

# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT



First Peoples  
Disability Network







## OUR WORK IS GUIDED BY THE WISDOM OF OUR ELDERS

First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDN) would like to acknowledge the traditional owners past, present and emerging of the lands on which we journey. We pay our respects to our Elders, the knowledge holders of our stories, in continuing our traditions and their ongoing connection to and caring for our lands, waters and community.

FPDN values the wisdom and knowledge shared by our Elders in guiding our work. We pay our deepest respects to our founding Elders Uncle Lester Bostock and Aunty Gayle Rankine, the warriors who built the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Rights movement here in Australia and Internationally.

As Aboriginal people with lived experience of disability, we continue their legacy for current and future generations and acknowledge the important responsibility of giving voice to the most vulnerable members of our communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Disability.

We acknowledge our National Elder's Advisory Council, Elders Living with Disability Australia (ELDA) and Chairpersons Uncle Brian Tennyson and Aunty Louisa Uta for guiding our work, for their leadership and continuing commitment to upholding the rights of First Peoples with disability.

Cover photo @ Luke Campbell

Background artwork: @ Uncle Paul Consatable Calcott

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this report contains video, images and names of people who have passed.



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Chairperson Aunty Kay Sadler and Deputy CEO June Riemer with delegates at the Pacific Disability Forum, Fiji.



 **Our Mission**

FPDN 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 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 LEADERS

### Chairperson Report

Guudjii yiigu (Hello to all), Nyiirun wakulda maraliyn (we are all coming together as one).

Firstly, I would like to pay my respect to our Elders past, present and to our future leaders, our young people.

I acknowledge the amazing work of our CFO Laiha Wu, our CEO Damian Griffis, Deputy CEO June Riemer, our board and staff.

This year we again navigated the COVID pandemic and the boundaries that it impacted on the work of FPDN and our people living with disability.

We were still able to support organisations to link to those in community with disability, that needed emergency resources and feel supported in times of crisis.

I would like to acknowledge the Koori Mail, based in Lismore (NSW) and our community comrades who ensured our people were supported and or evacuated during the many disasters.

This year saw FPDN facilitate and delivery over thirteen funded projects, not including our Systemic advocacy work.

A significant change in this time for FPDN was the inclusion of disability being a priority area in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

This year our CEO, DCEO and staff were instrumental in developing the Disability Sector Strengthening plan, with the support of the DSS Disability Advisory team and representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations from State and Territories. This focus on disability through Closing the Gap has allowed us to develop what we call our National Footprint plan, bringing in funding for FPDN to grow the work of our systemic advocacy, our disability training and attitudinal change.

The NSW Department of Community and Justice funded us to deliver systemic and individual advocacy in NSW for the first time. This is a game changer for our people with disability in having their stories heard and supported, and to connect those stories with structural change.

In closing as the Chairperson, I think about where FPDN began and the incredible work we have done and are still building for systemic change for our people with disability. We truly do have a Footprint now nationally and I personally would like to thank all staff and board for your tenacity and commitment in making change for our most disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

Thank you  
**Aunty Kay Sadler**



The NSW Department of Community and Justice funded us to deliver systemic and individual advocacy in NSW for the first time.



## A Message from our CEO

This year has been one of big changes for our organisation, at a time of big upheaval for our community.

COVID continued for another year, reaching many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities for the first time. The devastation the virus caused was met with immense community solidarity and work to support those who got sick.

We heard from so many First People with disability about how hard COVID was on them and on their communities, so FPDN did everything from taking food and disability supplies directly out to community, to raising strong concerns with the Disability Royal Commission and the Federal Government.

I want to particularly thank the Royal Flying Doctors Service for their partnership in getting vaccines, RATs, masks and more out to a wide range of communities, and filling the gaps left by decades of neglect of our people.

This year also has seen the culmination of work to embed the needs of First People with disability in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. FPDN has been funded to grow and secure our future, and to bring our unique expertise about living in multiple worlds to advocating for solutions to the problems we face.



These dual roles were recognised this year by the NSW Government, in funding FPDN for both systemic and individual advocacy.

We have designed, after a long series of consultation with our community, the National Disability Footprint. This new funding will mean we can grow our policy and training teams for the first time, and open offices around the country.

The Footprint will also bring change for First People with disability in disability services, with community controlled disability services being one of the key areas we are fighting for.

I want to thank all the staff and board who worked so hard to develop the Footprint and will now see it come to pass.

The Disability Royal Commission has continued for another year, as we get closer to their final

report and recommendations for change. Many First People with disability have now made submissions, including with the support of the advocates at FPDN who have visited and talked with so many communities.

I gave evidence at another public hearing, this time about how the human rights frameworks in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities do not include the perspective of Indigenous peoples with disability. We also were part of the wider disability advocacy sector work to urge the Disability Royal Commission to address the systemic reasons behind the violence and abuse so many of us experience in our lives.

FPDN is glad to be entrusted to deliver an increasing number of projects, including training, resource production and sharing expertise, about the needs of First People with disability. The diversity and breadth of the work that our organisation does is shown

in this report. Our staff are embedded in the community, and listening to people with disability. This work is shared with our policy team, who can advocate for systemic solutions.

These dual roles were recognised this year by the NSW Government, in funding FPDN for both systemic and individual advocacy. This work, plus the NSW Closing the Gap work, has led to a significant focus on the needs of communities across NSW. The lack of services and supports for First People with disability outside the NDIS is a disgrace, and getting into the NDIS continues to be a challenge.

I am so very proud of all the FPDN staff who have again gone above and beyond to serve First People with disability in lands across this continent. I also want to thank Deputy CEO June Riemer and CFO LaiHa Wu.

