



First Peoples
Disability Network
Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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WELCOME



Friends of Close the Gap, Parliament House, Canberra

We are First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDN) – a national organisation of and for Australia's First Peoples with disability, their families and communities. Our organisation is governed by First Peoples with disability and Elders of the disability movement.

We proactively engage with communities around Australia, and advocate for the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, in Australia and internationally.

We follow the human rights framework established by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which Australia is a signatory, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

First Peoples with disability and their families are among the most seriously disadvantaged and disempowered members of the Australian community. We give voice to their needs and concerns and share their narratives.

We work for the recognition, respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of First Peoples with disability and their families.

FPDN was established informally in 2010 and registered as a public company limited by guarantee in 2014. Its predecessor, the Aboriginal Disability Network NSW (ADNNSW) was established in 2002. The two organisations merged in 2016. Our founders are the leaders of

the Aboriginal disability movement, who have been working to uphold the rights of our people since the 1960s.

In 2015, we launched our strategic directions for 2015 to 2020. We are reviewing our strategic direction and will launch our strategic direction 2020 – 2025 in 2019.

OUR PRIORITIES ARE:

1. Attitudinal change through education
2. Community participation through capacity development
3. Leadership
4. Systemic change
5. Developing a responsive service system
6. Community driven research
7. Effective communication of message
8. Effective governance and operations

OUR VISION

We have a vision of a just and inclusive society, in which the First Peoples with disability of the Australian nation are respected and valued for their culture, history and contribution to contemporary life, and in which the human rights of First Peoples with disability are recognised, respected, protected and fulfilled.





Stand By Me rally, Redfern



OUR MISSION

First Peoples Disability Network Australia is a national organisation of and for Australia's First Peoples with disability, their families and communities. Its purpose is to promote respect for human rights, secure social justice, and empower First Peoples with disability to participate in Australian society on an equal basis with others. We are the custodians of the narratives of First Peoples with disability, their families and communities and we recognise this important responsibility.

Because ours is an oral history, we continue this by recognising the value of our peoples' narratives and collecting this as data, which informs our work and the work of others.

