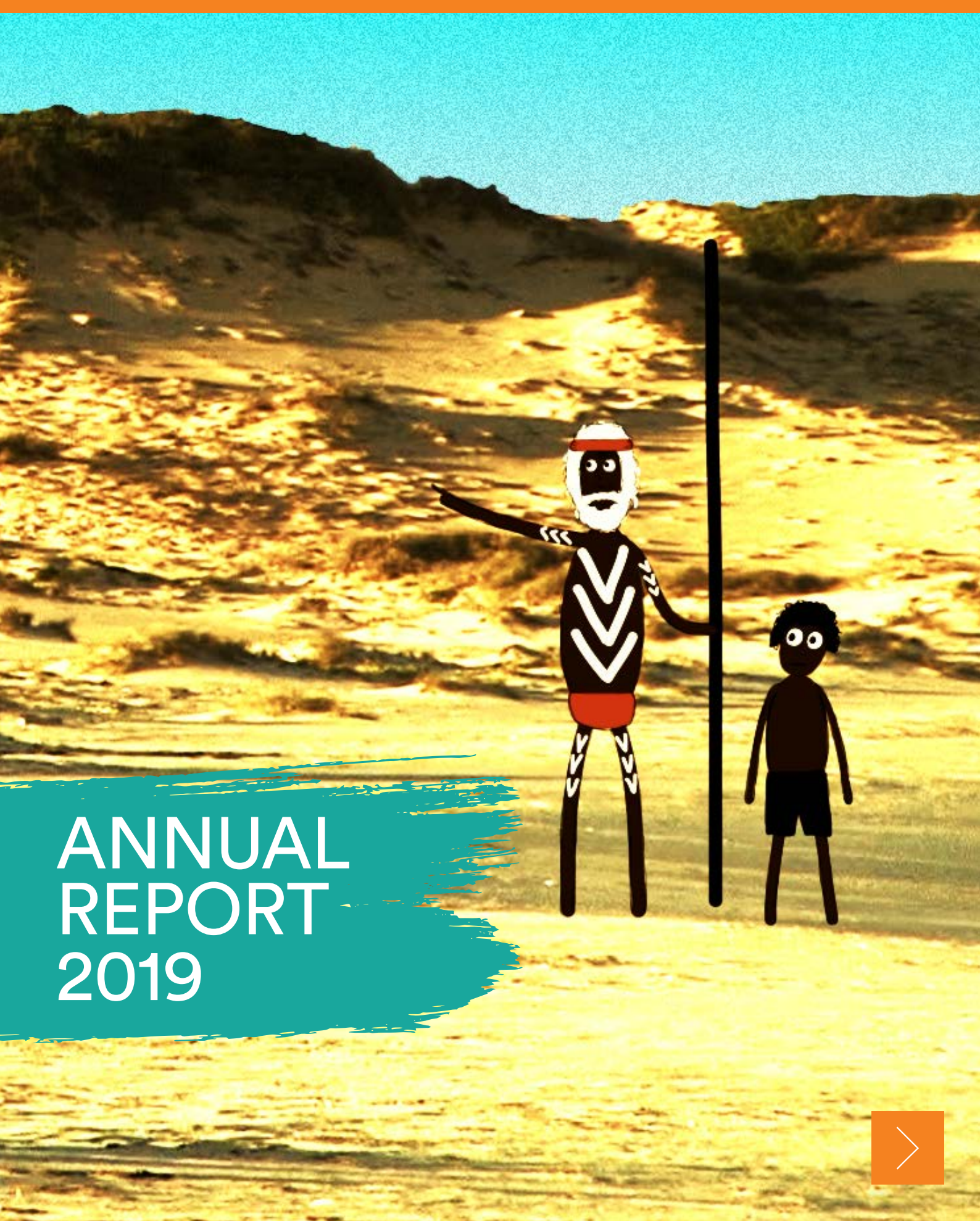




First Peoples  
Disability Network  
Australia

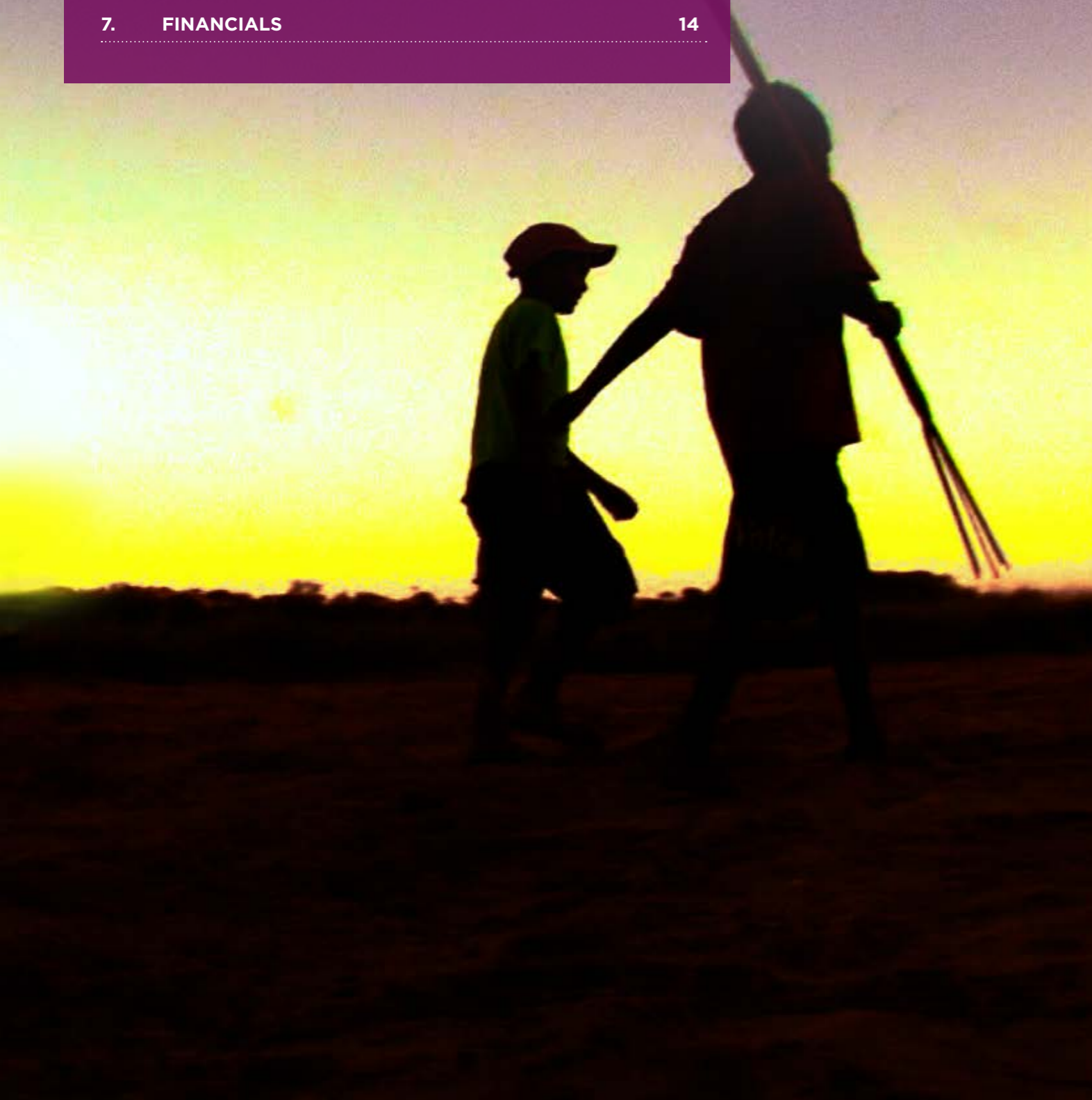


# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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Cover and inside front cover: Film stills from *Benny Boy Goes Bush*

## WELCOME



June Riemer at the NSWALC Beyond Survival March, Sydney

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.





