, health, housing, taxis, transport, 2032 Olympics & Paralympics and disaster preparedness were key policy highlights that saw our members' voices

shape discussions at the highest levels.

The continued growth and positive feedback from QDeNgage, our initiative for change, exemplifies the power of our informed voice.

Our dedication to fostering connections and leadership has yielded remarkable outcomes over the past year. The NDIS review forums that we held across Queensland facilitated meaningful interactions between our members and panellists, extending our influence. The extension of Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) across Queensland and Australia showcases our commitment to connecting communities in disaster preparedness. Initiatives like Digital Inclusion have connected people to opportunities for social and economic participation, laying the groundwork for a more inclusive future.

While it has been a busy year, our influence has been the hallmark of this year, as we engaged in a multitude of issues that spanned the breadth of our community's needs. The release of the Voice of Queenslanders with Disability report, our advocacy for Disability Inclusive Procurement, and our involvement in a diverse range of matters underscore the deepening impact of our collective voice. Our engagement with the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hot Topics meetup in Canada showcases QDN's global leadership and influence.

In line with our strategic vision, and with the aim of amplifying the voice of people with disability on the issues that matter, we continue to increase our media footprint in Queensland and to the rest of Australia. Our members' voice and issues were heard by over 15 million people across the country.

In conclusion, our 20th anniversary year (2022-2023) has been one of profound growth, empowerment, and amplified voice for QDN. Our commitment to the principles of informing, connecting, leading, and influencing has borne fruit in ways that fill us with hope and determination for the future. As we look ahead, we remain resolute in our mission to ensure that the voice of people with disability is not only heard but drives lasting change. Together, we shall continue to rise, shaping a world where 'nothing about us, without us' is not just a slogan but a reality.

Dr Sharon Boyce
Chairperson

*Our members voice
and issues were heard
by over 15 million people
across the country.*



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



It is with great honour and enthusiasm that I address you for the first time as CEO in this year's annual report. As I reflect on our organisation's journey, I am humbled by the legacy of the visionary leaders, CEOs, and coordinators who have paved the way for us over the past two decades. Our foundation is strong, built on the commitment and dedication of our founding members.

The past year has been one of challenges and triumphs for our members. The spectre of rising living costs, the housing crisis, and the complexities of adapting to a post COVID-19 world have tested our members' resilience. However, amidst these trials, we have also seen remarkable moments that underscore the spirit of QDN. Notably, our involvement in the Australian Disability Strategy Forum stands as a testament to our continued relevance and influence. One of the highlights of the year was the appointment of our Chair, Sharon Boyce, to the 2032 Games Legacy Committee as Deputy Chair. What an opportunity to represent the voice of Queenslanders with disabilities and help leave a legacy for the Queensland of tomorrow.

Amidst the headwinds of housing and the rising cost of living, QDN's members' spirit has remained unbroken. We've seized the opportunity to amplify our voice and expand our reach, engaging in the most impactful ways possible. Our strategic investment in a state-of-the-art CRM system has revolutionised our engagement and outreach strategies, empowering us to reach new heights.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. This year, QDN has been featured in 67 media stories, an increase of 10 from the previous year. More impressively, our discussions on 18 pivotal disability related issues have reached an astounding 15,248,500 people – a remarkable increase of 1,100,000. Importantly, our advocacy has made a mark on public awareness,

with 59% of Australians having heard or seen the issues we champion. This marks a significant 9% increase in awareness, reflecting our growing influence. We have brought about change in the areas of transport, housing, health, community, disaster resilience and disability. With a focus on the 2032 Games, we have started the conversations around inclusion, accessibility, employment and procurement that will benefit all Queenslanders.

Through QDeNgage, we've empowered individuals, rallied communities, and fostered dialogue that drives progress, be it through co-design or feedback. Our voice has never been stronger and over the past year we have seen a growth in the demand of QDeNgage.

Our commitment to research and evidence-based advocacy remains unwavering. This year, we solidified our role as a thought leader in the disability sector through ground-breaking partnerships. Our collaboration with Griffith University and the Queensland Government yielded the Voice of Queenslanders with Disability Report. This report, grounded in a comprehensive survey covering all seven outcome areas of Queensland's Disability Plan 2022-2027, stands as a testament to our dedication to shaping policy and driving meaningful change.

As we stand at the threshold of a new chapter, I am inspired by the journey ahead. The challenges we face will be met with the same determination that has carried us through the years. Together, as a united QDN community, we will continue to amplify our voice, expand our reach, and make a lasting impact on the lives of Queenslanders with disability.

Michelle Moss
Chief Executive Officer



Our voice has never been stronger and over the past year we have seen a growth in the demand of QDeNgage.



CELEBRATING PAIGE ARMSTRONG'S LEGACY:

A Decade of Dedication and Transformation



In our annual report, QDN proudly acknowledges and celebrates the remarkable tenure of Paige Armstrong as our Chief Executive Officer. After nine years of dedicated service and visionary leadership, Paige has left an indelible mark on our organisation, playing a pivotal role in QDN's growth and development. When Paige assumed her role in 2013, the disability landscape was undergoing a once-in-a-generation reform process, catalysed by the Productivity Commission Report into Disability Care.

Recognising the importance of a strong voice for individuals with disability in shaping this transformation, Paige ensured that QDN remained at the forefront of these reforms. Under Paige's guidance, QDN initiated ground-breaking projects such as the "Ready to Go" project, which reached over 11,000 Queenslanders with

intellectual disability and their families. This peer leadership and co-design approach garnered national recognition and served as a model for other states. Similar approaches were embraced in subsequent projects like "Getting on the NDIS Grid," "Peer to Peer Advocacy," and "Targeted Outreach Projects," assisting more than 5,000 individuals in accessing the NDIS, including those at risk of missing out on its transformative support.

Paige's commitment to building leadership and influence among people with disability has been a cornerstone of QDN's mission. Her efforts helped expand QDN's early vision of a state-wide network, connecting diverse local groups of people with disability. Initiatives like the Power of Peers project, funded in 2018, further fortified this network.

As part of Paige's leadership, QDeNgage, a consultancy service, was established to connect the lived expertise of people with disability with businesses, organisations, and government entities. This endeavour has had a lasting impact on sectors such as tourism, transport, health, disaster preparedness, domestic and family violence, and more. Paige led QDN's advocacy work in housing, ensuring that policies, programs, and services better met the housing needs of Queenslanders with disabilities. Her contributions, exemplified in the position paper "Going for Gold: Accessible, Affordable Housing Now," have become guiding principles for the State Government Department of Housing. The collaborative approach employed by Paige culminated in the development of a statewide action plan: "Partnering for Inclusive Housing with People with Disability in Queensland 2022 - 2025."

Throughout her tenure, Paige transformed QDN from a small organisation with 4 staff members into a robust team of over 20 individuals. Her influence extended far beyond QDN, as she played a pivotal role in shaping policy, program, and service reforms across various sectors, both in non-government and government organisations.

Paige's contributions were celebrated at QDN's 20th-anniversary celebration at Brisbane City Hall, as well as a farewell event held at the Treasury Casino on 22 November 2022. Her unwavering commitment to social justice has been the driving force behind her work, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for her decade of remarkable leadership and contributions to QDN. Paige Armstrong's legacy will continue to inspire us as we advance our mission of advocating for the rights and empowerment of individuals with disability in Queensland.



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GOVERNANCE

Annual General meeting

QDN held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 29 October 2022, attended by members in-person and online. The election was held, and the following four people were elected to QDN's Board of Directors:

- Des Ryan
- Gary Matthews
- Nerine Williams
- Dr Talitha Kingsmill

Board of Directors as of 30 June 2023



Dr Sharon Boyce
Chairperson



Jane Britt
Deputy Chairperson



Dr Talitha Kingsmill
Director



Gary Matthews
Director (Chair Audit and
Compliance)



Stacy Miller
Appointed Director



Des Ryan
Director



Peter Tully
Director (Chair Nominations
and Performance)



Nerine Williams
Director

Company Secretary



Colleen Papadopolous
(retired March 2023)



Mark McKeon
(appointed February 2023)

Directors who retired at 2022 AGM:

- John MacPherson
- Peter Gurr

Acknowledgement of Service to QDN Board of Directors

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) takes great pride in acknowledging the exceptional service, unwavering dedication, and remarkable leadership of three esteemed individuals who have retired from our Board of Directors during the 2022/2023 fiscal year: John McPherson, Colleen Papadopoulos, and Peter Gurr.

Peter Gurr: A Champion of Diverse Perspectives

Peter Gurr, a successful small business owner, concluded his term on QDN's Board at the 2022 AGM after a commendable tenure. His multifaceted knowledge, skills, and experience, particularly in business acumen and leadership, enriched the discussions and decision-making processes within our organisation. Hailing from North Queensland, Peter brought a unique regional perspective to our table, ensuring that the life experiences of people with disabilities across our vast state were considered and advocated for in our work. We extend our sincere thanks to Peter for his exceptional contribution, and we are delighted to announce that he continues to actively engage with QDN in various capacities, including peer support groups, QDeNgage, and other impactful projects.