OUR CORE VALUES

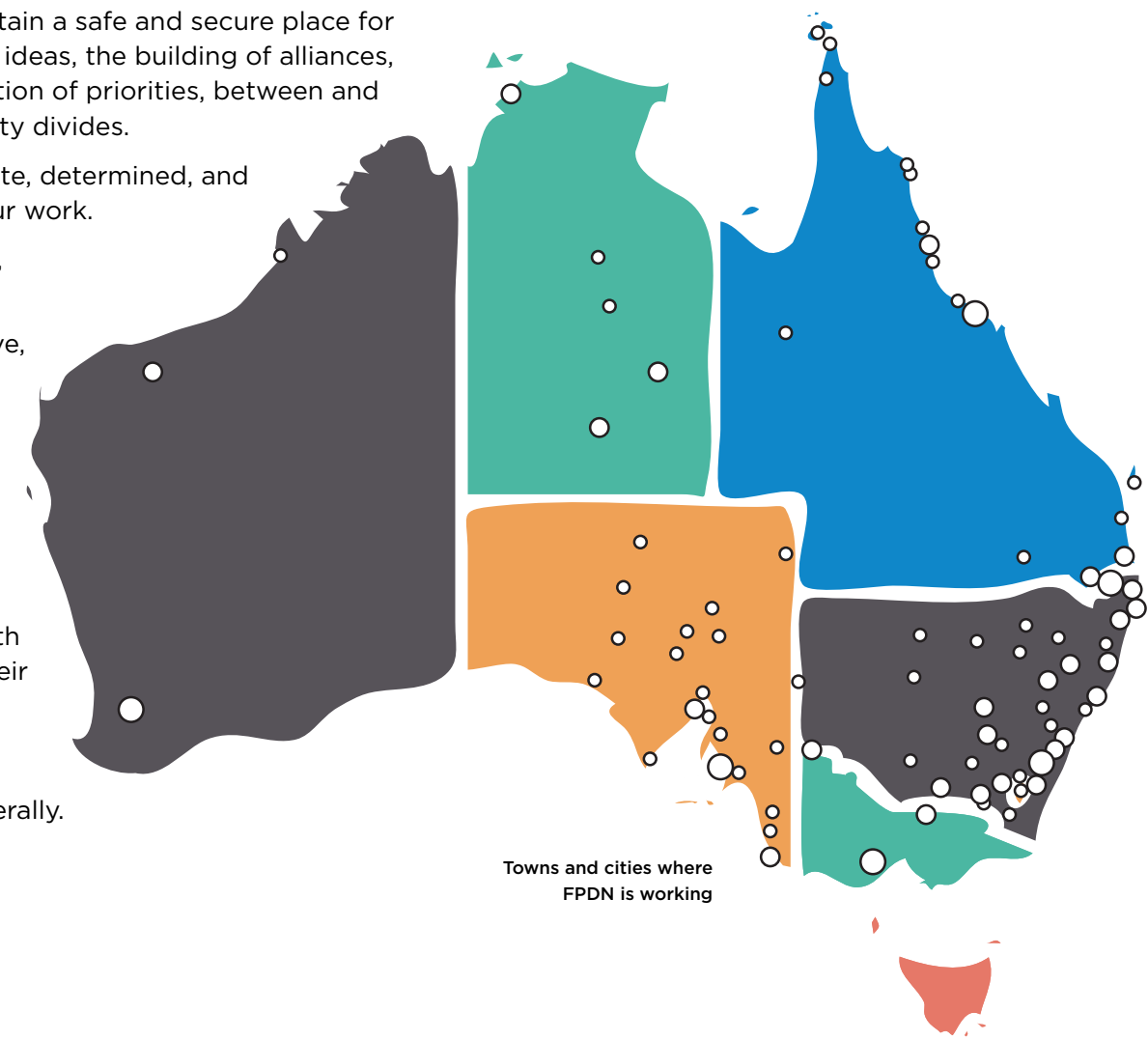
- Recognition and respect for human rights, and in particular for the human rights of First Peoples and First Peoples with disability.
- Equality of outcomes for First Peoples with disability with other members of Australian society through equal opportunity, non-discrimination and affirmative action.
- Empowerment of First Peoples with disability and their families to direct their own lives and to secure the resources that they need to participate on an equal basis with others in Australian life.

- Access to justice for First Peoples with disability.
- Inclusion of First Peoples with disability in all aspects of Australian life.
- Respect for the Elders of First Peoples nations across Australia and for their efforts over time to secure justice for their peoples and communities. In particular, we honour those Elders who have worked to secure justice for First Peoples with disability and their families.
- Respect for the culture and history of Australian First Peoples and recognition of the ongoing importance of that culture in our contemporary lives.
- Recognition and respect for the lived experience of First Peoples with disability and their families as the central driver of our work.
- Recognition of the richness and diversity of Australian First Peoples communities across Australia.

OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

- We work within a social model of disability, which recognises that disability is produced by barriers to equality and participation for people with impairments that must be dismantled.
- We work with First Peoples with disability, their families and communities across Australia, to ensure that our work reflects their diversity and priorities.

- We work with all First Peoples communities to create and maintain a safe and secure place for the exchange of ideas, the building of alliances, and the formulation of priorities, between and across community divides.
- We are passionate, determined, and committed to our work.
- We lead change, not react to it.
- We are innovative, creative, and solution-focused.
- We are accountable in all aspects of our work to First Peoples with disability and their families, our communities, and to the community generally.





Our Chairperson Aunty Gayle Rankine



FPDN continued to develop its national network, connecting with and exchanging knowledge with communities around the country.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I am pleased to share First Peoples Disability Network (Australia)'s 2018 Annual Report with you. This year has been a landmark year for FPDN. Our primary mission is to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, their families and communities have the information and services they need to live their lives with equal access to appropriate supports and opportunities.