Patterson Street Hub



## 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

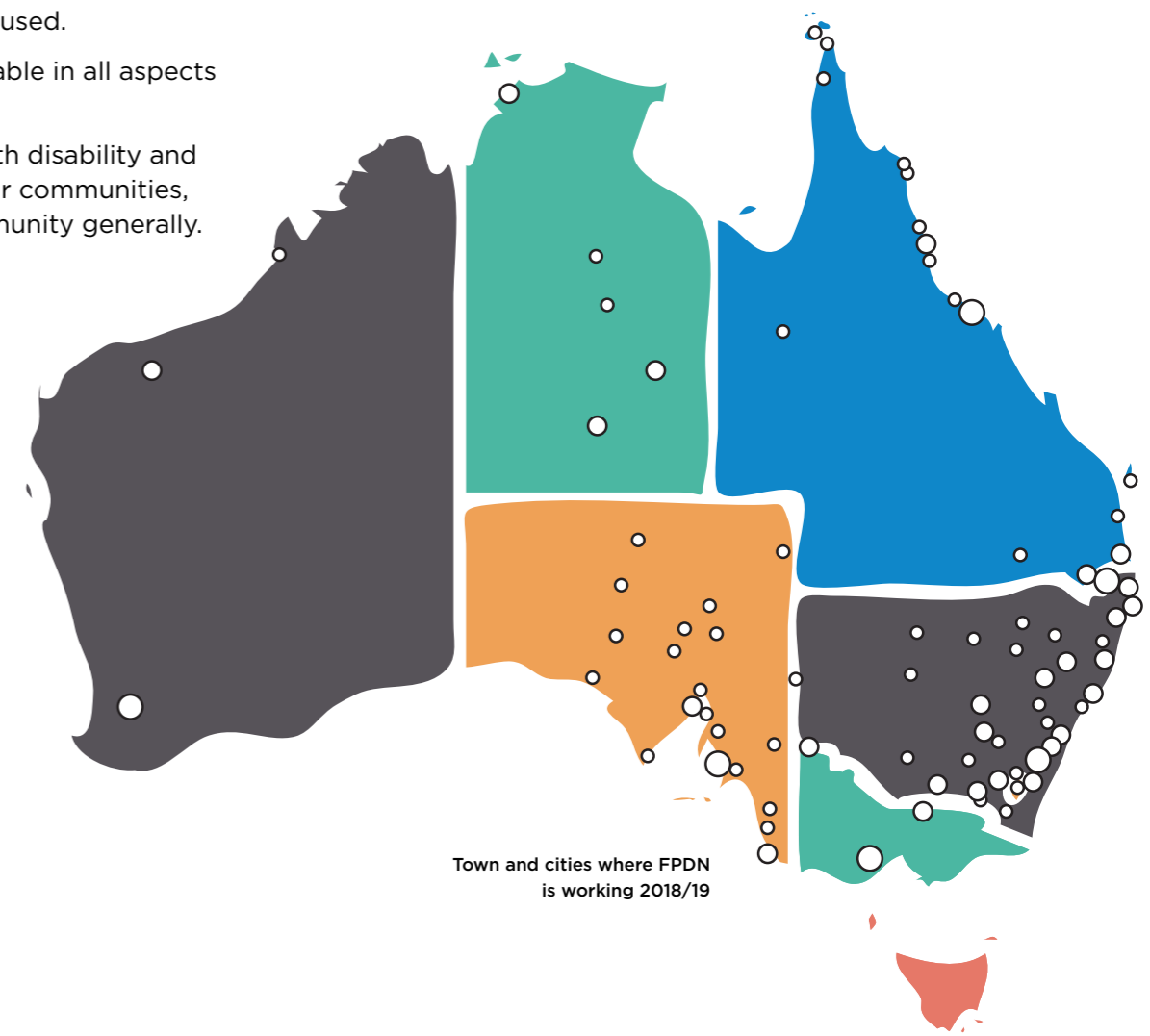
- Recognition and respect for human rights, and in particular for the human rights of First Peoples and First Peoples with disability.
- Equality of outcomes for First Peoples with disability with other members of Australian society through equal opportunity, non-discrimination and affirmative action.
- 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 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.