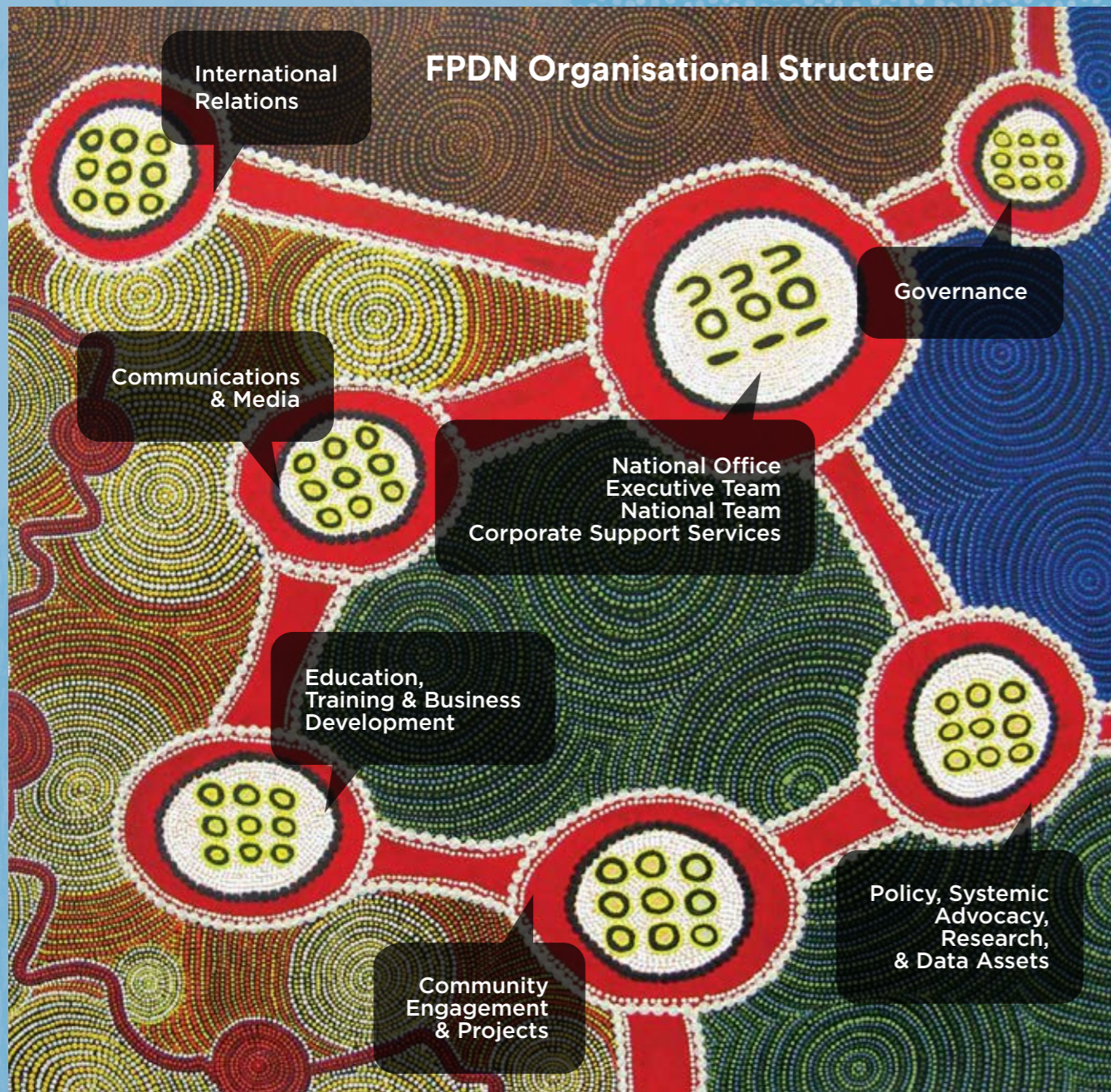
FPDN could not do our work without the extraordinary guidance of our Board. I thank our Chair Aunty Kay Sadler for her leadership and support.

Our community of First People with disability grows stronger every day, and every year.

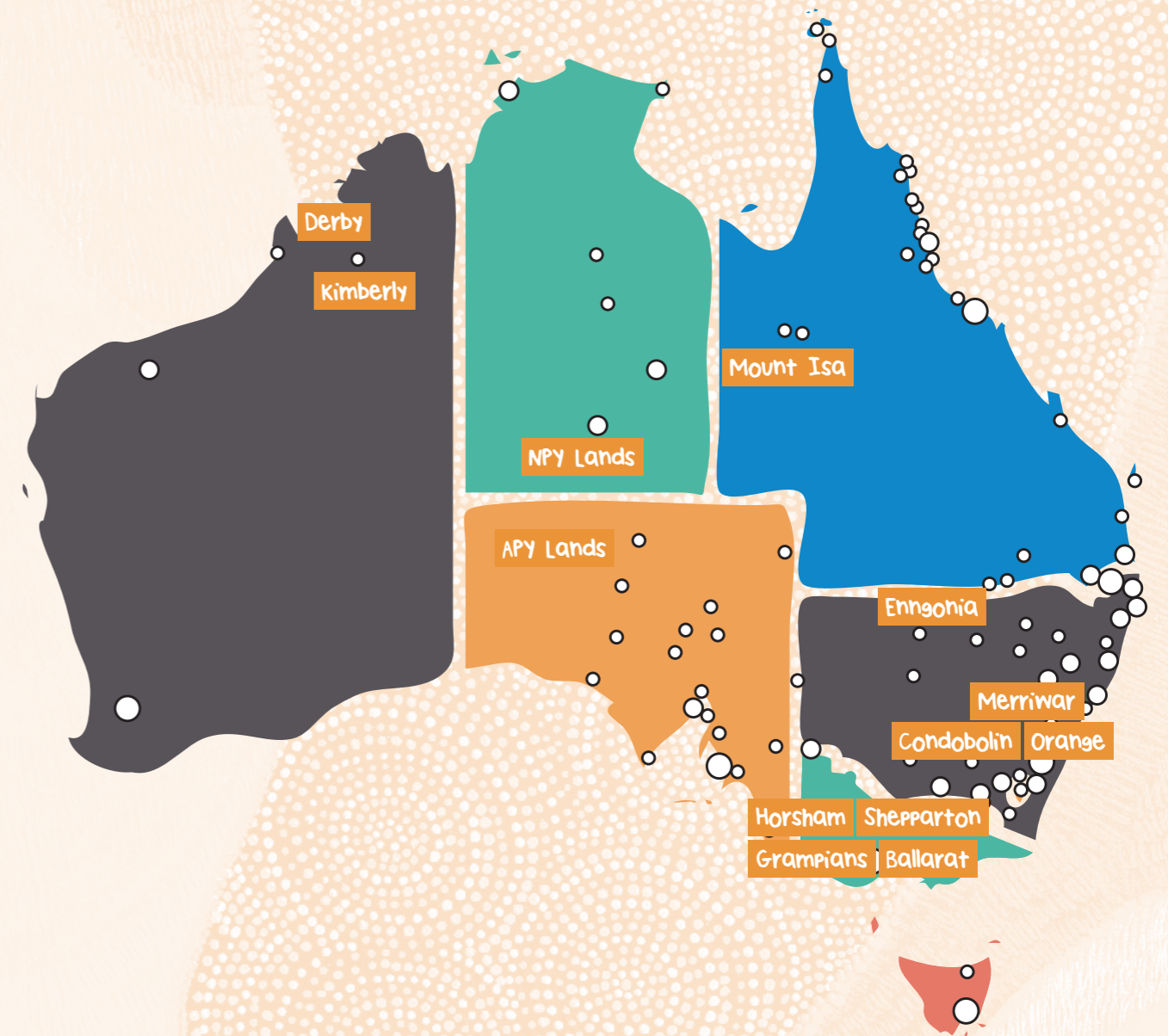
**CEO Damian Griffis**



## OUR ORGANISATION



## WHERE WE WORK



[Click to view the animated story of where we work](#)



## SUPPORTERS OF FPDN

FPDN is funded through a wide range of programs to represent the voices of First Peoples with disabilities, their families and communities and for specific projects and initiatives. We thank all the following organisations for their support of our work.

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### **Australian Government - Department of Social Services, Canberra**

Sector Development - Disability Representative Organisations

Disability Royal Commission Advocacy Support

Partnership with EY - Boosting the Local Care Workforce

Information Linkages and Capacity Building

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### **Australian Government - Department of Social Services and National Indigenous Australians Agency**

National Agreement on Closing the Gap - Sector Strengthening

National Disability Footprint

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### **NSW Government Funding**

Department of Communities and Justice - Transitional Advocacy Funding Supplement

NSW CAPO - Closing the Gap

NSW Ageing and Disability Commission

NSW Disability Advocacy Futures Program

NSW COVID-19 Aboriginal Community Partnership Support Grant

NSW Social Sector Transformation Fund

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### **Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Victoria**

Human Rights Project

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### **Foundation for Regional, Rural and Renewal**

Kings Narrative

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### **Perpetual Foundation**

Community Hub and Community Engagement, Tennant Creek

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### **Partnerships with:**

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Legal Services (NATSILS) and Victoria Legal Service (VALS)

Australian Centre for Disability Law (ACDL)

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### **Australian Federal Government - International Convention**

Attended UN Conference



This year has seen the beginning of a significant change for FPDN, with development of, and the funding confirmed for the National Disability Footprint, under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. We are excited and proud to now have the resources to further represent and serve our community of First people with disability.