We achieve this in a number of ways and we track our performance against our strategic priorities. Our priority programs this year were:

1. DSS (Department of Social Services) - Disability and carer service improvement and sector support project
2. NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) - DSO (Disability Support Officer) Projects - SA/NT/NSW
3. NDIS - ILC - ACT Project (Café Our way)
4. DSS - Community-driven Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Program
5. NSW FACS (Family & Community Services) - Peaks, Advocacy and Information Project
6. NSW FACS - Capacity Building
7. NSW FACS - BuildUp Project
8. NSW FACS - ILC Transitional Project - Western NSW
9. NSW FACS- Aboriginal Disability Provider Grants Program
10. Philanthropy - NT - Community Development - The Hub, Tennant Creek
11. Autism Spectrum Australia - Positive Partnerships

FPDN continued to develop its national network, connecting with and exchanging knowledge with communities around the country.

In 2019, we will review and update our strategic directions for 2020-2025. We plan to increase our activities in all states and territories and share our knowledge and expertise across sectors.

There continue to be considerable changes in the disability sector in Australia and now, more than ever, there is a spotlight being shone on the rights of people with disability through inquiries and Royal Commissions. We continue to work closely with our colleagues at Disabled People's Organisations Australia and with other stakeholders to ensure our people know their rights and have access to culturally and disability appropriate supports and information.

One important way we achieve this is a result of the work of our community connectors. FPDN has teams working in NSW, ACT, SA, WA, QLD and the NT.

As I reflect on the past year I believe it is not only important to celebrate our hard work and successes but to acknowledge our people around the country for all they do to connect and build strong communities. The communities we work with give us strength.

We, at FPDN are proud to work alongside other community controlled organisations to forge a pathway for community controlled organisations to lead at all levels, in our different fields, working with our people, making decisions with our people based on knowledge, respect and culture.

FPDN has a committed and deadly staff led by CEO Damian Griffis and Deputy CEO June Riemer. I thank them for their work and acknowledge their unwavering commitment and effort. The coming year will be another busy one as we strive to deliver on our objectives and our mission.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our directors for their wisdom, strategic guidance and their commitment to our work. Information about our Board is available [on our website](#).

As our organisation grows we see every day that the First Nations' People across Australia, living in remote, regional and urban areas are knowledgeable and resilient. When our work is grounded in the community, led by the community, for the community, we succeed. This is the message that I hope stays with you as you read our Annual Report.

In closing I wish to recognise our Elders who have passed. Our Founding Elder, Uncle Lester Bostock is greatly missed. His legacy lives on every day in our work. We recognise the contribution and wisdom of Elders who were leading voices from our ELDA Council Aunty Bonita Mabo and Aunty Belinda Tennyson, Aunty Betty McMahon and Uncle Willy Kabay. They were much loved and respected Elders in their communities and the wider community. We pay tribute to their work in this report. We at FPDN feel a great sense of loss of their passing, but we are thankful that we had the opportunity to learn from them. Our organisation and our people are better for having had the honour of knowing them. Thank you.

Gayle Rankine, Chairperson, FPDN



SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY

FPDN continued to advocate systemically on a range of human rights related issues. Our systemic advocacy was undertaken using a range of strategies including representation on various governments, by providing advice to a wide range of stakeholders including the non-government sector and by regular engagement with various media including Indigenous media, mainstream, digital and social media platforms around Australia. FPDN is widely regarded as the thought leader on disability in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and continues to be sought out to provide advice and representation nationally across a range of forums. FPDN's systemic advocacy is further enhanced by its membership of the Disabled People's Organisations Australia (DPOA) which provides an important conduit for profiling the human rights of First Peoples with disability.



CONNECTION TO COUNTRY AND CULTURE AND THE WISDOM OF ELDERS

At FPDN we are fortunate to have a network of Elders and experts who share their wisdom with us and guide us as we work for better opportunities and outcomes for our people with disability around the country.

These relationships inform our work and our community grounded research. Our ELDA Council was formally established this year.

The inaugural FPDN ELDA's (Elders Living with Disability Australia) caretaker council met on Thursday 21 September 2017 in Alice Springs, NT.

The Elders came to support the 'Living our Ways' research program which actively seeks the knowledge and voices of the national ELDA council made up of with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with disability.

A key issue raised by the ELDA council is the important of genuine and ongoing community consultation on all traditional lands. The ELDA council recommended as a first step that they be invited to any future consultations for all community disability business including the NDIS.

The discussions culminated in a joint position statement.

The Elders know that consultation will also lead to a better quality of life for our people by addressing our needs, our way.