Town and cities where FPDN is working 2018/19





Damian Griffis, Chief Executive Officer



The Royal Commission into abuse, neglect and violence of people with disability established this financial year has the potential to be a watershed moment.

## CEO'S REPORT

Financial year 2018/19 was another year of high achievement despite the ongoing challenges we face in having enough resources to meet the needs of our people with disability and their families.

We continued to provide robust advocacy at a local, regional, state and international level. Our advocacy took many forms including lobbying politicians, undertaking individual advocacy on behalf of First Peoples with disability, regular media appearances in the print media and on radio and television and by leading human rights related discussions about disability right around the country.

Our footprint in terms of community engagement reached every state and territory. We also were able to engage with communities in parts of the country we not had the opportunity to access before. A major source of pride for the organisation was the establishment of the Paterson Street Community Hub in Tennant Creek. The Hub is providing a critical safe place for community members to gather and support one another. We opened the Hub in response to an expressed community need, as we were concerned despite the supposed NDIS activity in the town there was little progress being made in terms of meeting the needs of local community members with disabilities.

We continued to be sought out by the Australian media particularly but not exclusively by the ABC. This included print media, radio and televisions.

The frequency of our media engagements are so regular that it is difficult to count how many actual engagements we had but the number would easily exceed more than 30 media interviews.

On the international front we continued to represent the views of our community at the United Nations both in New York and Geneva. We are seen as experts internationally on the rights of Indigenous people with disability.

A major achievement was the publication of Culture is Inclusion by Scott Avery. The publication powerfully documents the stories of some of our people with disability. The publication has been widely circulated and continues to enjoy major exposure. The publication is a critical document in that it builds upon our decades long community engagement around the country by providing a powerfully articulated research publication.

Another highlight is the continuing growth of NuunaRon, which is a unique group of Aboriginal artists with disability that Paul Calcott facilitates. We have also seen significant engagement around the country through the Building Local Care Workforce program and I thank each and every staff member for their excellent work.

Also, through the work of Lisa Hindman and Ben Riemer we have seen significant growth in terms of engagement with our website and also our Facebook and Twitter presence have greatly increased. And Lai Ha has continued to provide highly skilled financial direction for the organisation.

I would like to also make special mention of June Riemer whose tireless work as Deputy CEO continues to ensure not only that we have extensive reach around the country but that we are held in the highest regard by community members around the country.

Furthermore, the creation of the Royal Commission into abuse, neglect and violence of people with disability which was established during the later part of this financial year has the potential to be a watershed moment of the country. FPDN has been at the forefront of the advocacy over the past decade that has resulted in the Royal Commission being established. A great outcome is the strong focus upon First Peoples with disability and also the appointment of an Aboriginal Commissioner.

In the early new year 2020, we are due to undertake our next strategic planning. This will be opportune for us as we seek to rationalise our work into a manageable and meaningful contribution for the realisation of the human rights of our people with disability. The board will be playing a critical role in the development of our strategic plan.

Finally, I would like to say thank you again for the tireless work of all FPDN staff and thank our board for their support throughout the financial year.

No doubt our work will continue to be challenging, and we will always need to fight for funding, but I am always confident that we are fighting the good fight and that we are making a difference to the lives of our people with disability.