### Sector Strengthening

FPDN has been involved in negotiations and discussions about how to make sure people with disability are included in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap for several years, particularly in how the Sector Strengthening plans will include us.

Four priority reform areas were identified by Closing the Gap, with Area Two being *Building the Community Controlled Sector*. The four sectors that have been identified for initial priority work are:

- Early childhood care and development
- Housing
- Health
- Disability

FPDN has developed the Disability Sector Strengthening Plan (Disability SSP), through comprehensive national

consultation, as well as input from all levels of government and the community-controlled sector.

The Disability SSP also recognises FPDN's decades of experience in delivering community consultation and engagement efforts with First Nations people with disability. This expertise has informed the Disability SSP and is supported by the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations, and all Australian Federal, state and territory governments.

As part of the development of this Plan, FPDN co-chaired a working group with the Department of Social Services, who were a key partner in support of this new role for our organisation, to discuss and finalise the Disability Sector Strengthening Plan.

The Disability Sector Strengthening Plan lists the top priorities for First People with disability, and what everyone will work on at a national level. These priorities were agreed by all stakeholders, including governments, and includes the specific actions they will take, and funding commitments. Governments will report on the action they are taking through their Closing the Gap Implementation Plans.

### National Disability Footprint

The work that FPDN will do over the next few years under this Sector Strengthening is now called the National Disability Footprint.

The Footprint has been designed by us to strengthen the representation of First Peoples with disability across all policy areas to ensure their needs, expectations and priorities are responded to.

The structure of the National Disability Footprint will ensure visibility, representation and meaningful engagement, training and systemic advocacy, nationally and in each state and territory.

FPDN's approach recognises that by fundamentally shifting the service system to be responsive, appropriate and enabling for First Peoples with disability, and by elevating First Peoples with disability to be central in decision making forums across community and governments, change can be accelerated across life outcomes, from education and employment to the protection and safety of women and children, and the health and wellbeing of the community, ultimately aiming to improve life outcomes for First Peoples with disability by shifting the attitudes, systems and structures that currently hold them in disadvantage.

### The Footprint has seven Elements. They are:

#### ELEMENT 1

##### **Strengthening FPDN's National Disability Footprint**

Build the capacity of FPDN as the national disability Peak Body to influence policy and build the sector at national and jurisdictional levels.

#### ELEMENT 2

##### **Data & Research**

Enable access to data improving decisions and developing quality in disability programs and policies and supporting First Peoples' Community-Controlled Organisations.

#### ELEMENT 3

##### **Strengthening the Policy Representation Footprint**

Changing policy and program settings to enable greater inclusion and access to services and systems for First Peoples with disabilities. Provide FPDN with greater capacity to inform legislation, policies, programs and systems across the key sectors that impact the lives of First Peoples with disabilities, and to address disproportionate outcomes.

#### ELEMENT 4

##### **Strengthening a Culturally and Disability Inclusive Workforce and Training Footprint**

Supporting sectoral capacity building and attitudinal change identifying the capabilities required in the community-controlled disability sector, developing a national training strategy that will lead to First Peoples with disabilities receiving more inclusive, accessible and appropriate supports.

#### ELEMENT 5

##### **Strengthening Community Disability Rights Footprint**

Training and community engagement to enhance First People's understanding of their rights and foster the skills required to seek out and access the services they require.

#### ELEMENT 6

##### **Evaluation**

Accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement.

#### ELEMENT 7

##### **Communications Strategy**

Work towards creating attitudinal change including repositioning service delivery from a medical to a social and cultural model of disability.

### Our commitment to First Peoples living with disabilities, their families and communities

Through the work of the National Disability Footprint, FPDN are committed to the following outcomes:

- The First Nations community-controlled sector is supported by FPDN
- The voices of First Peoples with disabilities inform policy, practice and service delivery
- FPDN has an enhanced policy footprint
- FPDN has an increased national and jurisdictional presence
- The objectives of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Priority Reforms are being met
- The National Disability Outcomes Framework outcomes are being met
- The National Disability Footprint project has built on the work of FPDN as the National Peak
- Attitudinal change is occurring across the sector
- First Peoples with disabilities are being empowered, and
- Employment for First Peoples with disabilities is increasing.

Find out more about the Footprint on our website: [https://fpdn.org.au/national\\_disability\\_footprint/](https://fpdn.org.au/national_disability_footprint/)



FPDN has continued our systemic advocacy with First People with disability across a very wide range of issues for our community. The breadth of this work will deepen and expand next year, as part of the rollout of the National Disability Footprint, with a significant expansion of our policy team.

We are connected with wide range of organisations, speaking this year to many including Blind Citizens Australia, at Deadly First Nations Deaf Mob Yarning place, the Disability Education Standards Review and the Treaty Now webinar.

FPDN has worked in partnership with other national disability peak organisations, meeting regularly together, and with key agencies and departments, such as the NDIS and Australia's Disability Strategy. FPDN also meets with other First Nations organisations through the Coalition of Peaks, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group on COVID and as part of the Closing the Gap Outcomes and Evidence Fund Expert Panel.

This dual role of FPDN is now recognised through the National Disability Footprint, securing our organisation's future to continue this unique intersectional advocacy, grounded in lived expertise and community.

### Australia's Disability Strategy

FPDN has been involved with the development of Australia's Disability Strategy, the key policy document that guides all government work on disability. Our Deputy CEO, Auntie June Riemer, was at the launch in December 2021 at the National Museum in Canberra.

As part of the launch, FPDN Art group NuunaRon was invited to showcase artworks from the Culture is Inclusion Exhibition, which was originally exhibited at the United Nations Palais De Nations, Geneva, in 2019.

We continue to work to build links and understanding between Australia's Disability Strategy and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

### Climate change and disasters

As the impacts of climate change accelerate, it is more urgent than ever for First People with disability to be at the centre of how we can meet these challenges. FPDN this year has again provided more direct support for communities, including those hit by the flooding across NSW. So many people in our community have lost

everything; we must seriously address climate change now.

### NDIS

FPDN has worked hard this year to raise the many issues with the National Disability Insurance Scheme that our community is having. We joined with many others in the disability community to fight the damaging independent assessments proposal, and then were part of making sure that the following legislation guaranteed better services.

We are part of a large number of roundtables and consultation meetings, including about NDIS prices, Scheme sustainability, the National Co-Design group, the Safeguarding taskforce, Wiyi Yani U Thanyani Project, and many more.

Getting the NDIS right for First People with disability is essential to closing the gap.

We made several formal submissions to the NDIS, for their Supported Decision Making and Home and Living consultations, along with the independent assessments and personalised budget tool proposals.

### COVID

COVID has remained a significant issue for First People with disability, with access to vaccines and boosters, testing and safe isolation still problematic. Our community has worked together to protect elders and people with disability, sharing resources, masks and helping people get their vaccines.

FPDN's COVID Warrior material was distributed widely in Aboriginal controlled organisations, and in other disability organisations.

### Federal Election

This year saw a Federal Election, and a change in government after nine years. FPDN released a detailed election platform and we look forward to working with the new Australian Government to realise their promises for First People with disability.