DISABILITY OUR WAY – A STATEMENT FROM THE ELDA COUNCIL

There is no compromise, we have to uphold traditional lore and do business our way. At the moment, Government is overriding disability business in the community. So, from today we say that we will not compromise and we are taking a stand. Enough is enough.

We speak as Elders living with disability and we know that disability business is important and must guide all conversations in our communities for change.

Sharing stories and story-telling is so strong in Aboriginal communities. This way leads us to support healing in the community so we can move forward and get things right. Funding is needed to help all the layers of community and then the Government can speak with us. That is the message we need to deliver and hold firm to.

Our message is that "you need to speak to the ELDA council about disability business".

Today, we have come together and we have found that what we share, what we have in common is lack of support for those with a disability in community and healing processes.

Until governments respect this and get that right we won't continue to accept the top down approach and go forward on the terms of others. We will explain our terms, our way and do business our way.

The ELDA council is united in saying that we all in this room need to flip the business structure that has gone before, in which our community, our people are not given adequate supports. Disability business sits on top and governments' business comes underneath that. We know our Culture, our Lore, our Community and our Country. We will lead the way and incorporate disability business our way.

Today we say: "The Government must come to us, no compromise".

[Visit the link to see more.](#)

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY 2017

Launch of FPDN's Our Way Planning Resource in Townsville

One of the ways FPDN celebrated the UN sanctioned International Day of Persons with Disability 2017 was the launch of our new national planning resource for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability – [The Our Way Planning Book and Video](#).

The resource is used nationally and was launched at the NDIA offices in Townsville on Tuesday 5 December 2017 on the traditional land of the Bindal and Wulgurukaba People.



We were honoured to have Aunty Bonita Mabo and Aunty Louisa Uta representing our ELDA council, and Aunty Maureen Logan representing our Board at the launch alongside other esteemed guests.



About the Resource

The [Our Way planning resource](#) was developed in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living with disability, Elders and community members across NSW, the Northern Territory, Queensland and the Torres Strait Islands.

The Our Way Planning resource uses the traditional method of art and story-telling to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living with disability to identify areas of their life they need assistance with. The book is designed to recognise the importance of culture, community and Country. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can use the book in their own way to identify what type of support is needed to help keep them keep strong in their relationships, their family, community and culture.

Why do we use the terms 'my way' and 'our way'?

These resources were developed to start the conversation and support people to identify their individual needs as a person living with a disability.

They are created by Aboriginal people, and the creative process has involved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from all walks of life and people with disability, in particular. This is done to ensure that the resources are effective and both disability and culturally accessible.

Through our resources, we aim to ensure that Australia's First People's living with a disability can live life their way.

We say, 'My way' when identifying the individuals and 'Our way' (plural) when identifying the community.



HORSE TALES FILM LAUNCH

FPDN was also proud to launch our short film – [Horse Tales](#) on IDPWD 2017 in Tennant Creek and online across social media.

Horse Tales shows the wonderful Kelly's Ranch inclusive riding program for kids in Tennant Creek, NT, through the eyes of the children who participate in the program.



FPDN ATTENDED COSP AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

Together with our colleagues from Disabled People's Organisations Australia (DPOA) [FPDN participated at the 11th Session of the Conference of States Parties \(COSP\)](#) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). FPDN is one of the four member organisations of DPOA.

COSP was held from 12th to 14th June 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The annual conference brings together countries that have ratified the UN CRPD and representatives from DPOs and civil society organisations to discuss implementation of the CRPD.

The theme of the 2018 COSP was "Leaving no one behind through the full implementation of the CRPD".

FPDN Deputy CEO, June Riemer led the FPDN delegation and participated as the FPDN representative voice at meetings and events.

DPO Australia hosted a side event, LGBTI people with disability & implementation of the CRPD. This was the first time that inclusion of LGBTI people with disability has been discussed at COSP. This side-event included Matthew Bowden (People with Disability Australia), Margherita Coppolino (National Ethnic Disability Alliance) and Paul Calcott (First Peoples Disability Network Australia).

FPDN CEO, Damian Griffis presented on a panel at a side-event on prisoners with disability and the criminal justice system at the invitation of Human Rights Watch.