Colleen Papadopoulos: A Guardian of Governance

Colleen Papadopoulos concluded her 10-year tenure on QDN's Board of Directors in March 2023, where she served as the Company Secretary. Colleen's invaluable contribution, leadership, and profound understanding of governance principles have played a pivotal role in QDN's growth and development as an organisation. Her diligent work in building the capacity and leadership of our Board of Directors has left a lasting legacy. Colleen's dedication to QDN extends beyond her role on the Board, as she continues to actively participate in our network, notably in QDeNage and other impactful projects. We express our deepest gratitude for her remarkable service.

John McPherson: A Pillar of Wisdom and Stewardship

John McPherson, a distinguished veteran of QDN, retired from the Board at the 2022 Annual General Meeting after an astonishing 20 years of dedicated service. His remarkable journey with QDN began right at our beginning, serving as a member of the initial Management Committee and guiding the QDN's evolution into a Company Limited by Guarantee as a Board Director. Throughout his tenure, John assumed various pivotal roles within QDN, including that of Deputy Chairperson and Chair of the Nominations and Performance Committee. John's profound wisdom, steady guidance, and profound commitment to realising QDN's founding vision of a state-wide network for people with disabilities have been instrumental in shaping the organisation's current success. John's knowledge, measured approach, and consummate professionalism have left an indelible mark on QDN's governance, and his absence will be deeply felt. However, John's dedication to the organisation continues in other ways as an active member of our network, contributing his wealth of experience and leadership to several transport committees. His vibrant presence, epitomised by his ever-present and famous 'bright' shirts, continues to inspire and motivate us!

PART 2: AN OVERVIEW OF OUR YEAR

TWO

QDN's commitment to Nothing About Us Without Us is central to all of our activities and was on full display in 2022-2023.



Co-Design

Our co-design approach continues to be essential to how we work within the organisation and the member network and externally.

A Year of Celebration: QDN's 20th Anniversary at City Hall, Brisbane

In a remarkable journey that began two decades ago, QDN celebrated its 20th anniversary in grand style on 29 October 2022, at the iconic City Hall in Brisbane. This significant milestone not only marked the organisation's commitment to supporting individuals with disability but also highlighted the progress made towards a more inclusive and equitable society.



Founded in 2002, QDN emerged as a response to the pressing need for a unified voice for people with disability in Queensland, Australia, with the goal of empowering individuals with disability by advocating for their rights, promoting inclusivity, and facilitating their active participation in community life. Over the years, QDN has grown exponentially, becoming a powerful advocate for change and a beacon of hope for countless Queenslanders.

20 Years of Advocacy and Empowerment

Throughout its journey, QDN has played a pivotal role in shaping policies and practices to better the lives of people with disability. Its advocacy efforts have influenced government decisions, leading to significant improvements in areas such as accessibility, employment opportunities, and healthcare. QDN's dedication to its mission is evident in its numerous achievements, including:

The 20th Anniversary Celebration

The theme of the celebration was to pay homage to our achievements over the years and to say thanks to our members and supporters. The event was attended by a diverse range of people, including members of their families, supporters, politicians, ex-staff, government officials, and key stakeholders. Upon entry to the room, guests were able to browse memorabilia that showcased "Nothing About Us, Without Us", throughout the years. Many a smile and story were told looking over old pictures and articles from the past. The afternoon was filled with inspiring stories, heartfelt speeches, and performances that showcased the talent and abilities of people with disability. It was a time to reflect on the progress made and the future, the next 20 years of

QDN. Guests were treated to a lunch and cake that celebrated this joyous occasion. Over lunch, our 20-year celebration video played key highlights right from the beginning. Everyone who attended was also presented with a memento of the celebration and a book that highlighted the occasion, the second book ever to be produced about QDN, the first one was on our 10th anniversary.

As is QDN tradition, we remember the past and during the event, we played a video that was a Vale to our members who passed away in the last year: Matt McCracken OAM and Wendy Lovelace – two advocates who did so much for others, and also to all our members and supporters who have passed since the beginning of QDN. The second half of the event started with Tony Dee, a well-known singer for everyone within the disability community. Tony showcased his talents and sang the theme to the Paralympics in Rio 2016, 'Yes, I Can'. This was a touching moment for everyone in the room, especially as a slide show of memories was shown at the same time. We then presented Life Membership Awards that were handed out by the Hon Craig Crawford Minister for Seniors and Disability Service and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. The Honoured Supporter Awards and Recognition of Service Awards were handed out by the Hon Amy MacMahon Member for South Brisbane and Hon John-Paul Langbroek, Member for Surfers Paradise.

Celebrating around the State

We organised both virtual and in-person celebrations across Queensland, spanning ten different locations: Caboolture, Cairns, Deception Bay, Gold Coast, Gympie, Brisbane (Hot Topics), Ipswich, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, and Townsville. These events were attended

by several hundred of our members, who had the option to participate either online or in person. Each location enjoyed a festive atmosphere featuring captivating videos, cherished photographs, and, of course, delightful cake. Laughter and heartfelt memories were shared at every gathering, with many of our celebrations focusing on the unique regional perspectives and reflecting on the challenges and triumphs of the past two decades.

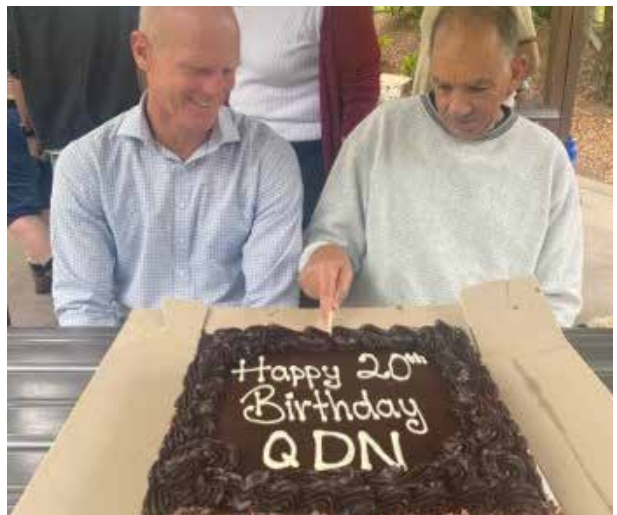
Celebrating with Our Patron at Government House, Brisbane

In a remarkable moment of honour and recognition, we held a celebration at Government House, hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland. This event marked not only a significant milestone in QDN's journey but, in the words of our Patron, was a testament to the deep commitment of QDN to championing the rights and empowerment of individuals with disability in our 20th year. The celebration provided a unique opportunity for our members, supporters, and stakeholders to come together in a setting of historical significance and grandeur. The celebration at Government House was a momentous occasion, where attendees had the privilege of sharing their stories, experiences, and aspirations with our Patron. It was a platform to reflect on the progress made by QDN, thanks to the collective efforts of our dedicated community of our members. The event was marked by heartfelt speeches, inspiring anecdotes, and a spirit of unity that defines the QDN community.











HIGHLIGHT

Australia's Disability Strategy Queensland Forum

In 2022, the Commonwealth Department of Social Services launched Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031. QDN was invited by the Queensland Government Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services to organise and host a Queensland forum as the first jurisdictional forum to showcase the Strategy and Queensland's Disability Plan 2022-2027: Together, a better Queensland.

QDN was actively engaged last year in the review of the previous plan - All Abilities Queensland - and in providing input and direction for the new State Plan, and so was perfectly placed to host the Forum. The forum was held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on Monday 19 June 2023. Around 280 people attended in person and several hundred attended virtually via live streaming.

In keeping with QDN's motto Nothing About Us Without Us, the Forum showcased the diverse talent, skills, and abilities of people with disability. Members and guests with disability filled roles as MCs, delivering Acknowledgement of Country, table hosts, speakers and panellists, performers and artists, and support staff.

The day was filled with inspiring discussions, profound insights, and a shared commitment to fostering an inclusive Queensland. The breadth of talent, expertise and skill of people with disability on display was breathtaking, and many guests from business, industry, government and community expressed how witnessing and participating in the event shifted their perception of people with disability and the benefits of true inclusion.

Together with Departmental staff, QDN members and staff accomplished something very special: the level of engagement and participation during the forum was remarkable and the importance of embracing diversity, promoting accessibility, and championing inclusion was abundantly clear.

Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services, the Hon Craig Crawford MP released The Voice of Queenslanders with Disability report at the forum. The report provides insights gathered from a sample of 291 Queenslanders with disability, 117 family/carers and 34 organisational representatives.





OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

QDN's strategy is deeply informed by the foundations of **INFORM, CONNECT, LEAD, INFLUENCE**. Out of this foundation comes our five strategic goals. We hope you enjoy reading about QDN's work under these five goals in 2022-23.