We called on all political parties and independent members to commit to the required resources to deliver the outcomes of the Closing the Gap Strategy. As the peak representative body for First Peoples with disability, we particularly note the need for ongoing resourcing for the

Disability Sector Strengthening Strategy and all of its components:

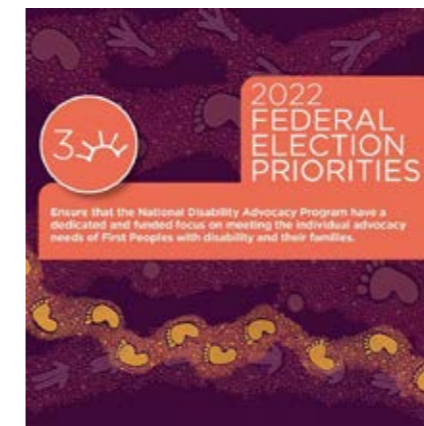
- FPDN's National Footprint and role the peak organisations for First Nations Disability in Australia
- Research knowledge and Data Infrastructure Footprint

- Policy representation footprint
- Culturally inclusive workforce and training program
- Community Disability Rights Footprint

We also argued that there urgently needs to be a First Nations Disability Advocate

Program funded at FPDN as part of the National Disability Advocacy Program.

FPDN looks forward to working in collaboration with the new Federal Government to achieve these goals.





We are also part of the National COVID Health and Disability advisory group, bringing the voices of communities directly to the Federal Government.

FPDN has also coordinated much needed practical help for communities isolated by COVID outbreaks, particularly focused on the needs of First People with disability. We worked with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and

ANTAR to ensure community access to vaccines and essential supplies. This is a significant gap in the formal responses to COVID that still needs addressing.

### International advocacy

FPDN continues to represent First People with disability in a variety of international forums. This year, due to COVID, much of this work was done remotely, including

making a statement to the CRPD Committee's third online regional consultation, participating in a variety of Pacific disability events, such as Pacific Climate Finance Talanoa, Pacific Disability Forums and presenting to the National Assembly of People with Disability Papua New Guinea.

In June 2022, FPDN was selected to be one of the representatives at the Council of State Parties

meeting in New York, USA. Our CEO, Damian Griffis, joined other First People with disability for an official side event with the SustainedAbility Disability and Climate Network about disability inclusive climate action.

Damian also spoke at 26th UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow about the impact of climate change on First Peoples of Australia's ongoing connection to country and culture and the catastrophic consequences climate change presents for First Peoples with disabilities.

### Other

Dr Scott Avery, now working at Western Sydney University, has initiated and begun the first university subject on Indigeneity and Disability, and FPDN has proudly partnered with him to develop the material for the course. We also sat on the university's advisory committee for several years as the course was being developed. This is a landmark moment for First People with disability, with our ways and issues now an integral part of education for the next generation of disability and health professionals.

We partnered with the Sydney Policy Lab for research about strengthening Australian Civil Society, with a range of other disability and social organisations. This research looked at the experiences during COVID, and what could be learnt for the future.

### Meetings and consultations

FPDN participated in the following:

- Commonwealth Closing the Gap Implementation Joint Working Group
- Disability Sector Strengthening Plan Working Group (Co-chair)
- NDIS Joint Advocacy - NDIS changes
- Indigenous Digital Inclusion Plan
- NDIS Price Guide - NDIS
- NDIA Current Scheme Implementation and Sustainability
- NDIS Reform Steering Group
- NSW Covid response.
- National NDIS Co-design Group
- Commonwealth Implementation Working Group
- FNPSAG Meeting
- National Plan to reduce violence against women and children
- NSW Joint Council on Closing the Gap
- National Disability Covid-19 advisory group
- DANA Forum on DRC Advocacy and Engagement
- NDDA Disability Advisory Council Meeting (Formal DAC)
- Disability and Health Sector Consultation Committee
- First Nations Messaging and Narrative Shifting Report - Australian Progress
- Disability Peak Bodies Forum
- DRO meeting quarterly with the DRC
- PWG Partnership Health Check workshop
- Expert Advisory Group - Workforce
- Expert Reference Group - DRC Restrictive Practices Project
- Indefinite Detention of Persons with Disability Workshop
- DSE Project Steering Committee
- Health & Human Services Roundtable - National Roadmap
- Justice Policy Partnership
- Disability Education Strategy First Nations Co-design
- DSS/PWC Consultation Codesign
- NDIA engagement - SA/NT specific
- DES reform



LAUNCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN  
DISABILITY STRATEGY  
EXHIBITION NATIONAL  
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA  
CANNBERRA



In addition to our national advocacy work, FPDN is funded as a peak organisation in NSW, acknowledging that we started as the Aboriginal Disability Network of NSW. This year, we have formalised our role as both a systemic and individual disability advocacy organisation in NSW, and at the same time, worked with the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations to implement Closing the Gap targets. The NSW specific target is for employment, business growth and economic prosperity.

This dual role means the issues we hear when in community can be followed through to the department, agency and Minister responsible for getting change.

Up till now, much of the focus has rightly stayed on the health of people with disability, in policy and practice. FPDN has brought the vital social and cultural model of disability to these discussions, emphasising the need to include First People with disability.

First People with disability have feet in three different lands – our individual need, the community need, and then the systems we have to deal with.

## NDIS

There is a significant issue in NSW with the retreat of government and other services from First People with disability since the introduction of the NDIS. The education, health, justice and transport systems are not inclusive of people with disability, and for people outside the NDIS, there are no services at all.

For FPDN, this gap means many First People with disability face significant barriers to even accessing the NDIS, and if they do get in, to getting a decent person-centred plan with the right supports. The NDIS in NSW isn't connected with Closing the Gap, and NSW services are not well connected with the NDIS.

Another key role we play in NSW is working to ensure that disability service providers understand how important it is that they understand cultural healing at every stage of the disability journey.

There needs to be the development of a second tier of disability services, as envisioned by the original Productivity Commission report on the NDIS, including one that specifically focuses on First People with disability.

## COVID

COVID has continued to be a huge issue for our communities this year. In NSW we worked with Aboriginal Affairs NSW to raise the huge food shortages that were happening among First People with disability, made work by the impact of COVID. Aboriginal Affairs provided short term resources for a fruit and vegetable program for Aboriginal households experiencing food insecurity.

We also worked with Aboriginal disability organisations across NSW to identify people with disability who needed access to fresh fruit and vegetables and coordinated boxes to distribute to communities who needed support, to ensure that people with disability were not left behind.

In addition, we used a range of consultations to deliver and administer RATs in community, and to distribute our COVID Warrior materials – see Projects for more information.

## NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations

FPDN is a proud member of the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (CAPO), meeting regularly to discuss issues for First People with disability with other Aboriginal organisations.

This year we have been part of the following working groups as part of CAPO:

- Education Officer Level Working Group
- Health Officer level Advisory Group
- Aboriginal Procurement Committee
- Accessible Communications

We are also part of the NSW Premiers Working Group and the NSW Joint Council.

FPDN also meets regularly with Minister Franklin, the NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs discuss the work of FPDN and Mob living with a disability.

Again, this intersectional role that only FPDN can play is now officially recognised through the National Disability Footprint.

We consulted widely in community about the key priorities for Closing the Gap work, meeting with Mob across NSW.

## Closing the Gap in NSW

As part of our commitment to regular and ongoing engagement with Aboriginal communities under the Closing the Gap agreement, the NSW CAPO hosted over 34 Community Consultation sessions across NSW. FPDN attended 10 of those Community Engagement sessions across Batemans Bay, Narrabri, Inverell, Moree, Muswellbrook, Tamworth, Bathurst, Condobolin, Dubbo and Coonabarabran.

The Community Consultations were an opportunity for Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal organisations to guide the development of the Closing the Gap NSW Implementation Plan for 2022-2024.