FPDN member, Evelyn Collins took part in a side-event, Addressing intersections of gender and disability: voices of women with disabilities from the Global South, hosted by the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) and Humanity and Inclusion (HI).



The COSP included the elections for nine new members of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. DPO Australia strongly supporting the election of the Australian candidate, Ms Rosemary Kayess, and it was a highlight of the week when she was successful.

TWO SPIRIT YARNING

FPDN's Paul Constable Calcott created an artwork (pictured) telling a story of the experiences of LGBTI First Peoples with disability that was shown at the side event. Following a productive meeting with Canadian MP the Hon. Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Sport Uncle Paul gifted the work to Canada. It is now displayed at Parliament House, Canada.



The artwork, ['Two Spirit Yarning'](#), was created by Uncle Paul for the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) at the United Nations in New York last year.

The 'two spirit' concept reflected in the artwork reflects the cultural belief that everyone is born with a male spirit or female and people who identify as LGBTIQ+ have multiple spirits. The artwork speaks to the issues and barriers faced by LGBTIQ First Nations people living with disability in their day-to-day lives. The painting also depicts positive reforms such as the same sex marriage bill in Australia and how this has positively impacted on the LGBTIQ community.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT

The 25th anniversary of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) occurred on 1 March 2018. To celebrate, the Australian Human Rights Commission hosted an event at PWC's Barangaroo Offices in Sydney. Our CEO, Damian Griffis was a panellist alongside other disability and human rights experts at the event. The theme was Equality before the Law and the panel discussed the successes and challenges of the DDA.



FPDN LAUNCHED MOBCAST (PODCAST)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People use online community resources and social media at high rates. FPDN launched a podcast program called mob casts on iTunes in March 2018. The first series featured the Build Up Project NSW. The mobcasts provide an important and accessible new way to share with our communities. New mobcasts will be posted online regularly. [You can download and listen to them here.](#)





DAMIAN GRIFFIS APPOINTED CO-CHAIR, CHANGE THE RECORD

FPDN CEO Damian Griffis was appointed new Co-Chair of the national Change the Record campaign.

The Change the Record campaign has two overarching goals, to:

1. Close the gap in rates of imprisonment by 2040; and
2. Cut the disproportionate rates of violence to at least close the gap by 2040 with priority strategies for women and children.

Change the Record is focused on working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to invest in holistic early intervention, prevention and diversion strategies.

Change the Record is overseen by a Steering Committee, made up of leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, human rights and community organisations, including FPDN.



COMMUNITY DIRECTED RESEARCH

FPDN's research hinges on firmly set values about a community-directed approach to disability research, but without a pre-determined framework or hard-wired set of methods. An authentically grounded approach to the research was operationalised into research practice through a number of design principles:

Principle 1: The research is philosophically, methodologically and operationally aligned to the control and direction of the First Peoples disability community.

Principle 2: The research continues the rights-based movement of the First Peoples Disability Network to advance the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

Principle 3: The research is inclusive of all people who wish to participate, subject only to their self-identification as a member of the First Peoples disability community.

Principle 4: The research is discrimination and trauma informed, acknowledging the unique sensitivities of conducting research that includes people who are both Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and have disability.

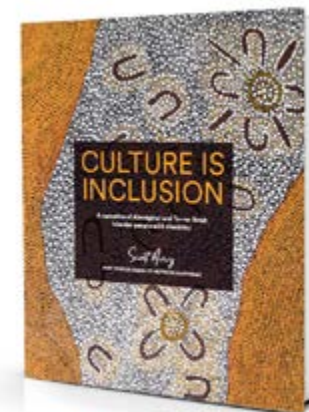
Principle 5: The research meets both (i) international standards of ethical research practice and quality, and (ii) ethical standard for conducting research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



Scott Avery is FPDN's Research and Policy Director and a community researcher and PhD Candidate University of Technology Sydney (UTS). He is leading the 'Living Our Ways' research program which to date has conducted research in urban and remote regions of NSW, Central Northern Territory, and with Deaf and hearing impaired Aboriginal people.

CULTURE IS INCLUSION: A NARRATIVE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DISABILITY

[Culture is Inclusion](#) is an outcome of a research project that promotes the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability within research and policy. The research project is an exploratory study into the issues that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, as told by them through their testimony.