GOAL 1 - INFORM

Promote and maintain active, vibrant local networks that inform our work and build local capacity



GOAL 2 - CONNECT

To let people know about the lives of people with disability and have their experience and expertise valued and recognised



GOAL 3 - LEAD

To enhance the leadership and influence the capability of people with disability



GOAL 4 - INFLUENCE

To influence governments and others to bring about full and equal participation, citizenship, and protection of rights for all



GOAL 5 - GROW OUR NETWORK

To grow an independently sustainable, effective, accountable and rights-based organisation that reflects our vision, mission, values, and principles



GOAL 1: INFORM

INFORM speaks to QDN's strategic goal of informing members and the wider world through policy papers, research activities, QDeNgage consultant activities and Peer to Peer support, and through our media and communications activities.

Policy

Wherever QDN can meaningfully inform and contribute to policy review and development across the myriad policy areas impacting people with disability, we do. We do this through member engagement forum reports, membership on advisory groups and committees, appearances before inquiries and hearings, and formal submissions and letters.

In 2022-23, QDN formally contributed on multiple policy issues at state and national levels:

- Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements Review
- National Disability Advocacy Framework 2022-25
- Queensland Corrective Services Disability and Mental Health Strategy 2022-27
- Response to Transport and Resources Committee - Inquiry into Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022
- Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport Standards Review
- COVID-19 legislation - proposed changes to the Public Health Act 2005
- Queensland Housing Summit
- Queensland Women's Health Strategy
- 'Capability and Culture of the NDIA' - Submission to Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS
- Inquiry into Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022
- NDIS Review Panel multiple submission topics including access to the NDIS, NDIS Participant Journey and NDIS Home and Living
- Hear Her Voice consultation on implementation of the Queensland Women's Strategy
- Inspector of Detention Services - Consultation on Standards in adult and juvenile detention facilities in Queensland
- Commonwealth Department of Social Services on Domestic and Family Violence Safe Houses
- Domestic and Family Violence Service Accessibility Survey
- Violence against Women with Disability



- Disability Employment Services (DES) Quality Framework
- Housing Legislation Package
- Review of the Disability Services Act 1992 (Cth)
- Review of Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements
- NDIS Safeguards Commission's Own Motion Enquiry into Platform Providers Operating in the NDIS Market
- Brisbane City Council Olympic Sports Centre Crosby Park
- Review of Queensland's Compulsory Third Party Insurance Scheme
- Brisbane 2032 Legacy Survey
- Domestic and Family Violence Service Accessibility Survey
- Inquiry into Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022
- Stage 2 Rental Law Reform consultation
- Parents with intellectual disability and interface with child safety systems
- First Nations strategy for Department of Youth Justice
- State and National system interface for advocacy services
- Taxi Forum report
- Olympics and Paralympics Visioning Forum Summary Report
- Follow up to Joint Open Letter – Leave no Australian Behind
- Letter to Queensland Premier and Minister Hinchliffe re Year of Accessible Tourism
- Queensland Walks accessible and inclusive strategy
- National Health Literacy Strategy
- National Principles to Address Coercive Control
- National Disability Strategy guides: Guide to the Guiding principles; Guide to involving people with disability in evaluation
- Proposed Changes to the Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables
- Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- National Centre for Advocacy
- Renting in Queensland
- Federal Budget Analysis
- State Budget Analysis
- Housing and Homelessness Strategy
- Electric Scooter Consultation
- Disability Royal Commission





POLICY SPOTLIGHT: NDIS REVIEW

In addition to forums with QDN Peer Support Groups, QDN hosted three policy forums for members and stakeholders to have input into the NDIS Review:

- A face-to-face Home and Living Forum in partnership with Q Shelter to discuss how the NDIS can improve support through Home and Living packages.
- An online NDIS Review Participant Journey forum to focus on solutions in relation to access to the NDIS, planning and plan reviews and integration with mainstream services.
- An online forum for organisations who have received Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) funding for projects to look at ways to improve outcomes and functioning of ILC grants funding. QDN has also made multiple policy submissions to the NDIS Review Panel.



POLICY SPOTLIGHT: DISABILITY INCLUSIVE PROCUREMENT - BRISBANE 2032 LEGACY

During 2022-2023, QDN developed a paper called Vision for 2032 and beyond: Working together to create an inclusive Games and legacy for all. Out of this Vision grew a determination to see disability inclusive procurement included as part of the 2032 Legacy Plan. This would be a huge opportunity to stimulate disability entrepreneurship and business development, improve employment outcomes for people with disability and deliver industry, business and community change.

Disability inclusive procurement would include requiring Queensland businesses and organisations to demonstrate how they are increasing and improving knowledge, awareness and understanding of disability through tenders, proposals and contracts part of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane. This will contribute to shifting attitudes and behaviours for inclusion and deliver economic, social, and community benefits for Queensland for the next 20 years.



POLICY SPOTLIGHT: HOUSING

In July 2022, QDN and the Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ) made a decision to partner together to develop a shared position on Minor Modifications in private rental properties. This issue had been highlighted as a key area for reform after extensive community consultation in 2019. This issue was not included in Stage 1 reforms, and was carried over to Stage 2. As a proactive measure, QDN and the REIQ jointly hosted a roundtable with a number of stakeholders including Community Housing Industry Association, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy, Communitify Queensland, Tenants Queensland, Property Investment Professionals of Australia, Bricks & Mortar Media and QDN members to discuss this issue and explore a range of considerations that could inform regulation. After twelve months of negotiation and finding solutions acceptable to both parties, a final framework was developed and agreed upon. The framework proposes a much easier process for people with disability to implement minor modifications in residential properties in Queensland, based on the lived experience of persons living with disability, as well as practical expertise drawn from the property management sector. This framework has been provided to the Department of Housing, as part of our submission.



Research

QDN continues to contribute to and utilise evidence based responses to issues that impact people with disability. This is critical to ensuring information and issues are discussed, understood, and responded to in ways that work. QDN actively seeks to support and partner in research activities that promote the wellbeing of people with disability. QDN has undertaken a range of work with Universities to inform the research agenda nationally and especially the National Disability Research agenda including:

The Queensland Disability Research Network (QDRN)

QDRN's purpose is to unite Queensland disability researchers and promote cross-sectoral collaboration concerning disability research. The QDRN will work with industry partners and state-wide peak disability organisations to ensure relevance and research processes that include effective, meaningful co-design. The QDRN will highlight the excellent and impactful disability research that happens in Queensland, and link with the National Disability Research Partnership in a way that represents the interests of Queensland. QDRN Members' Foundation Commitment is to the long-term goal of improving the lives, social and economic participation of people with disability, by working together in sustainable, collaborative research partnerships.

Disaster Risk Reduction

QDN partners on nationally leading research with Associate Professor Michelle Villeneuve, Deputy Director of the Centre for Disability Research and Policy at The University of Sydney, on strategies that enable disaster risk reduction for people with disability and people experiencing homelessness.

National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP)

QDN co-hosted consultations to inform the 10 year research agenda for the new Partnership. QDN was able to connect people with disability who had been impacted by flooding disasters to the consultations, a cohort the NDRP was keen to reach.

Griffith University Partnership

QDN and Griffith University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2022. Some potential opportunities arising out of that MOU include:

- Building our Partnership portfolio
- Accreditation development for QDN's Emerging Leaders program
- Accessing students through Griffith's Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program. Invitation to the CEO to be a guest of Griffith University for the CEDA forum Legacy Brisbane 2032

Mater EASY Health Project

QDN continues its work with Mater Research on the EASY Health (Enhancing Access to Services for Your health) project funded by the Independent Linkages in the Community Mainstream Capacity Building in Health Grant round. EASY-Health is a qualitative research pilot programme that works with people with intellectual or developmental disability, their carers, and health service staff to understand and enhance their experience in the healthcare setting. The program has begun using the qualitative data collected to produce resources and education materials for health staff to improve the experience and outcomes for people with intellectual or developmental disability accessing mainstream healthcare.

“We need to Talk”: Social and ethical dialogue around genomics and disability

“We need to Talk” is an ongoing project about the ethical, legal, and social issues around genomics in health care. QDN sits on the reference group. This University of Queensland funded project aims to:

- Gain an understanding of how genomics is understood and perceived by people with disability and their families and how genomic researchers and clinicians perceive the ethical, legal and social impact of genomics for people with disability and their families.
- Identify commonalities and incongruencies between researcher priorities and the lived experience, values and priorities of people with disabilities, carers and clinicians.
- Co-design strategies for obtaining input from people with disability and their families for informed decision-making and engagement.
- Inform and validate the Australian genomic research agenda in relation to disability related ethical, legal and social issues.
- Identify policy-relevant recommendations that will address the translation of genomics research into practice using ways that consider the ethical, social and legal issues.