The consultations were a chance to hear from Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal organisations about these initiatives before the NSW Implementation Plan was drafted, to make sure we're on the right track. We also heard about what was needed into the future. This ensured that this part of the Closing the Gap process driven by community voices and designed for community interests.

## NSW Joint Council Premier's Working Group

FPDN is part of this high level working group in NSW and this year we worked on a number of initiatives. These include:

- Education Officer Level Working Group
- Health Officer level Advisory Group
- Aboriginal Procurement Committee
- Accessible Communications

## Aboriginal Wellbeing Framework for social housing

FPDN consulted extensively on the development of this framework, because of the numbers of First People with disability who live in social housing. This project developed a wellbeing framework that reflects the values, priorities and experiences, of Aboriginal people in social housing in NSW. The framework was co-designed with Aboriginal people, groups and representative bodies and will help to achieve the best wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW, including people with disability.

## E Safety Commissioner Expert Advisory Group

FPDN is part of the E-Safety Commissioner Expert Advisory Group, and this year was part of the development of a research project called *Protecting voices online which looked at the development of cyber abuse resources for people with intellectual disability*.

We assisted with the development of the discussion guides and Easy Read materials that were used to engage with research participants with an intellectual disability from a First Peoples perspective.

## NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission – NSW

We have worked with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission in NSW extensively, to address the very significant oversight gaps that now exist in NSW, particularly for First People with disability. This followed from a Parliamentary Review into Aboriginal Engagement's recommendations.

FPDN promoted job vacancies in the Commission also to First People with disability, who have gone on to now work at the Commission.

## Safer Families Safer Households

FPDN also consulted on the Safer Families, Safer Households to ensure that the views and voices of First People with disability were included in the development of a sustainable, community-led structure of self-determination in the Aboriginal child and family system in NSW in order to reduce overrepresentation in child protection.

The child protection system has a particularly significant impact on children and families with disabilities. Although statistics are not reliably collected on this issue, communities know that it is a significant problem, and they have voiced this in forums such as the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability as well as Closing the Gap Community Engagements.



This year has seen FPDN continue to support First Nations people with disability to tell their stories about violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation to the Disability Royal Commission, provide training and resources the disability advocacy sector, participate in public hearings, make submissions and be in community.

### Public hearings

FPDN participated in several public hearings this year, including giving evidence about issues for First People with disability.

CEO Damian Griffis and Deputy CEO June Riemer gave evidence at Public hearing 18: The human rights of people with disability and making the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) a reality in Australian law, policies and practices.

We focused on the essential issues of how the intersectionality that impacts Mob with disability is missing from both the CRPD and the UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). These issues need to be considered both culturally and practically, such as the rights of a First Nations person with disability to stay on country and the importance of this in relation to disability services.

Our CEO Damian Griffis told the Disability Royal Commission that “when the UN Convention was written up, there were no



Indigenous voices there during the process of actual writing up of the Convention. So we worry that that is still a shortcoming of the Convention.” Deputy CEO June Riemer said “we would say every person has the right to live on country and be included in culture, and particularly those with disability. Unless you include culture and country as a crossover, an intersectionality around how a person lives their life, you are not supporting them to live their best life. So there’s many gaps that we would see in regards to our First Nations people.”

FPDN joined with other disability representative organisations through DPO Australia to release a public statement on inclusive education for Public Hearing 24 after concerns were raised about comments from Chair Sackville. We said “Human Rights are inalienable and are not up for

negotiation in any way, shape or form. What exactly does the chair mean by ‘binary approaches’ in regards to inclusive education?”

FPDN has continued to call for a dedicated hearing into the overrepresentation of First People with disability in the criminal justice system. This is often the direct result of the criminalisation of disability and distress. A variety of systems, such as education and the disability system, can increase the likelihood that First Peoples with disability encounter the criminal justice system. The NDIS has made these issues worse, and means more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability in the criminal justice system.

We have also provided ongoing briefings to Disability Royal Commission staff before hearings, and assisted in finding and supporting people with disability to give evidence.

### Community engagement and advocacy

FPDN has invested significantly this year in ensuring that First People with disability know about the Disability Royal Commission (DRC), and know where and how to tell their stories.

We have held a range of community events and forums to promote the Commission, and worked with Aboriginal Community Controlled services and other organisations to raise awareness of the DRC.

FPDN has also yarned with people in both educational

and prison settings, including Adelaide Women’s Prison and Mt Gambier Prison. This work has contributed to a joint submission with Disability Advocacy and Complaints Service of South Australia, which will be submitted next year.

In every setting, in community, in meetings with other peaks, service providers and government departments, we would talk about how critical is to hear the voices of Mob with disability and their experiences of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

Our DRC Indigenous Community Advocates (ICA) are people connected in communities, and engage and support First Peoples with disability in submissions. These complement the placement of eight ICA positions in other disability advocacy organisations which we continued to connect with and support.

While COVID still impacted the ability to travel through some of this time, and we needed to respect the closing of many very remote communities, we still were able to get to places such as Broome, Alice Springs, Far North Queensland, Torres Strait Islands, regional South Australia, Victoria, QLD and NSW, and support National Disability Advocacy Providers in reaching out in other communities.

FPDN hosted a forum in Alice Springs so Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability and their carers in Alice Springs could come along to an information session to hear more about the Disability Royal Commission and how they



**DEPUTY CEO JUNE RIEMER AND  
DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION PROJECT  
MANAGER KELLY TRELOAR, INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY EVENT,  
HALLS CREEK, WA**





**DRC INDIGENOUS ADVOCATES FORUM**

could share stories with the Commission.

We held a Forum in Brisbane for all the DRC Indigenous Community Advocates from around Australia in March. This intensive two day event involved training, workshoping, presentations from Mob with disability who had made DRC submissions, local advocacy organisations, and staff from the Disability Royal Commission. In amongst all the intense work, we also took times to connect with each other and even write and perform a song on the importance of listening to the voices of Mob with disability.

We collaborated with Health Justice Australia for the Health Justice Changefest in Tennant Creek highlighting the social/justice issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, and the community led solutions that may be possible.

FPDN has continued our work as part of the First Nations Advisory committee and with the Disability Royal Commission First Nations Engagement Team and the Office of Solicitor Assisting to address gaps in engagement, support First Nations witnesses and provide advice. We also attend the regular DRO engagement with the DRC. We also continued our engagement with Your Story Legal Services and DRC Counselling supports.



**DRC EVIDENCE NAMOK FAMILY AND CARLY W**



**DRC INFO SESSION ALICE SPRINGS**

### **NATSILS and the DRC**

This year we also worked with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service to develop and deliver human rights training about how to work with Mob with disability.

This included support to develop resources, regular knowledge exchanges and cultural advisory services.

### **Media and communications on DRC**

FPDN has again been active on social media and in the media, talking about about the Disability Royal Commission.

We live tweeted several public hearings of interest to our community, as well as spoke to the media and posted on social media about key aspects of the hearings. Live tweeting has become a central way that disability organisations can raise awareness of the DRC hearings, and provide a disability perspective on what is being discussed.

FPDN ran several advertising commercials, entitled Respectful Listening, on NITV, 9Gem, 9Go and Imparja television to encourage First People with disability to make submissions to the DRC.

We released four media releases about public hearings, and were included with other disability representative organisations in wider advocacy for an extension to the Royal Commission, and other required changes.

### **Disability Business Training**

FPDN continued to provide our innovative and highly regarded Disability to every disability advocacy organisation delivering DRC supports nationally to increase their understanding and awareness of the needs of First Peoples with disability.