**Damian Griffis, Chief Executive Officer**

### PRIORITY PROGRAMS 2018/19

1. DSS - Disability Representative Organisations
2. DSS - EY - Boosting the Local Care Workforce
3. NDIA - Delivery and Training of FPDN Our Way Planning Resources
4. NSW FACS - Transitional Advocacy Funding Supplement
5. NSW FACS - Koori Court Disability Inclusion Pathfinder Project
6. NSW FACS - Foster Care Research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
7. South Australia Minister for Human Services - NDIS Intensive Outreach Navigator Project
8. Sunshine Coast Council, Queensland - NuunaRon Art Exhibition in Brisbane in December 2018
9. Collaboration Agreement with NSW for Research Activity Agreement between UNSW and The Lowitja Institute - Wellbeing through cultural participation: An affirmative strategy for the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability
10. Perpetual Foundation - for Northern Territory community work and NT Hubs
11. Cages Foundation - Benny Goes Bush
12. National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland Agency (NIISQ) - Develop resources and provide cultural workshop training for NIISQ employees
13. North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community - Provide resources and training workshops to NuunaRon Art Group
14. Positive Partnership with Autism Spectrum Australia
15. Royal Far West - Establish a positive and cooperative working relationship to enhance the health and wellbeing opportunities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities
16. International Conference - Participation in the 12 session Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 11 - 13 June 2019 at the United Nations, New York



## SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY

FPDN's systemic advocacy, underpinned by a Human Rights framework, focussed on working with a wide range of stakeholders including government and non-government sectors nationally and internationally. FPDN continued to be sought out to provide advice and expertise across a range of advisory roles and representation on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability including mainstream and Indigenous media.

As a founding member of Disabled Peoples Organisations Australia (DPOA), FPDN's advocacy was pivotal in the formative stages of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of persons with disability ensuring a culturally safe and inclusive platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples voices to be front and centre.

In December the National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations, made up of nearly 40 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Bodies including FPDN, formed a partnership with government to finalise the Closing the Gap refresh framework and share decision making as a joint council to Closing the Gap over the next 10 years. As a coalition member FPDN advocated strongly for disability to be included as a Closing the Gap target and will continue this campaign into the future.

FPDN acknowledge the common goals, and respectful partnerships such as those between the national representative disabled peoples organisations, between the First Nations national peak and community controlled organisations, and between FPDN and governments are the key to achieving meaningful outcomes.



## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

### Pacific Disability Forum Fiji

FPDN attended the Sixth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability as a member of the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) held in Nadi, Fiji from 25 February until 01 March 2019.

The theme for the forum was 'From Recognition to Realisation of Rights: Furthering Effective Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific 2030 for Persons with Disabilities' and hosted the following events:

1. PDF General Forum
2. Pacific Regional Forum on Youth with Disabilities
3. Pacific Regional forum on Women with Disabilities
4. Research Symposium
5. Pacific Disability Conference

FPDN presented at the Pacific Disability Conference on 'Indigenous persons with disabilities as a marginalised group within the disability movement'.

FPDN is a founding Member of the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) which is made up of Disabled Persons Organisation Members and Associate Members that are based or operate in the Pacific region. Australian Members of the Pacific Disability Forum include First Peoples Disability Network Australia, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, Deaf Australia and People with Disabilities Australia.



## CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES (COSP) TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)

FPDN participated in the 12th session of COSP at the United Nations New York on the 11-14 June 2019 as part of the Disabled Peoples Organisations Australia (DPOA) delegation.

Key issues raised by DPO Australia include:

- **Recognition and action to ensure that the CRPD individual rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability are implemented using the minimum standards set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons (DRIP) that address individual and collective rights.**
- **The need for measures to ensure that the views and participation of children and young people with disability are included in policy development and implementation.**
- **The importance of intersectionality in policy development and implementation to ensure that all people with disability are 'not left behind'.**

FPDN co-sponsored a side event on 'Inclusion of Indigenous persons with disability in society through participation in cultural life'. This side-event was hosted by PWDA, and co-sponsored by FPDN, DPO Australia, Pacific Disability Forum, Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network, and the Australian Government. FPDN's June Riemeer facilitated the event which was opened with our [short film 'Benny Goes Bush'](#). This side-event explored how CRPD obligations apply to the specific situation of Indigenous peoples with disability & how these obligations are reinforced by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons (DRIP).