Behaviour Support Plan Quality Assurance Reference Group

QDN is on the Reference Group for the Enabling Behaviour Support Practitioners to meet Behaviour Support Practice Standards and Registration Obligations project. The project is developing resources to improve practice in the formulation and implementation of Behaviour Support Plans (BSPs). Resources will include evidence-informed education and training; quality assurance

processes and tools; and the establishment of an IT software platform to both provide practitioners with supportive feedback during the development of BSPs and appraise the quality of BSPs. The work, which aims to establish a practice environment in which people with disability are supported in safe and dignified ways that promote their health, wellbeing and quality of life, continues.

QDeNgage



QDeNgage has continued to grow throughout 2022-2023 with many new customers joining our existing customer base of businesses, organisations, councils, and government departments across Queensland. Many existing customers are reporting the long term benefits of involving QDeNgage in areas such as co-design, user testing, infrastructure design and policy development. An example is the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, who have reported their engineers and designers are recognising they are growing an inclusive mindset through the co-design work with QDeNgage consultants and the relationships they have built with them. Our Disability Awareness Training continues to be in high demand and we are looking at ways it can grow and evolve. We look forward to working with our customers as they prepare their communities and services for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics.

This year our customers included:

Queensland Government

- Transport and Main Roads (multiple programs)
- Queensland Health (multiple programs)
- Public Advocate
- Premiers and Cabinet
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
- TAFE Qld

Commonwealth Government

- NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

Local Government

- Brisbane City Council (multiple programs)
- Ipswich City Council
- City of Gold Coast (multiple programs)
- Logan City Council (multiple programs)

Organisations

- WWILD
- Volunteering Queensland
- Griffith University
- University of NSW
- Queensland Law Society
- Private sector organisations



Being involved in QDeNgage makes me feel like a contributing member of society where my thoughts and experiences are valued. As well as reducing the stigma associated with disability it is a good way to lead by example, to inform through experience and to provide feedback for clarity and understanding. I liked sharing my experiences as a volunteer because it will help people understand what adjustments might be needed to make a successful volunteering experience. It also gave me an opportunity to be interviewed for a video and showed me I have the courage to overcome my fears around this.

Lisa Forrest

QDeNgage consultant

Media and Communications

Media Engagement

During 2022-2023 QDN remained steadfast in our commitment to amplifying the voices of people with disability, raise awareness, and create an inclusive society through engagement in radio, print and TV interviews. QDN Board Directors, executive staff, and members were featured in the media speaking to a broad range of policy areas including housing, transport, COVID-19, the NDIS, Disability Royal Commission, disability-inclusive disaster planning, and digital literacy.

QDN e-News

QDN's e-News is a fortnightly publication distributed by email to over 1,500 members, supporters, and allies. The e-News is shared in both written and video format, and is delivered by QDN Board Directors, the CEO, and executive staff members. The e-News is a trusted source of accessible information about key issues for people with disability, important policy updates, trends, events, and resources. During 2022-2023 QDN distributed 16 editions of the QDN e-News.

QDN regularly sends emails to members, supporters and allies around timely, urgent or particularly important information (as e-blasts) that affects people with disability. During 2022-2023 QDN distributed 16 e-blasts.

Social Media

QDN's social media channels have become an essential avenue to disseminate information, mobilise support, and connect with members across Queensland. QDN's active social media channels include Facebook and LinkedIn.

Website

QDN's website is a key channel for sharing information, stories, news, events, and resources. Members actively engage with our website to access policy information and updates, and member and peer support group news.

During 2022-23 QDN's website had:

16,041 total clicks/visits

832,367 total impressions

Some key statistics:



67

number of times QDN was mentioned in TV, radio, and online stories in the media – **10 more than last year**



18

number of discussions on issues that matter to people with disability hosted by QDN – **an increase of 5**



15,248,500

people have seen or heard about QDN's members' issues – **an increase of 1,100,000**



59%

of the Australian public have heard or seen the issues we have talked about – **an increase of 9%**

Facebook

8%

higher engagement
(reactions/
comments/shares)

11%

(446) more
page likes

4,277

Facebook
followers

26%

more Facebook
page visits

295

total Facebook
posts

6,425

total likes

154,604

total impressions
(links to site in
search)

7,759

total engagement

632

total comments

723

shares

LinkedIn

14,832

impressions

1,164

clicks

14%

engagement rate

593

reactions

16

comments

93

reposts

90

posts

607

total followers,
350 new
followers

36%

more page views

QBloggers

QBloggers is a member-driven blogging community. QDN members are co-creating this community by writing about the topics that matter to people with disability. Being a Q Blogger is an opportunity to grow and learn from one another's experiences and expertise and help generate ideas for future policy and advocacy work. In December 2022 the QBloggers program was relaunched with a new webpage and communications campaign to raise awareness of the program and recruit new bloggers.

As part of the relaunch, new guidelines and resources including a Q&A document, writing tips, and topic suggestions were developed. Since the relaunch, the group of (currently) 13 QDN members have met monthly on Zoom for discussions, networking, and idea sharing:

7 meetings

8 blog posts written

13 QBloggers actively involved



GOAL 2: CONNECT

CONNECT speaks to QDN's goal of connecting through engagement with our state-wide network of members and supporters.

QDN supports connection with and between members and the wider community through peer support groups, issue-based engagement forums, leadership summits, local champions sharing their expertise, and the activities of a growing number of Peer Support Groups and communities of practice.

Peer Support Groups

QDN has hosted 27 Peer Support groups during this financial year, and 4 new groups are emergent. Groups are based on region, demographics, interests, issues and identity. Several new groups have been added this year, including a Townsville group and an LGBTQIA+ group. The Peer Support Groups not only connect our members, but also respond to our other goals, including informing and enhancing leadership and influence. Peer Support Group activities under the four goals include:

Lead - Many of the peer support groups have benefited from the Emerging Leaders program with several groups now having convenors from 2021 and 2022 graduates. Other Emerging Leaders Alumni are working on projects throughout QDN.

Inform - In the current economic climate, many of our Peer Support Groups have shown an interest in learning more about budgeting and several of our groups have had meetings around budgeting with staff from Good Shepherd.

Connect - QDN is continuing to connect with peers throughout Queensland. QDN had a stand at Brisbane's largest disability expo in March. Recently QDN staff visited North Queensland holding cuppa conversations and launching the Townsville Peer Support Group. Another group just recently launched is the LGBTQIA+ Peer Support Group.

Influence - The NDIS continues to be a popular topic and many groups have had meetings around different aspects of the NDIS, from visits from Local Area Coordinators to learning about upcoming changes within the NDIS. This led to the NDIS Review Team seeking out the lived experience of members of the QDN Peer Support Groups to help Influence what the Review Team takes a further look at. Several of the support groups are now having follow up discussion about the "What we have heard" NDIS Review report.



Brisbane

The Brisbane Peer Support Group teamed up with Hot Topics and members living in Brisbane to celebrate 20 years of QDN last October. Group members have continued to discuss the NDIS and recently shared stories around taxis and public transport issues.

Brisbane Hot Topics

The Brisbane Hot Topics Group continues to connect monthly via Zoom with people with intellectual disabilities in Canada. The group produced a Tik Tok video to celebrate International Day of Disabled Persons.

Brisbane South

Members have expressed ongoing concerns with taxis and transport as well NDIS and housing and look forward to welcoming new members.

Brisbane North

The Brisbane North Group continues to discuss topics that matter and advocate for change.

Caboolture

The Caboolture Peer Support Group has continued to meet with two of the 2022 Emerging Leaders taking on the Convenor role with the late Matt McCracken's wife Wendy also continuing to share her years of knowledge and experience with the group. Matt's legacy will continue to live on through the group and its activities.

Cairns

The Cairns Peer Support Group has had several visits from QDN staff in the last year. Highlights included the 20th anniversary celebration, a meeting with the NDIS Review Team and a local cuppa conversation with General Manager Steve Coulter and Engagement Lead Nicole Taylor.

Cairns Yarning Circle

The Cairns Yarning Circle has continued to meet with the help of Shehana Friday and Synapse. They meet at Mara Way and the group has discussed P-CEP and disasters as well as health and nutrition. Shehana recently met with Steve Coulter and Nicole Taylor on their trip up North.

Christine Court (supported accommodation)

This group continues to grow and now has around 12 members regularly attending to connect over a cuppa and share their stories.

Deception Bay

The Deception Bay Peer Support Group also has a new convenor from the 2022 Emerging Leaders alumni. The group has enjoyed visits from guest speakers talking about how to avoid scams as well as learning about activities available in their area, and has held a range of social events including a BBQ and a mobility scooter rally/record attempt.

Gladstone

The Gladstone group has been working with the local Gladstone Disability Network and Gladstone Council. QDN staff recently went to Gladstone and hosted a community BBQ.

Gold Coast

The Gold Coast Peer Support group has been discovering volunteering opportunities in their area, how to access the beach mats and wheelchairs as well as discussing advocacy, NDIS and assistive technology and joined with Gold Coast Hot Topics in October to celebrate 20 years of QDN.