We were able to offer more of these sessions this year in a face to face format, while continuing

to offer online sessions to ensure every staff member at these organisations, including newer staff, were able to undertake it. We also provided this training to other organisations, such as community controlled supports and counselling services and government departments.



**DISABILITY BUSINESS TRAINING CAIRNS**



**DISABILITY BUSINESS TRAINING TOOWOOMBA**



FPDN is funded to deliver a wide range of specific work in community, in NSW and across the country.

## NSW

### COVID-19 Aboriginal Community Partnership Support Grant

COVID-19 was again a big part of FPDN's work in the community this year, and we received a NSW Aboriginal Community Partnership Support Grant to continue our communications and education work, funded by Aboriginal Affairs NSW COVID Partnership Support Program.

FPDN consulted widely with communities and found that information about vaccines and boosters was not being developed in accessible or culturally appropriate formats for First People with disability. Materials also often didn't have disability-specific information included. This meant that communities were not finding out about vaccines and boosters in a timely way.

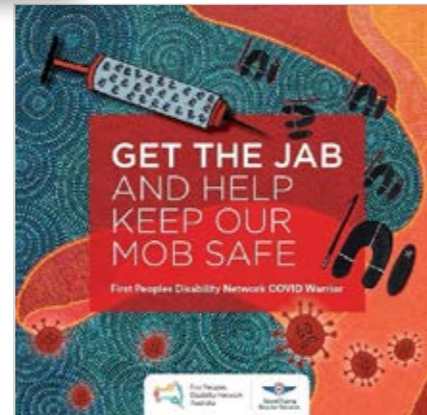
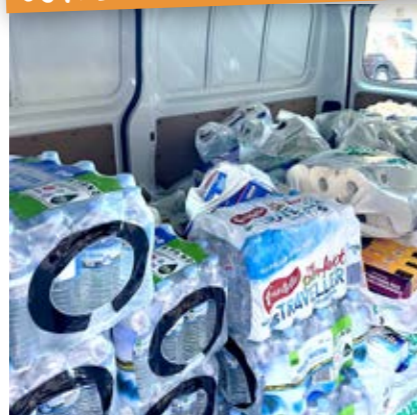
We developed in response to community need, the COVID Warrior material and animations, as well as the booklet about Elders receiving their boosters.

Other information that we did include how to use a Rapid Assessment Test.

The Aboriginal community was proud to identify with the COVID Warrior Resources' ability to convey clearly important



COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT



information regarding the pandemic through the use of relatable imagery such as the interactive video links on the FPDN website. The community was interested in learning information from the resource to take home for family and elders, and for parents to explain and read with their children on how to keep Mob safe during COVID.

The accessible and culturally specific resources that FPDN produced about COVID were shared widely across NSW, and also in other states and territories. They were used by many disability services and community-controlled health services.

During the consultation, concerns were raised on the impacts on Aboriginal people's health and chronic health issues due to no, or limited, public transport available, or family members holding a valid licence. This has resulted in community members being unable to access urgent medical help and hesitating to attend medical appointments.

In some cases, individuals attempted to walk in remote areas in the summer heat and winter cold to the closest hospital, collapsing on the side of the road. The impact of no public transport and culturally appropriate community transport is a serious

concern for Aboriginal people and communities in rural and remote areas of NSW. The community are then unable to access medical specialist practitioners and not able to access regular services/programs, food relief, or community pantry to obtain the essential items they need.

These concerns have been included in our systemic advocacy about COVID and access to decent services.

### Ageing and Disability Commissioner Aboriginal Engagement Strategy

The NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner asked FPDN to talk with community across NSW about abuse and violence so they could ensure the Commission's information was reaching First People with disability.

FPDN ran a number of extensive consultations across NSW, including in Northern, Far West and Far Southern NSW. We also introduce the Commissioner to key regional organisations that would also assist in reaching First People with disability.

This work assisted the Commissioner to develop appropriate structures and processes to engage with Aboriginal stakeholders to develop programs, resources and other activities that meet the needs of Aboriginal people and raise awareness of abuse, neglect and exploitation in a culturally appropriate way.

In addition, FPDN produced a number of accessible and



culturally appropriate resources for the Commission, including a booklet called *Yarning about Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation*.

### Collaboration with other peak organisations

In NSW, FPDN has collaborated with SNAICC - National Voice for our Children. SNAICC is the Australian national non-government peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children ensuring children with disability can access the supports they need through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

This work has particularly focused on the Early Childhood and Early Intervention (ECEI) pathway, and the relationships with Local Area Coordinators (LACs).

We worked closely with SNAICC in NSW to support their work in 17 Integrated Child Care and Learning centres.

These unique centres are integrated models that offer services to families beyond childcare. They are the safe, culturally safe centres for families in many of our communities.

The centres are very deliberately located in, on or close to our communities, and have played a vital role in coordinating responses to families during COVID. One perfect example of this is the vaccination drive at the Gunnedah centre with FPDN and the Royal Flying Doctor Services where over 1500 Mob were vaccinated on the day, with support and involvement of the Tamworth Aboriginal Medical Service and the Local Aboriginal Land Council.

FPDN worked with SNAICC to identify the number of children attending the Integrated Learning Centres and look at children with high support needs, inclusive of children with diagnosis and those awaiting to help in identifying resources that would



HORSHAM



**The Lester Bostock Human Rights Training**

FPDN developed a culturally safe 'Know your x' training workshop to empower community to understand how to use this knowledge and be confident to speak up for their rights.

with face to face workshops being critical to the training's success.

This year we delivered workshops across regional Victoria in Ballarat, Horsham, Shepparton, Echuca, Seymour, Wangaratta, Albury/Wodonga, with the support of the Rights and Information Advocacy Centre and Grampians Advocacy service.

This training has also been presented to the Closing the Gap Sector Strengthening Working Group during the work on developing the National Disability Footprint.

The rights workshops played a vital role for FPDN in identifying community leaders to build the Victorian Aboriginal Disability Network

Our workshops are a safe space where you can learn, yarn and share stories about:

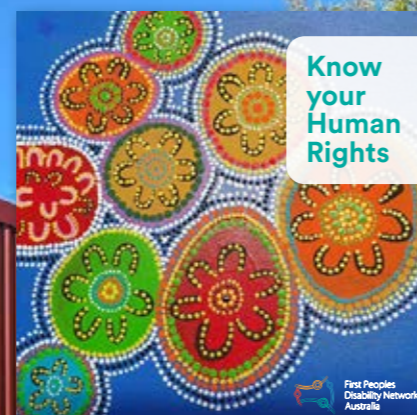
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD)
- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples (UNDRIP)
- The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)
- The Racial Discrimination Act (RDA)

The completion of this project had been delayed because of COVID,

BALLARAT



HORSHAM



support various disabilities in the classroom in these centres from both an educator perspective and also very directly supporting children in this environment.

We found that the numbers of children needing this kind of specific early intervention and disability support is incredibly high, and there is an urgent need for more support, including to access the NDIS. There is no specific funding that responds to the needs of these children. Finding the resources was extremely challenging, with more investment needed.

This work found again that there are significant gaps in NSW for people with disability, in this case particularly affecting children with disability. We identified that our NSW Integrated Child Care Learning centres are being left behind as there are still significant gaps for families to either access ECEI, or if they do get access, there is no continuum of care between ECEI and LACs, with many families being left without appropriate supports. This gap, between early intervention and full access to the NDIS, has been raised by our systemic advocacy team for urgent action and change.

**COVID Warrior**

FPDN received funding from Aboriginal Affairs NSW COVID Partnership Support Program to develop accessible and culturally appropriate resources about COVID, including about vaccines. In addition, the COVID Warrior project visited a wide range of communities around NSW to talk about accessing the vaccine.