FPDN Board Director and Torres Strait Islander man Sereako Treloggen made a statement at COSP 12 for Roundtable 3 on the Inclusion of persons with disabilities in society through participation in cultural life, recreation and sport.



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY 2018

On International Day of People with Disability 2018, FPDN's NuunaRon Art Group launched an exhibition of works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and emerging artists living with disability in a celebration of culture and community.

The NuunaRon Art group addresses issues such as social isolation and provides a safe place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members living with disability to come together and build resilience, connect to their culture, share stories and support each other in keeping strong.

The exhibition, hosted by Novotel Twin Waters Mudjimba Beach, showcased 80 artworks for sale from the NuunaRon group along with guided tours and daily art. The Exhibition was proudly supported by Sunshine Coast Council, Novotel Twin Waters Resort Sunshine Coast, North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health (NCACCH).





## NUUNARON ART GROUP

NuunaRon is a group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait artists and emerging artists living with disability located on the Sunshine Coast. The NuunaRon group provides a welcoming and safe space for people to share stories of resilience and keeping strong via yarning, painting and creating art.

This year saw NuunaRon working in partnership with North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health to support local indigenous people with disability to access the NuunaRon group and connect with community to address issues around social isolation.

Sponsored by Sunshine Coast council NuunaRon held an information stall promoting the NuunaRon group at the 'Festival of Champions' community event hosting athletes competing at the Commonwealth Games.

NuunaRon represented on the advisory board for the development of the National Disability Arts Policy alongside the Department of Communications and the Arts with the NuunaRon group being recognised as a best practice model in their policy development. NuunaRon also participated in discussion panels at Arts Access Australia's Meeting Place conference held in Alice Springs.

NuunaRon artists partnered with SARU to provide art work and share their personal stories which were used in the development of SARU's self-advocacy post cards.

NuunaRon artist also participated in a number of exhibitions including FPDN's International Day of People with Disability Art Exhibition held at the Twin Waters resort on the Sunshine Coast, Art from the Margins Sista Exhibition, Outside Art Exhibition and Cooroy Butter Factory NAIDOC Exhibition with two of our artist winning awards for their artwork at the Art from the Margins Sista exhibition. NuunaRon also presented an artwork to the Murri Court.

## BOOSTING THE LOCAL CARE WORKFORCE

FPDN joined forces with Ernest and Young (EY) and Community Service Industry Alliance (CSIA) to deliver the Boosting the Local Care Workforce (BLCW) project.

BLCW is a national project focussed on addressing workforce planning and development issues across the disability and aged care sectors.

With FPDN Regional Coordinators located in WA, SA, NSW, QLD, FNQ and the NT, staff are working with community to achieve outcomes for

- Culturally competent services and supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with disability
- Opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses in the aged care and disability sector to access information and support to grow their business
- Creating and promoting job opportunities for our community in the aged care and disability sector

The BLCW project has developed resources to support all service providers to grow their business, transition into the NDIS market and create new employment opportunities. Regional Coordinators provide localised support, gather intelligence on local issues, assist providers to complete a Readiness Assessment and connect stakeholders with complementary programs and initiatives in the disability and aged care sectors.



## BENNY BOY GOES BUSH

'Benny boy goes bush' is a culturally respectful short film and flashcard resource created in community by community to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living with disability and their families to prepare them for cultural participation.

Benny Boy Goes Bush tells the story of Benny boy, a young boy who is 'different' and his Grandpa, a community Elder. Benny boy feels alone, he is sad that he is left behind when the other boys go bush. Benny's Grandpa takes him on a journey through his Saltwater country to teach him that everything in country is different and that in community, we all are included and have our place. It is our connection to culture that keeps us strong and proud. Benny Boy Goes Bush delivers a positive and inspiring message of finding strength in connection to culture for our kids in community who are struggling with feeling different and alone.