Led by the First Peoples Disability Network it creates a 'narrative' of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability by combining their personal testimony gathered through interviews with statistical data sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics.



This data is brought to life with the distinctly Aboriginal concept of 'yarning', where vignettes are extracted from the testimony to show how many issues come together in the daily life of one person. The research is presented in ten chapters.



COMMUNITY GROUNDED RESEARCH - REPORTING BACK TO FPDN'S MEN'S GROUP TENNANT CREEK (NT)

FPDN's Research and Policy Director, Scott Avery visited Tennant Creek to report back to community on the research program. FPDN hosted a community BBQ with the Men's Group at Tennant Creek to provide an update and acknowledge their ongoing ownership of their narratives and the research project - Culture is Inclusion.



OUR WAY PLANNING AND NDIS READINESS (SA)

FPDN hosted an 'Our Way Planning' workshop in Adelaide South Australia, bringing together community members and service providers for a culturally accessible series of sessions. In the sessions yarning about who we are and the work we do, the FPDN Living Our Ways Research Narrative, the Our Way Planning Tool that FPDN has developed and supported community to use around the country, as well as the NDIS, the Aboriginal Service Sector and our resources.



OPPORTUNITIES INFORMATION, LINKAGES & CAPACITY BUILDING (ILC)

FDPN's Café Our Way workshops enabled many relationships to be formed within the sector, giving people with disability the opportunity to feel safe and more resilient as they go about their business, access programs or supports in their life that they may not otherwise have known about or realised they could use.

The most important outcome is having the discussion about what disability is in our communities. In many cases, this is a new conversation for our mobs so bringing disability 'our way' to the forefront is a turning point for our communities. This is a significant achievement and testament to the importance of community led work.



GETTING READY FOR THE NDIS: COMMUNITY YARNING CIRCLES (NSW)

First Peoples Disability Network held workshops across NSW for Aboriginal people with disability and their families to learn more about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). in partnership

with IDEAS and Positive Partnerships. The yarning circles were designed to ensure information could be shared in an informal and supportive setting. The interactive sessions covered three topic areas: the NDIS and support with planning 'Our Way', led by FDPN; Supporting families of people with Autism, by Positive Partnerships; and Information and referral services for all community to access, by IDEAS.



BUILD UP PROJECT (NSW)

There's an opportunity for Aboriginal Tradespeople and businesses to become registered home modifications providers with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). [First Peoples Disability Network's Build Up Project](#) gives people the tools to take up this opportunity.

Our Aboriginal Trades and Commercial Business Directory NSW was developed for Aboriginal people with disability in NSW. Our mob who are NDIS participants can use this directory when they need qualified culturally safe personnel to provide work around their home.

ABORIGINAL DISABILITY PROVIDER GRANTS PROGRAM (NSW)

FDPN partnered with Social Ventures Australia to deliver the Aboriginal Disability Provider Grant (ADPG) Program in NSW.

At least 50% of our people experience disability or a long-term health condition. It's critical that Aboriginal community controlled organisations and disability service providers are equipped to provide culturally safe and disability accessible services to Aboriginal people as the NDIS rolls out across NSW. FDPN is committed to this goal.

A series of short films were produced to explain the program and the Aboriginal community-controlled organisations getting ready for the NDIS.

This program was supported by the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS).

FDPN's involvement in the project was led by our Deputy CEO, June Riemer. Aunty June met with Wayne Griffiths, Centre Manager at Winanga-li Aboriginal Child and Family Centre, Gunnedah, one of the grant recipients.



STAND BY ME CAMPAIGN NSW

FDPN is a member of the NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance. [Stand By Me is a campaign run by the NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance](#). The Alliance is a group of disability advocacy, information and peak representative organisations that empower people with a disability to have a voice. The NSW Government cut funding in June this 2018, and the group is working together to reinstate funding and to protect and uphold the rights of people with disability.



FDPN's NSW Community Connector, Melanie Marne spoke about our commitment to advocacy at a rally in Redfern:



"Without us and other services like FDPN our people with disability will be further marginalised and experience more disadvantage. Aboriginal people living with disability sit under the double disadvantage rule. Being born Aboriginal was considered to be a disadvantage. To be born both Aboriginal and to live with disability is what we say is Double Disadvantage, so Aboriginal people living with disability are particularly at risk. And they need services like ours and other Aboriginal services to be delivered by Aboriginal people so they can feel more comfortable and safe within community.