Gold Coast Hot Topics

The Gold Coast Hot Topics group is for people with an intellectual disability. The group recently had a meeting to discuss budgeting and other financial issues.



GRADS (Griffith University)

QDN continues to work with Griffith University in supporting students with disability. The Grads group meets regularly to inform and connect around disability issues and student life.

Gympie

The Gympie Peer Support Group is enjoying their new venue - the Rusty Rails Café. They have been visited by the Digital Inclusion Team with some members receiving devices. The group also had a cuppa conversation with their Local Area Coordinator. The group continues to receive the support of Gympie Mayor Glen Hartwig.

LGBTQIA+

With one in five members identifying as LGBTQIA+, QDN recently held its first LGBTQIA+ Peer Support Group Meeting. Nine members attended the first meeting held online and it continues to grow.

Ipswich

The Ipswich Peer Support Group recently had a meeting with the NDIS Review team, followed up with a feedback session. The group has also had a meeting around the issues in the Ipswich area with the Council, and social catch ups at Table 31, Riverlink Coffee Club.

MAC (My Aged Care)

The My Aged Care Peer Support Group for people over 65 continues to meet monthly discussing topics affecting seniors from discrimination, changes to support workers minimum hours, and the My Aged Care plans.

Normanton

The Normanton group continues to struggle with issues around disability and the NDIS. QDN continues its work within this community to help members connect with each other and influence change within their community.

QDN Online

The QDN online group has had several meetings around housing this year from the rental reforms and minor modifications, to ways to purchase a house on a fixed income. Employment, budgeting and the NDIS have also been popular topics.

QDN Y

While still a small group, QDN Y - a peer support group for young people - members enjoy having fun and have been discussing ways to save money including budget recipes and other money saving tips and tricks. The group has also discussed mental health and the upcoming referendum.

Rockhampton

The Rockhampton Peer Support Group continues to meet at CocoBrew Café. They have discussed topics such as 2023 Year of Accessible Tourism, and tips and tricks to keep safe in the event of a disaster.

Sunshine Coast

The group has been meeting online and has discussed topics from mental health, rental reforms and rights and scams. The group is planning to start meeting in person again soon.

Self Management

The self management group continues to meet and discuss all aspects of NDIS self management - often connecting with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to be kept informed of changes in legislation, and to provide feedback to the NDIA.

Tablelands

The Tablelands Peer Support Group have continued to speak with the Council about safety in their local community, as well as getting the word out about QDN and explaining what a peer support group is to locals with a disability and service providers.



Toowoomba

The Toowoomba Peer Support Group has started to meet face to face again. The group has been discussing topics such as the upcoming Voice Referendum, and has had a meeting with the NDIS Review Team.

Townsville

The Townsville group has just held their first meeting with a 2021 Emerging Leader convening the group.

Unique Parents

Another group which has gained a convenor from the Emerging Leaders Program - this time the 2022 cohort. The Unique Parenting group continues to discuss topics that they are passionate about including budgeting and advocacy.

Online Women's Group

The online women's group is a community for Queensland women with disability to come together, share, and discuss. The group is a place where women can talk about issues important to them as well as share information and resources.

New Peer Support Groups

QDN is working to establish the following new Peer Support Groups in response to demand:

Non - NDIS Group

As many members are unable to access the NDIS, QDN will be launching a Peer Support Group just for people under 65 who can't access the NDIS.

Western Queensland

Responding to the unique issues for members in isolated regional communities in Western Queensland, QDN plans to start this group soon.

Hervey Bay

The enthusiastic Emerging Leaders alumni (2022) who live in Hervey Bay are keen to convene this group - it will be up and running soon.

Brisbane Bayside

Responding to demand, a Peer Support Group will be launched in the Bayside area soon.

Group Convenors Community of Practice

Peer Support Group Convenors continue to meet regularly for training days and workshops. These connections and peer support between convenors helps them to lead, connect, influence and inform in terms of what their groups want to know more about or want to change in their local communities.

Peer Leaders

QDN's Peer Leaders are people who show leadership in their own lives and communities from across Queensland, influencing a range of issues affecting their local communities. They are critical to QDN's network, which ranges from local, grassroots activism, to national influence informed by these and other active members.

P-CEP Peer Leadership

QDN's Peer Leaders are again working with The University of Sydney to build capabilities of people with disability around Australia to become Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) Peer Leaders. 80 participants completed the course in late 2022 and in 2023 a further 80 people from Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Queensland are being recruited to complete a five-week course in the next phase of the project.

Engagement forums

NDIS Review Panel

QDN worked with the NDIS Review panel to receive input and feedback from our members in Peer Support Group forums across Queensland. The forums were a great opportunity for members to directly provide feedback as part of the NDIS review on topics including Home and Living, the interface between the NDIS and mainstream services such as Health and transport and the NDIS Participant Journey.

Building Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Communities – forums

In this partnership project (with the Community Services Industry Alliance and the University of Sydney) QDN is funded by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources for community capacity building. This year, five community forums brought together people with disability, carers, service providers, emergency services, local councils, and state government to explore local issues that increase disaster risk for people with disability. The forums were attended by a total of 172 participants in Somerset, Lockyer Valley, Livingstone, Southern Downs, and Scenic Rim – all regions impacted by the Black Summer Bushfires. Action groups are now working together on strategies to address issues, and people with disability and service providers are attending workshops to build their capabilities in preparing for disasters.

Flood Forums

Two online forums were held in response to the 2022 floods in Brisbane; one in South Brisbane/West End to address issues arising out of the floods in that area, and one a debrief for members affected by the floods.

COVID Conversations

QDN hosted an online Forum: COVID-19 Conversations – What’s changed? in September 2022, with Deputy Chief Health Officer, Dr Lynne McKinlay, as key speaker. As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve in Queensland and decisions are made that impact people with disability and their families, the forum was an opportunity to engage with Queensland Health. Attended by 60 participants, people with disability raised their concerns and issues with regards to the changes to vaccination mandates for staff. Outcomes included Queensland Health providing responses to participants’ questions and the production of videos outlining the changes for communication to people with disability and other key groups.

Queensland Women’s Strategy – Policy Forum for women with disability

QDN members have noted the importance of women with disability being at the forefront of bringing the Queensland Women’s Strategy to life.

QDN members have communicated strongly that change should be by and for women with disability and ensure it is ‘nothing about us without us.’ To contribute to the conversation and inform the agenda, QDN held an online forum in August 2022 to explore the Queensland Women’s Strategy, what it means for women with disability in practice, gaps in policy and how we can work together to bring it to life and influence change. The aim of this forum was to give members a platform to make an impact in improving the lives of women living with disability in Queensland. More than 30 QDN members who participated in the forum identified key issues for women living with disability

as well as some solutions to some of these key issues. QDN produced a report and will work with participants to progress action on the recommendations and feedback in the report.

Preparation for Housing Summit

QDN held a meeting in preparation for representation at the Housing Summit to identify key issues and recommendations and policy positions of, by and for people with disability. 28 members attended and discussed and prepared recommendations for policy design and solutions to take forward to the housing summit including key areas of affordable and accessible housing, private rental including NRAS reform, inclusionary zoning laws, and cross-agency collaboration.

Taxi Roundtable Forum

QDN members continue to raise issues around the use of taxis and members and the QDN leadership team have been working together to make change. A group of QDN members recently attended a taxi roundtable forum organised by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Honourable Mark Bailey. The forum was attended by taxi operators, drivers, advocacy organisations and people with disability. Members provided their experiences of catching taxis and shared their ideas about what can be improved. The forum was very productive and the Minister confirmed his commitment to ongoing engagement with the taxi industry and disability sector to resolve these issues. QDN continues its ongoing dialogue with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and will continue to provide updates on the issue. QDN thanks everyone who has provided their personal experiences of catching taxis.

Disability Action Week forum: Workforce Diversity - open up to opportunity

On Friday 2 December 2022, QDN hosted Honourable Craig Crawford MP – Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Honourable Di Farmer, Minister for Training and Skills Development for a Disability Action Week (DAW) forum. The forum reflected the DAW theme of Workforce diversity—open up to opportunity, with Dr Sharon Boyce (Chair Queensland Disability Advisory Council, QDN Deputy Chairperson), Michael Dobbie (Strategic Advisor Inclusion – APM) and Prudence Walker (CEO, Disabled Person Assembly New Zealand) providing perspectives of people with disability.

Job Match

All Abilities Job Match is a new project which will run until June 2024. It is funded by an NDIS ILC grant, and brings together QDN, the Community Services Industry Alliance (industry body), Life Without Barriers (lead employer) and Joblife (disability employment services provider). The project engages QDN members as consultants to provide a support package to 10 community services providers to create improved employment opportunities for people with disability. Each participating employer receives consulting support to establish employee networks, adjust recruitment practices and employ graduate interns. Jobseekers with disability undertake suitability assessment and are supported to access current and future vacancies. A community of practice among employers will champion broader industry change that leads to improved employment opportunities for people with disability.