The concept for 'Benny Goes Bush' was designed and developed by FPDN in collaboration with Aboriginal film maker Wyldeclan Documentaries and in close consultation and with the approval of Goolarabooloo Elders from the Dampier Peninsula, Kimberley W.A.

The Goolarabooloo Elders strongly support this project and acknowledge the importance of sharing this story, in particular, with remote communities where young children with disability are at an age where they will begin to prepare for cultural participation.

The message from Goolarabooloo Elders is that no one should be left behind.

FPDN thank the Goolarabooloo Elders, Dampier Peninsula WA for sharing their knowledge in the creation of this story and Cages for their support in the development of this resource.



## OUR WAY PLANNING

The Our Way Planning resource was developed and is utilised for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability to enable them to better understand the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and their rights when planning for their NDIS package.

The NDIS licensed the Our Way Planning Resource for FPDN to deliver Indigenous Disability Perspective Training using the resource for Local Area Coordinators in Queensland.

Building on the Our Way Planning resource, FPDN also partnered with the National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland to develop a culturally respectful resource 'Getting Strong Again' for engaging the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community who have sustained personal injury through a motor vehicle accident. The resource was also developed in Creole language to be inclusive of the Torres Strait Islander community. FPDN staff conducted a number of workshops to support NDIS staff in using this resource in community.



### YOUTH KOORI COURT

FPDN, in partnership with Family and Community Services (FACS), are working together on a pilot program for the Youth Koori Court (YKC) Disability Inclusion Pathfinder Project aimed at supporting young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability in the NSW justice system through providing mentorship and referral pathways to the disability sector including the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and other services.

Located in Sydney NSW, the YKC is a culturally sensitive court program designed to break the cycle of crime and provide support to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders with the aim of reducing recidivism which, in turn, reduces detention.

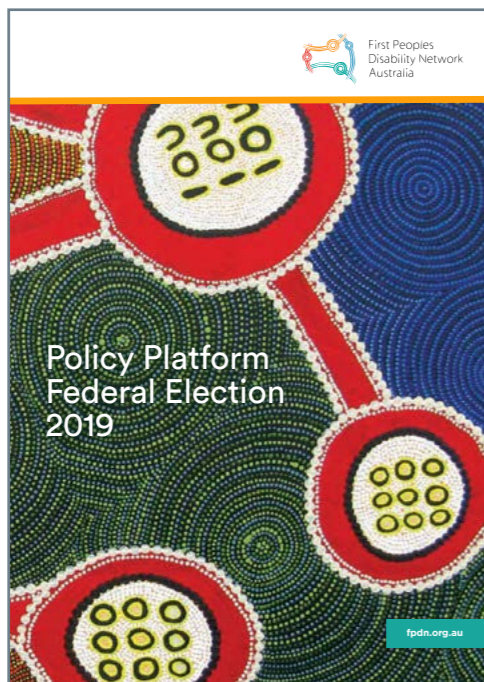
The program, led by Magistrate Sue Duncombe, has an informal approach and includes leadership and representation from FPDN, local Elders, family and community to provide ongoing support for young offenders over a 12 month period.



### FEDERAL ELECTION POLICY PLATFORM 2019

In the leadup to the federal election in May 2019, FPDN developed a bipartisan Federal Election Policy Platform as a recommendation to incoming government on disability policy reform and government investment to address the need of the serious inequity experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability and their families. This election policy platform was created with the context of four key reforms that commenced or are being reformed during 2019. These are:

1. **Reform of the National Disability Agreement**
2. **Reform of the National Disability Advocacy Program**
3. **Further implementation of the National Disability Strategy**
4. **Closing the Gap**



FPDN's Policy platform

FPDN's Policy platform acknowledges that overarching national frameworks for disability have largely failed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities as is well recognised by the Commonwealth government. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities have been a stated priority at the Disability Reform Council for several years, but despite this there has been little meaningful improvement in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities. FPDN will continue to lobby government on these reforms in line with our Ten Priorities to Address Disability Inequity.