Without services like ours they will have no support and most importantly no voice. Advocacy gives them the chance to have a voice it gives them a fair go!

It educates. It empowers them to overcome barriers and challenges that they may face in life it gives them the chance to be heard.

It also gives them a lifeline, someone to listen, someone to care. It helps them to be stronger within themselves so they feel strong and a part of this world."



ONGOING RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS PARALYMPIANS

In celebration of NAIDOC week 2017 First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDN) and continued to recognise national Indigenous Paralympians with the unveiling of new plaques on the Indigenous Paralympian honour board at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, in Sydney.

The celebration acknowledged the exceptional achievements of the two Indigenous athletes who represented Australia at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, cyclist Amanda Reid and track and field athlete Torita Blake. 1972 Paralympian Ray Barrett was also honoured. The Indigenous Paralympian honour board, recognising 11 athletes dating back to Kevin Coombs at the first Paralympic Games in 1960, at the NCIE in December 2015.



MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

FPDN uses various media platforms, including news media and social media, to promote news and stories that highlight our work and give voice to those who might otherwise be marginalised. FPDN distributes a digital newsletter twice a year to our stakeholders and the wider community.



DISABLED PEOPLE'S ORGANISATIONS AUSTRALIA

Disabled People's Organisations Australia (DPO Australia) is a coalition of Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs) that are run by and for people with disability. DPO Australia promotes and seeks to advance the human rights and freedoms of all people with disability in Australia.



DPO Australia is the recognised nexus between government, people with disability and other stakeholders. Our key purpose is to promote, protect and advance the human rights and freedoms of people with disability in Australia, by working collaboratively on areas of shared interests, purpose and strategic opportunity.

In our work we seek to:

1. Advance the rights of all people with disability from all walks of Australian life, in relevant national policy frameworks, strategies, partnership agreements and other initiatives
2. Promote and engender a collaborative, co-operative and respectful relationship with all levels of Government in our collective efforts to advance the human rights of people with disability
3. Build on and further develop strategic Alliances and partnerships at the state/territory, national and international levels to advance the human rights of people with disability
4. Promote the Alliance at the international level as the coordinating point for international engagement with the Australian DPO sector
5. Build respect for, appreciation of, and faith in, the DPO sector in Australia.

DPO Australia's other member organisations are national peak bodies:

- National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA)
- Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA)
- People With Disability Australia (PWDA)

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

FPDN continues to forge relationships with international organisations, and to be represented at the United Nations and international conferences.



FPDN was represented overseas at the following events:

Kāpō Māori Aotearoa New Zealand Biennial Conference, Invercargill, NZ

Human Rights Watch Board Presentation, NY, USA

United Nations Conference of State Parties (COSP), NY, USA

PARTNERS



Ashurst Australia



Mamre Association Inc



Social Ventures Australia



Positive Partnerships

FPDN RECEIVES FUNDING FROM

Department of Social Services

Department of Families and Community Services NSW

National Disability Insurance Agency

Perpetual Foundation

National Injury Insurance Agency Queensland

North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health

SPONSORSHIP FOR LAUNCH OF THE RESEARCH REPORT

Australian Centre for Disability Law (ACDL)

Australian Bureau of Statistics

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We at FPDN would like to acknowledge and express our sincere thanks to our funding bodies, partners and donors. Their generous support and contributions to our systemic advocacy and community work nationally enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with disability to have a bigger voice.

THANK YOU



Front & Back Cover Artwork: 'Two Spirit Yarning' by Wiradjuri artist Uncle Paul Constable Calcott.

The 'two spirit' concept in the artwork reflects the cultural belief that everyone is born with a male or female spirit and people who identify as LGBTIQ+ have multiple spirits. The artwork speaks to the issues and barriers faced by LGBTIQ First Nations people living with disability in their day-to-day lives. The painting also depicts reforms such as the same sex marriage bill in Australia and how this has positively impacted on the LGBTIQ+ community.

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