Homelessness Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

In recognition of the high prevalence of disability among people experiencing homelessness, QDN, The University of Sydney, Community Services Industry Alliance and the Queensland Government worked together to research and develop an Outreach Guide to take Person Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) to people who are homeless. QDN members with lived experience of homelessness had a critical role in the project, sharing their insights and being part of videos for training emergency management personnel.

Transition from Birribi

Birribi is a long-stay Queensland Health Facility in Rockhampton. QDN was engaged to support remaining residents in a process for transitioning out of the facility and connecting to family and community. This was completed very successfully with some life changing outcomes.



AAA Digital Inclusion Project

Beginning in November 2021, Access, Affordability and Ability Digital Inclusion is a pilot project for Queenslanders with disability to get access to digital devices, data, and skills to help them stay connected to their communities and supports, particularly during emergencies including health and natural disasters. The

project entered Phase 2 in the 2022-2023 financial year.

In Phase 2, 263 people have been assisted to receive devices and supported to learn how to use them through 806 instances of support. 78 digital support workshops have been delivered - including online and in-person and community based and bespoke in-house workshops. 1267 digital devices and items were received by the GIVIT Digital Inclusion Appeals Page. Digital items included digital devices (phones, tablets and laptops) and any accessories related to the devices and accessibility needs (cases, chargers, keyboards, mouse, Office 365 subscriptions, internet dongles etc.).

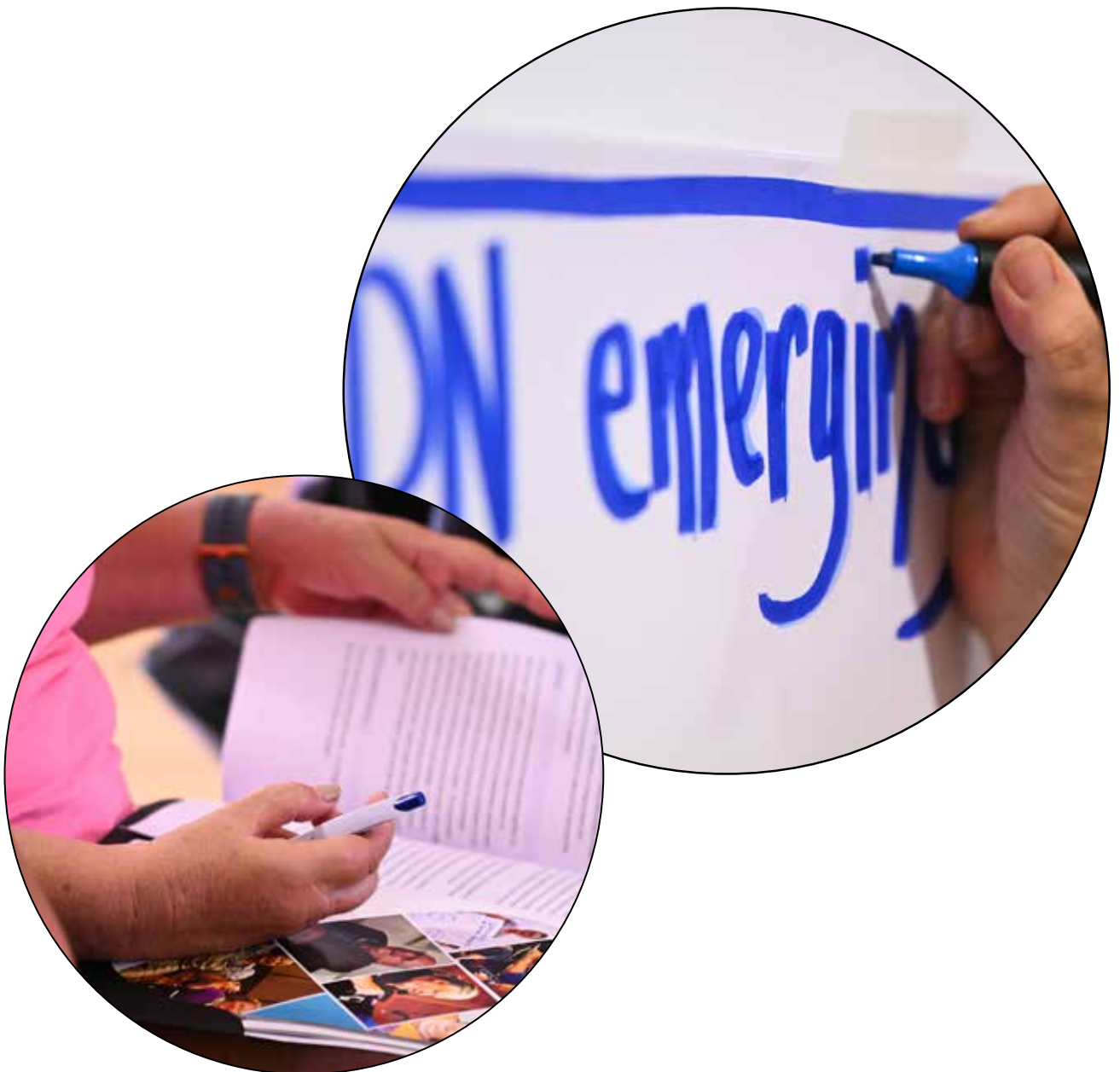
Of the people who received support through the project, 56% identified as living with a psychosocial disability, 16% identified as coming from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse background, and 12% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Much of the work of the Digital Inclusion project has taken place in Level 3 Supported Accommodation and with people who are socially isolated.



The following story illustrates the potential benefits of participation in the project:

A regular attendee at an inner city workshop is an older lady who, prior to the workshops, had not been out of the house in six months. She had recently acquired an iPad and was generally very wary of technology and worried about scammers. She said the workshops were “gold” and that she had been learning a great deal from them. Her self-reported confidence with using her device has significantly improved. Of most use to her has been navigating emails and video calls, setting up secure payment methods and learning how to spot scams.





LEAD expresses QDN's goal of enhancing the leadership and influence of people with a disability. This goal has been well met this year through the activities of Peer Leaders, the Emerging Leaders programs, an international leadership summit and a co-hosted event at an international conference.

Peer Leaders

Peer Leaders continue to develop their leadership by meeting monthly with the QDN Chairperson and senior management staff to hear updates and inform QDN on the issues they are picking up from their activities with members - from taxis and transport, to housing and the cost of living. Peer Leaders also recently had a meeting with the NDIS Review Team.

QDN Emerging Leaders Program

In 2022 QDN held the second Emerging Leaders program, with 2 groups of 20 people completing the program and graduating in November 2022.

The final workshop and graduation dinner was fun and emotional, many close relationships having been formed. The connections continue for past Emerging Leaders in ongoing friendships and the opportunities many have taken up with QDN membership, peer support groups and work as QDeNgage consultants.

In 2023, 23 people are engaged in developing their leadership in the Emerging Leaders Program. The group met face to face at their opening workshop in March in Brisbane and have continued to meet twice monthly online, ahead of the final workshop in November 2023.

One monthly gathering is the Circle of Practice, focused on the inner work of leadership - the personal development, practice, and inquiry necessary for effective leadership. The second monthly workshop is the Leadership Workshop, which focuses on the work of leading out in the world.

This workshop invites industry and disability leaders to share their experiences, knowledge, and leadership journeys, answer questions and participate in conversation with the group. Guest speakers have included Emerging Leaders alumni; Geoff Rowe, CEO, Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia; Kevin Stone, self-advocacy educator; and Fran Vicary, Director, QLD AAT Case Management, National Disability Insurance Agency.



Both workshops use self-developed questions to guide people's learning and discovery - a personal leadership question focused on the inner capacity people want to build and a passion project leadership question focused on being the most effective leader on the issue/s that matter most to the person. Participants are thriving in the program and it is a privilege to witness their evolution as leaders.

Nigel Webb Emerging Leaders Bursary

Nigel Webb was a QDN Director/Chairperson from 2010-2021, where he made a significant contribution to the organisation, Board, and the disability sector. To acknowledge this contribution, QDN's Board established a bursary for Emerging Leaders called the Nigel Webb Emerging Leader Bursary.

Patrick Heaton, the recipient of the Bursary in 2022-23, writes about his experience:

I travelled to Victoria to meet with peers and professionals within the disability sector. My purpose was to learn and take ideas back to my community.

I connected with the carer of a man who is in intensive rehabilitation after a brain injury. We spoke about what it is like to be a loved one of a person with a brain injury. For me this was a first, as I am on the injury side not the carer's side. I can see the pain and stress of injury is shared in some ways by family and friends. It honestly opened my eyes.

I met with members of VALID Victoria about the peer-led advocacy and consultancy work their group Valid8 does in the Victorian community. I wanted to connect with Uli Cartwright whom I have spoken to online several times, but no luck, as he was currently starring in the 7.30 report about the Public Trustee. Uli was a person who was under the Public Trustee and at the time, people couldn't comment on their own cases to media as they were subject to suppression orders. Uli, with Valid8, advocated for change to that law in Victoria.