COVID WARRIOR

This community engagement work was vital to informing the kinds of resources that were needed by communities and showed that information about where to get RATs, vaccinations and boosters was urgently required.

**Project activities**

FPDN visited a range of communities to talk about the COVID Warrior key messages and resources. These included a focus on services for Elders, including aged care facilities and Elder Councils. This consultation led directly to the development of the COVID Warrior resources.

We also visited a wide range of Aboriginal Medical Services and

The project had two priorities – engage with communities and provide information and advocacy – and was designed to reach First People with disability and their families, as well as communities living in regional, rural and remote NSW.



Community Controlled Health Services to distribute the COVID Warrior materials.

### Project resources

The main resources that were developed were the *Aunty June gets COVID* booklet, the COVID Warrior booklet and one pager. In addition, animations and social media graphics were created and used widely on social media by FPDN and many other organisations.

These resources were printed and distributed very widely in health and disability services, but also in mainstream organisations in regional, rural and remote areas.

We set up a 1800 phone number so members of the community could call at no cost and receive information about COVID and where to access assistance.

A key resource was developed that collated the many disparate links and contact information for a wide range of disability and other services that could assist people with disability.

### Talk Up Project

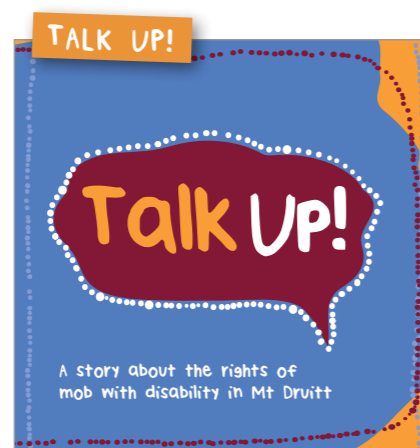
Talk Up is a consortium Project between FPDN, People with Disability Australia (PWDA) and Australian Centre for Disability Law (ACDL), funded through an Information, Linkages and Capacity Building grant from the Department of Social Services.

The purpose of the Project is to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability understand their legal rights. This is being achieved through the development and distribution of educational resources.

These resources address the priority legal issues affecting community members in the three Project locations; Western Sydney (Mount Druitt), Dubbo (and Wellington) and the Northern Rivers (Ballina).

Additionally, the purpose of the Organisational Capacity Building aspect of the Project is to create a revenue raising scheme, based of the primary Project, to help diversify income streams for all consortium parties.

In March 2022, a new Project Manager joined the Project. Since



then, the Project has maintained continuous momentum. Initially, a new Project plan was developed and a new staggered approach to the three Project locations.

Resources are on track to be delivered to communities, in response to their specific needs.

The purpose of the resources is to take them back to the community, show them how to use them and inform them of their legal rights and how they can advocate for themselves in legal situations. In addition, advocates from PWDA and lawyers from ACDL and Western Sydney Community Legal Centre will be in attendance in order to provide assistance and advice to any community members.

### Paterson St Hub

The Paterson St Hub this year again proved how vital it is in the Tennant Creek community, funded with thanks from Perpetual.

Our activity this year was disrupted and dominated by COVID, with the Hub hosting vaccination sessions and playing a key role in connecting community through technology.

### What is the Hub?

The Hub is a community space with a disability focus.

We are somewhere to: meet (formally and informally); have a cuppa and catch up; shower; cook a feed; get your washing done; catch up on the news (chatting/local paper/Central and Northern Land Council/Koori Mail/ access to radio/internet etc); do a painting; make a beanie; play some music/table tennis/cards/ Lego etc; call the wheelchair bus/bank/Centrelink/etc; access



supported referral/advocacy/ assistance with NDIS/NDIA, health and medical issues, banking, telecommunications (activation/ apps/scams/abuse/credit top up - Voucher numbers need to be larger), obtaining ID/cards (Ochre Cards, Birth Certificates, Medicare Cards, Bank Accounts/cards, Drivers Licences, etc), Housing, Territory Families, finding a lawyer/ carer/service provider/etc, getting a licence, learning to read/write, prepare a resumes/job applications, employment options, the Census; etc, etc; get help finding a loved one; garden - watering, weeding, thinning, pruning, transplanting; stay out of the heat/rain/sun; get a cold water; give your dog a drink; and on the list goes.

This lists shows the extraordinarily diverse range of activities that go on at the Hub, even before the first COVID outbreak in the Barkly region.

Another key role for the Hub is distributing information and materials, including Bonds donated socks and undies; period/sexual health products; personal care packs; donations of food, clothing, linen etc; pens;

water bottle; warm clothing; first aid supplies; nappies; masks; RAT kits and more.

### What do we do at the Hub?

Information sessions on a wide range of issues were held at the Hub, and once COVID struck, in other larger outdoor locations and over people's fences. Many were run in partnership with one or more external organisations such as the Disability Royal Commission, the NDIS, housing, legal, and domestic and family violence services.

A range of health information also happened at the Hub including Young Women's Health Day; FASD Awareness Day, Breast and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Activities, Trauma Response Training, We Al-il Trauma informed training, RU OK? Day, How To Choose A Coordinator of Support, nutrition, wellbeing, and countless COVID information sessions.

In addition to the day to day and the information sessions the major undertakings of 2021-22 included:

- A security upgrade of the Hub building including installation of security screens on street

frontage windows

- Support for the CENSUS - lobbying for homeless/tin shed occupants to be included, Hub/home visits support with Census completion
- The Disability Royal Commission - information sessions, arranging psycho/ social support for those considering contributing to the hearings, submission support, hearings coordination and the Disability Royal Commission (Video) Hearing in Tennant Creek
- COVID - Education, support to find dates of birth, vaccine bookings, transport to vaccination, support to get to appointments, support of people in lock down, masks and Rapid Antigen Tests distribution and more.

The Hub supported and assisted participants to attend events such as Territory Day, NADOC week Elders Lunch, Heal Country activities (pottery, painting, NN Tours), Movie Night, Stronger Families Fun Day, Basket Ball, Community Gathering Live Band:



## PROJECTS



Tennant Creek Show, International Women's Day Evening in the Peace Park at the Tennant Creek Women's Refuge; Music and Food in Peko Park; Band Fest.

Also, on the lighter side, the Hub hosted: an International Women's Day pampering session (with the female lawyers); NAIDOC Hub Stories and Stew; Alice Springs Beanie Festival Workshops; Street Art; school holiday activities; singing and music lessons etc.

This year the Hub hosted:

- Barkly Disability (and Aged) Network
- Tennant Creek Transport Inc
- Northern Territory Disability and Aged Care Minister
- Barkly Youth Service Providers Network - Meetings
- Barkly NGO Meeting
- Children and Youth Guitar Lessons
- Tennant Creek High School Special Needs class visits

### COVID connections

COVID has created one major benefit - meetings, information and education have become more accessible and Hub participants have taken full advantage of platforms such as Zoom.

First People with disability were able to attend the following meetings from the Hub:

- FPDN meetings
- ABC NT Darwin Disability Forum
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Forum
- DES FN Working Group
- Disability Employment Services - DSS review/consultation
- DRC hearings coordination
- Foodbank SA
- Launch of Changing the landscape
- Mental Health/Recovery Webinars



- NDIS information sessions
- NDIS seminars
- NT Disability Advocacy Service
- NT Disability Strategy Planning and Action Plan
- NT Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs Meeting
- Paediatric appointments
- Singing lessons
- Trauma Response Training
- Vaccine Rollout with Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Project - an overview of the WYUT Report and to discuss the necessity of developing a national framework to spearhead First Nations gender justice and equality across Australia
- Women With Disabilities Australia - First Nations Women With Disabilities Yarning Circle, Youth Advisory Group, LEAD activities, Movie, Avenues of Support, etc

### Kings Narrative

We engaged with Kings Narrative to connect with men from the Central and Barkley Region of Australia, through the Hub, to provide a cultural experience on country where men could connect in a deeper and more personal sense and have discussions about the social issues they face as First Nations Men.

Both FPDN and Kings Narrative understand the importance of building community capacity, of engaging with local Aboriginal people to provide the needed services within their own community and how critical relationships are to the sustainability of service provision within Aboriginal communities, for Aboriginal people.

The project provided the space for 8 of our Aboriginal Men to reconnect with culture, to share their common experiences, to support them to understand the barriers in place within our society, to understand the meaning of disability and to promote agency.

Kings Narrative developed a 3-day program that delivered on this scope, using culture as the tool to facilitate difficult discussion, and bringing culture and lore back to the centre of our social and emotional wellbeing.

### Hub Partners

- Aged Care Assessment Team
- Alice Springs Beanie Festival
- Anyingingyi Health Aboriginal Corporation
- Australian Childhood Foundation
- Back to the Track
- Barkly Mental Health
- Barkly Regional Arts
- Barkly Regional Council - Youthlink, pool, depot, vet, library, Mayor/Councillors
- Brain Injury SA
- Business
- Carers NT - Carers Gateway
- Catholic Care NT
- Central Australia Women's Legal Service
- Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit
- Central Australian Youth Link Up Service
- Connected Beginnings
- Country Women's Association

- Disability Advocacy Service
- Flinders University
- Foundation for Rural and Remote Recovery
- Housing/Territory Families
- Indi Kindy
- Jesuit Social Services
- John Moriarty Football Foundation
- Larry Belton - Guitar teacher
- Lions (Raised \$7,000 for the Special Needs Unit at the Tennant Creek High School)
- Literacy For Life
- Mental Illness Fellowship NT
- Merin Aston - Nutritionist
- MLA Steve Edgington
- Northern Australia Aboriginal Justice
- NT Legal Aid Commission
- Patta/Central and Northern Land Councils
- Purple House
- Red Cross
- Relationships Australia
- Rotary/Lions
- Saltbush
- Schools - Mungkarta, TCPS, TCHS
- Service Providers - Cheeky Bum Nappies, Keep Moving, Sacred Business Services, NADS Care, Kentish, iCare, ITECH, PPK (AARCS), JCAC Aged Care, Kalano, Eunora Lane, Desert Therapy
- Sexual Assault Referral Service
- St Johns Alice Springs
- Tennant and District Times
- Tennant Creek Hospital COVID Vaccination Unit
- Tennant Creek Renal Unit
- Tennant Creek Transport
- Tennant Creek Women's Refuge
- The Mob
- The Shed
- Uniting Church Op-Shop
- Wayne Green - Landlord



FPDN produced a wide range of accessible and culturally relevant communications materials across multiple platforms.

### FPDN Website

The website again remains a central focus for information about the wide range of activities that FPDN does, and for our community. This year we also developed new material such as:

- information/resources – Including COVID-19 resources, animated video series and information video in AUSLAN, general systemic advocacy information.
- DRC relevant information, including 'Find an Advocate' interactive map,
- promotion of training, promotion of counselling and legal supports.

Our website is increasing in usage each year, with statistics showing strong engagement with the content.

### FPDN Social Media

FPDN has a strong presence across multiple social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We use our strong graphic and design capacities to highlight the work happening in the organisation and community. We also participate in many sector wide activities such as joint campaigns and awareness raising.

FPDN has also again live tweeted many of the Disability Royal Commission hearings, ensuring that our voice is heard.

Some highlights of our social media this year are:

- Closing the Gap Day
- Uluru statement
- FPDN Election Priorities
- Broader celebration/awareness days x 4
- NSW Closing the Gap x 2
- COVID related info x 5
- DRC Indigenous Advocates
- Human Rights Training

### Newsletter

FPDN distributes a regular newsletter to friends of FPDN and relevant stakeholders about the wide range of activities we are doing with First People with disability.

### Presentations

FPDN has developed significant expertise in designing high quality animations and presentations that made complex issues more accessible. This includes disability and Indigenous rights, violence and abuse against people with disability, and how to speak up about your rights. These presentations have been used very widely and are well received.

Some of our presentations have been to:

- Presentation at Blind Citizens Forum
- Presentation at Deadly First Nations Deaf Mob Yarning place
- NPM/WSU research project Forum
- Presentation – Passing the Message Stick – First Nations Messaging project



FPDN WEBSITE  
& SOCIAL MEDIA

- Presentation at Gartner Gives Community Impact Speaker Series
- Disability Education Standards Review -First Nations forum
- Treaty Now webinar
- ANZTSR Advocacy Webinar

### Media

FPDN again has a regular presence in the media, talking about the issues facing First People with disability. We appear in national mainstream media, and also have a specific focus on reaching First Nations community media, particularly radio.

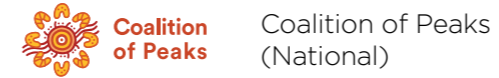
Some highlights include:

- Indigenous leaders welcome NSW Premier's focus on Aboriginal affairs but call for community consultation ABC
- Response to the Disability Royal Commission Chair's published opening statement on Inclusive Education from Public Hearing 24 Media Release
- Launch of Australia's Disability Strategy- IDPWD
- First Nations Radio (Darwin) interview
- Bumma Bipperra Radio interview
- Koori Mail article – DRC
- SBS Radio interview
- Top5 movement interview – Human rights work
- ProBono – Changemakers
- ABC article – Impact of Covid on people with disability
- Saturday paper – emergency responses
- ABC Tamworth – IDPWD
- Hireup News – First Nations People accessing NDIS
- SBS radio – Accessing the third vaccine





## Alliances & Partnerships



Coalition of Peaks  
(National)



Coalition of Aboriginal  
Peaks NSW



Disabled Peoples  
Organisations Australia



Kapo Maori,  
New Zealand



NATSILS  
(Your story and Victorian  
Aboriginal Legal service)



Australian Centre for  
Disability Law



Self-Advocacy  
Resource Unit



Western Sydney  
University



NIISQ

## Patron

Jeff McMullan



## Community Research Partner

Dr Scott Avery, Western Sydney University

## Supporters/Funding

Australian Government – Department of  
Social Services, Canberra

Australian Government – National Disability  
Insurance Agency

Australian Government – National  
Indigenous Australians Agency?

Department of Health and Human Services  
(DHHS) Victoria

Ernst & Young

National Injury Insurance Agency,  
Queensland

Northern Territory Government – Territory  
Families, Housing and Communities

NSW Government – Department of  
Communities and Justice

Perpetual Foundation

Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU)

Westpac Foundation – Rural Community  
Grant Program

## Acknowledgements

First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDN) values the wisdom and knowledge shared by our Elders and communities in advising our work. We would also like to acknowledge and thank our funding bodies, donors and supporters for their generous contribution and support as we work toward a common goal of a just and equitable society for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities, their families, and communities.



**First Peoples Disability Network (Australia) Limited**

Phone: +61 (2) 9267 4195 | Email: [enquiries@fpdn.org.au](mailto:enquiries@fpdn.org.au)

Address: PO Box A2265 SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

ABN 58 169 154 330



For financials please [click here >](#)



First Peoples  
Disability Network