I went to rural Victoria to watch an all abilities football game. It was great -

people aged from 12-60 of differing abilities all having a kick. It was so friendly, and I really felt part of a community. I was also privileged to be shown around the MCG including the members' areas and the accessibility measures on offer. It was amazing: all toilets are accessible and food stalls have a concierge (if you are in a chair they will deliver your food to you). The accessibility of Melbourne city is amazing - for example, all the tram stops have been raised to tram floor height for access.

I was also fortunate to have a sit down with Kevin Stone, a very wise man and well-known advocate. Kevin and I had a great chat about his Team - The Empowering Advocacy Method Program. Kevin cares about what he is teaching and has some great experience to share.

I owe a great deal to QDN, Emerging Leaders and the Nigel Webb Bursary, I can't suggest enough to people to be involved. My work in my community is going great guns and I am inspired by the program and the great people I met on the bursary trip to keep making great strides in my community.

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

QDN co-hosted a luncheon with The University of Sydney and People with Disability Australia on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction as part of this major international conference hosted by the United Nations.

Get Ready, Plan Ahead workshops

QDN's Peer Leaders are hosting workshops to teach people with disability how to use the Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness framework to get ready for disasters. 89 participants have taken part in Get Ready, Plan Ahead workshops in Burdekin, Charters Towers, Goondiwindi and Fraser Coast. Workshops are also planned for Logan.

Parliament House Showcase - the Power of Peers

This event in November 2022 showcased the impact of the Power of Peers program. Speakers, many of them Peer Leaders, spoke about QDN's peer work and their own experiences. With nearly 100 people in attendance the Showcase certainly demonstrated how the Power of Peers has enhanced the capacity of Queenslanders with disability to inform, connect, lead and influence change in their and others' lives and in their communities.

International Day of People with Disability online summit

For the third year in a row, as part of the Power of Peers Project, QDN's Brisbane and Gold Coast Hot Topics Peer Support Groups for people with an intellectual disability worked with self-advocacy groups in Canada to hold an international online event on the International Day of People with Disability. 127 people participated and discussed topics including having a voice and influencing systems and how they work for people with intellectual disability. These events continue to empower and connect people with intellectual disability, and the shared work of growing their leadership continues.





GOAL 4: INFLUENCE

INFLUENCE encompasses QDN's strategic goal of Influencing through representation to key points of influence, State and National alliances, membership of local, state and national committees, and governance structures and practices that reflect QDN's values.

Governance structure and practice that reflects QDN's values

QDN's motto of Nothing About Us Without Us, and its values, are expressed in QDN's governance and structures in several ways:

- QDN is governed by people with disability
- QDN is an employer of people with disability
- QDN's work supports the capacity of people with disability to inform, lead, connect and influence
- QDN has developed its position of influence in the sector and successfully sought funding for its executive peak body status

In January 2023, QDN's Board of Directors held a planning day to ensure QDN's strategic direction and work meets the organisations' mission: We lead, inform, connect, and influence to empower people with disability to be fully included as citizens in the social and economic life of the community.

Representation to key points of influence

QDN continues to grow its leadership and influence as an organisation of, by and for people with disability. QDN is a respected and in-demand voice for people with disability and is engaged in representation to key points of influence from the local to the national level, across a breadth of issues, reflecting the concerns and interests of members.

This representation includes:

Meetings and briefings with Queensland Government Ministers and senior Government officials, particularly this year with the Departments of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services; Health; Communities, Housing and Digital Economy; Employment and Small Business; and Justice and Attorney General; the Queensland Human Rights Commissioner, Chief Digital Officer, and Public Advocate.



Key Committee representation

In Queensland and nationally, QDN is represented on multiple committees, including:

- Accessible Taxi Services Working Group
- Aged Care COVID Working Group
- Australian Warning System – Queensland implementation group
- Brisbane City Council – Metro Access Project
- Commonwealth Disability and Health Sector Consultation Committee (DHSCC)
- Community and Industry Digital Advisory Group
- Consumers, Community & Clinicians Forum (C4F)
- Council to Homeless Persons
- Council to Homeless Persons: Housing with No Income Working Group
- COVID-19 Vaccination Consumer Engagement Committee
- Department of Housing Residential Services Reference Group
- Disability Reform Housing SubCommittee
- Health Consumers Queensland NGO COVID meetings
- Health and Wellbeing Queensland Equity Framework - Community Governance Group
- Homelessness Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction – Lived Experience Working Group
- Intellectual Disability Reference Group (IDRG) Sub-committee of the Independent Advisory Council, National Disability Insurance Agency –
- P-CEP Peer Leadership National Advisory Group
- Prison Exit into housing model working group
- Personal Mobility Device (PMD) Safety Reference Group
- Personal Mobility Device (PMD) Parking Working Group
- Positive Behaviour Support and Restrictive Practices Review Reference Group
- Queensland Disability Advisory Council
- Queensland Health COVID-19 Working Group – Disability
- Queensland Health COVID-19 Working Group – Residential Aged Care.
- Queensland Health COVID-19 Testing Implementation and Improvement Working Group
- Queensland Health and Disability Interface Community Advisory Group
- Queensland (CHPQ) Network
- QCOSS Community Services CEO Network
- Queensland Rail – Accessibility Reference Group
- Queensland Volunteering Action Partnership
- Queensland Health Long Stay Strategic Working Group
- Queensland Peaks Network
- Queensland Volunteering Partnership.
- QUT C4J “Stopping Gender Violence” Advisory Board
- Queensland Volunteering Partnership.
- Queensland Human Rights Commissioner – Review of Anti Discrimination Act Reference Group
- Queensland University of Technology Centre for Justice, Domestic and Family Violence Committee
- QCOSS and Department Communities, Housing and Digital Economy Human Rights and Housing and Homelessness Stakeholder Reference Group
- Queensland Women’s Strategy Advisory Group – Attorney General
- Queensland Health - Queensland Hospital Discharge and Housing Project
- Residential Tenancy Authority Stakeholder Working Group
- Roadmap Implementation Governance Group (RIGG) – National Roadmap on

- Health and Intellectual Disability
- Social Services Industry Reference Group
- YPIRAC QLD Industry Reference Group - Ability First Australia Young People in Residential Aged Care System Coordinator Program
- Volunteering Management Activity Project Reference Council - People with Disability
- Youth Justice and Disability Working Group
- Voluntary Assisted Dying Communication and Engagement Committee

QDN also engages at a national level, meeting with Commonwealth Government Senators, MPs, Ministers and senior government officials, particularly around health, disaster preparedness, and the NDIS.

Forums, briefings and consultations

QDN's profile continues to increase and staff and members are often invited to bring expertise and advocacy to a wide range of one-off or short-term policy and issue based forums, briefings and consultations. The list below demonstrates the enormous range of QDN's influence:

- Behaviour Support Formal Advice: Independent Advisory Council of the NDIS
- Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy Forum
- Building Digital Equity in Queensland: Disability and Industry digital inclusion workshops
- Commonwealth Office of Attorney General - Consultation on a new administrative review body - disability perspectives - AAT Reform Enquiries
- Department of Housing - Assessment of Disability Accommodation Provider's requirement to register as a Residential Service
- Brisbane alliance to end homelessness - supportive housing growth plan
- CEDA LED Industry Event - 2032 Games and Legacy
- Committee for Brisbane - Olympics and Paralympics Roll, Stroll, Glide
- DANA - consultation about the National Centre for Advocacy
- Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - briefing on Regulatory Services
- Department of Justice and Attorney General - Briefing on Coercive Control Bill
- Domestic and Family Violence Peaks Focus Groups
- Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - Regulatory Services
- Evaluation of the National Disability Research Partnership
- Focus Group - Violence Against Women with Disability
- Interview - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland Insights from people with lived experience of disability and the justice system
- Intellectual Disability Reference Group (IDRG) Sub-committee of the Independent Advisory Council, National Disability Insurance Agency - several sessions
- Judging Panel Member - 2022 Moreton Bay Business & Innovation Awards
- Legacy and Employment of people with disability in businesses
- NDS Webinar Briefing with Minister Bill Shorten
- National Insurance Injury Scheme Queensland- consultation on the Positive Behaviour Support Framework
- National Peaks' Policy Engagements
- Meeting with Minister De Brenni - National Construction Code

- Minister Farmer's (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) - Workforce Connect Fund Information and Briefing Session
- Meeting with Chief and Deputy Chief Health Officer – COVID Response changes
- NDIA – Independent Advisory Council Research and Evaluation Advisory Panel - NDIS Wellbeing Index Steering Group
- NDIS Community Engagement, National Operations, Co-design and Engagement Branch, National Disability Insurance Agency
- NDIA Independent Advisory Council (IAC) Sub Committee - Disability Wellbeing Index Stakeholder Consultation
- Premier's Housing Roundtable
- Public Advocate Adult Safeguarding Forum
- QIDAN and Peaks Joint Meeting
- Queensland Housing Summit
- Queensland Chief Customer and Digital Officer and DCHDE Codesign workshop for Digital Inclusion Roundtable
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Stakeholder Consultation - Australian Warnings System (AWS) & Disability
- Research and Evaluation Advisory Panel - Guides for Understanding Supports -
- Research Australia's Philanthropy Roundtable
- Road Safety Ministerial Roundtable
- Sporting Wheelies Association - sector engagement – Olympics and Paralympics Legacy
- Subcommittee of NDIS Independent Advisory Council (IAC)
- Sector Peaks' Policy Engagement with multiple organisations
- Taxi Ministerial Roundtable
- Workforce diversity—open up to opportunity forum

Speaking engagements

QDN members and staff have become sought after speakers and have presented at a wide variety of events this year:

- Acknowledgement of Country - Disability Reform Ministers' Meeting
- Australia's Disability Strategy - Queensland Forum
- Australia New Zealand Disaster Emergency Management Conference - disability inclusive disaster planning
- Brisbane Disability Connection Expo (stallholder)
- Chaired session for the Peaks with NDIS Review Panel Members
- COTA Queensland - Financing Our Future Committee Meeting Presentation about QDeNgage
- DIDRR Networking Lunch at Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference Disaster Risk Reduction
- Domestic and Family Violence "Understanding Pathways to Safety" Forum during Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month for DV Connect
- Emergency Media and Public Affairs Conference - Panel Inclusive disaster preparedness
- 'Hear her diverse voice' panel at the Listen, Connect, Reflect Conference for Women's Legal Service
- HCQ Webcast – Are you flu ready?
- National Disability Summit - disability inclusive disaster planning
- National Leave Nobody Behind DIDRR Forum in Sydney
- State-wide Local Government Association meeting
- Taxi Ministerial Roundtable
- TedX talk - University of Queensland
- QCOSS Disaster Preparedness Forum – Presentation
- Queensland Independent Disability Advocacy Network (QIDAN) planning meeting

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

QDN has worked hard to ensure that our members have the opportunity to influence the hosting and legacy of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. QDN staff and members attended the Brisbane 2032 Legacy Forum held in Brisbane in March. Almost 500 people were in attendance, including QDN Chair Dr Sharon Boyce who is on the Legacy Committee and presented at the forum by CEO Michelle Moss.

Inclusion was a key focus of the forum and QDN looks forward to engaging in the next phase of development of the legacy plan. The Premier also announced the establishment of the Paralympic Centre of Excellence.

Key work that has arisen from this event is QDN's Brisbane 2032 Legacy Strategic Work - Disability Inclusive Procurement Campaign. QDN wrote to the Premier, Deputy Premier, and a range of Ministers to outline our position to have Disability Inclusive Procurement included as part of the 2032 Legacy Plan. This is an opportunity to stimulate disability entrepreneurship and business development, improve employment outcomes for people with disability and deliver industry, business and community change. Through requiring businesses to demonstrate how they are increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding of disability in their own organisations, this will contribute to shift attitudes and behaviours for inclusion and deliver economic, social, and community benefits for Queensland.

QDN has advocated for Disability Inclusive Procurement to be included in the 2032 Games Legacy Plan to drive legacy outcomes of the next 20 years. In line with other procurement frameworks,

QDN would like to see disability inclusive requirements for tenders, proposals and contracts associated with the 2032 Games.

This needs to be accompanied by strong governance and reporting mechanisms to ensure implementation. As well as engaging with key Government Ministers and officials, QDN has engaged its local communities.

Voice of Queenslanders with Disability

Griffith University, QDN and Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services commissioned, informed, compiled and released, in June 2023, the Voice of Queenslanders with Disability Report. The report was based on a QDN-led survey of people with disability, their families and carers, disability service providers and peak and advocacy organisations, for an in-depth understanding of their perspectives, trends and issues around inclusion and social and economic participation of people with disability. The goal of the report is to find out about inclusion and people's service experiences across the seven outcome areas of Australia's Disability Strategy and how they are changing in Queensland over time. QDN has often promoted the value of measuring outcomes for disability strategy and plans, and an annual survey and report, commissioned and valued by government, is a great achievement. This survey and report are key in the quest to understand the experiences of people with disability and drive change.

Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Review

QDN was contracted to undertake a review and engagement with stakeholders around ILC in Queensland and provided the final report to the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (later Child safety, Seniors and Disability Services). The report - Information, Linkages and Capacity Building – Review of Queensland Activity highlighted key findings which Queensland Government are considering.

Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements Review

QDN's work and advocacy in the disaster management space has resulted in the Inspector General of Emergency Management recommending the State Disaster Management Plan "adopt person-centred planning and build on the work of the Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and Toolkit".

Disability Service Plans

As part of its Peaks funding, QDN provided advice and feedback to Queensland Government Departments on their Disability Service Plans to enable high quality, effective planning. QDN has provided this service to multiple Departments including Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services; Communities, Housing and Digital Economy; Corrections; Queensland Police Service; Fire and Emergency Services; Tourism, Sport and Innovation; Children,

Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs; Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water; and Queensland Health.

Building Digital Equity in Queensland

In October 2022, the Queensland Government's Chief Customer and Digital Officer hosted Queensland's first Building Digital Equity for people with a disability workshop. Representatives from business, technology and the telecommunications industry, disability peak bodies, nongovernment organisations, people living with disability, and government worked to understand challenges and opportunities and commit to delivering actions to support improved digital inclusion. The goal was to develop practical shared actions to improve access, affordability, and skills for people with disability. QDN also aimed to create understanding, cross-sector connections and recognition of the value and power of working together for a genuinely inclusive future. Subsequently, 10 working groups were established including QDN as part of strategic action to work to secure ongoing funding.

State and National Alliances

QDN works collaboratively in Queensland and increasingly across Australia to advocate for issues that impact people with disabilities, forming alliances for projects, campaigns and issues-based engagement.

Our alliances include:

- Council to Homeless Persons
Queensland homelessness alliance
- Disability Advocacy Network Australia
- Health/Disability Non-Government
Organisation Partnership
- Jamieson Trauma Institute - partnership
to progress legacy project around
health and well-being
- Making Rent Fair Alliance
- National Community Housing Alliance
- Queensland Walking Alliance
- Queensland Disability Advocacy
Alliance
- QCOS Community Services Network
Queensland Peaks Network

Queensland Volunteering Action
Partnership QDN also actively engages
with and supports organisations that share
the values and goals of QDN, attending
events and forums to demonstrate that
support. This year, these have included:

- Angelman Syndrome Australia Annual
Conference
- QAMH Members meeting
- QCOS Budget Breakfast
- Queensland Volunteering Awards QDN
has also been a guest at a variety of
public launches and events this year:
- Griffith University Table at Committee
for Brisbane event - Roll, stroll, ride and
glide: How to make Brisbane 2032 the
most accessible Games yet.
- NAIDOC Week Dinner as guest of
Minister Crawford
- Premier's White Ribbon Day Breakfast
- Premier's Christmas Reception
- Path to Treaty Lunch hosted by Premier
and Minister Crawford
- Queensland Care Consortium Launch
with Minister Farmer
- R U OK? Day Community Bushwalk -
Government House





GOAL 5: GROWING OUR NETWORK



Growing our network is critical to our continued success as a voice for people with disability in Queensland. This means not just reaching members and growing membership, but also growing our network of influence for change and getting our messages out to the community.

This year we have had great success growing our network and amplifying the voice of members on disparate issues such as the NDIS review, disaster preparedness and e-scooters, and many others. Our voice on social and other media continues to grow, as more people and agencies become aware of what QDN does and the people and issues it represents. The compilation and publication of the Voice of Queenslanders with Disability report was a remarkable moment in the history of the voices of people with disability and QDN.

Vale

In the year 2022-2023, the disability community in Queensland suffered the loss of several remarkable leaders, passionate advocates, and devoted members of QDN. We honour and remember each of them for their invaluable contributions towards creating a more inclusive and equitable Queensland for everyone.



THREE

PART 3: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Income

QDN's total income for the 2022-2023 financial year was \$3,853,420 (2021-2022: \$3,656,787).

This was primarily comprised of:

\$718,842	QDN Core Business
\$188,031	Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy Projects
\$50,000	Queensland Health Projects
\$749,005	Department of Social Services – Power of Peers and Community Inclusion Capacity Building.
\$903,475	Disaster Inclusive Risk Reduction Projects
\$805,179	Other income from projects, QDeNgage and investments
\$438,888	Digital Inclusion Project

Expenditure

QDN's total expenditure for the 2022-2023 financial year was \$3,817,185 (2021/22: \$3,654,247).

Surplus

QDN generated an operating surplus of \$36,235 for the 2022-2023 financial year.



Australian Government



Queensland
Government

PART 4: APPENDIX

FOUR

QDN Organisational Chart