### TEN PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS DISABILITY INEQUITY











Building on our 'Ten Point plan for the implementation of the NDIS in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities', received with bipartisan support in 2013, FPDN launched an updated document in 2018: 'Ten priorities to address disability inequity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities for the National Disability Strategy and the National Disability Insurance Scheme' to include all First Peoples with disability.

A key aspect of our Ten Priorities is the requirement that appropriate companion schemes and services are available and accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the long-term. These priorities are intended to form the foundation for a comprehensive national plan collaboratively created to ensure that the services and supports provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disability accessible, culturally appropriate and will work in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Our Ten Priorities to address disability inequity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities for the National Disability Strategy and the National Disability Insurance Scheme informs this policy platform in line with our strategic directions.

The plan should be based on the ten priorities identified by FPDN and be developed by using three pillars:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1. <b>Build the capacity of communities and individuals to understand their rights and entitlements</b></p> | <p>2. <b>Invest to create a First People's Community Controlled service sector</b></p> | <p>3. <b>Develop and support an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce</b></p> |
|--|--|---|

TEN PRIORITIES

<p>1</p>  <p>Invest to create an Aboriginal Community Controlled Disability Service Sector for the provision of disability supports by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability for their communities</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Address the barriers facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Prioritise timely intervention to ensure supports and services are provided, and available over the long-term, and at the right time in people's lives</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Recognise and value the existing knowledge, skills and expertise within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We are leaders in the inclusion of people with disability</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Resource a community-directed research strategy which specifically focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disability</p>
<p>6</p>  <p>Endorse and support peer-to-peer leadership to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability lead the engagement with community themselves</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Develop and implement an access to justice strategy for First People with disability, particularly those with cognitive impairment, sensory and intellectual disability</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Develop and implement programs for inclusive education and employment for First People with disability in line with national strategies for their full social participation</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Create links between the National Disability Strategy and Closing the Gap Framework for coordinated policy and programs at the Commonwealth, State and local levels in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability and their organisations</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Performance Framework for the independent monitoring of the social and economic outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability</p>



### PATERSON STREET HUB, TENNANT CREEK

The Paterson Street Hub, Tennant Creek, was established late 2018 in response to community expressing that a place in town, on main street, to rest, drop in, meet with family, participate in talks and meetings, and bring ideas to contribute and share was needed.

Paterson Street Hub is a neutral space, and well utilised. The Hive invites people to use the space as hot desk, co-share work place with the intention of bringing people together to support local community members needs.

### MAPPU, MAPIRRI AKARRIRREYEL

Warumungu word: Mappu  
 Warlpiri word: Mapiirri  
 Alyewarre word: Akarrirreyel

In three well known Tennant Creek and Barkly languages - Translates in each language to 'coming together' the essence of the Hub's gift to community.

Across the 2018/19 financial year just a few of the events and important talks that have occurred at The Hub are listed:

- **Alice Springs Beanie Festival:** a week of felt beanie making- where children, young people, students, from Primary school, and older people all joined in to make beanies!! - Beanies were submitted into the Beanie Festival and local artist Lindy Brodie one the Meditation Prize. A group of Primary school children received a Special Mention for their 'after school gang' work.
- **Projekt Symbiosis Exhibition:** stories, illustrated from across the world,
- **Barkly Environment Group** meets monthly
- **Grandmother's Circle** meets
- **Disability matters:** led by Elder Brian Tennyson - the group shares stories of strength and works to grow advocacy skills in response to some of the problem stories and NDIS



- **Women working Together** to improve lives for themselves and others!
- **Justice Reinvestment Talks:** a series of lunchtime talks held regularly to assist people to learn more about JR (inclusive of families teachers, leaders, cultural people who want change for their community and want to act to stop the continuous incarceration of Aboriginal children and young people - many with yet to be diagnosed disabilities.
- **Fella's Together:** Paterson Street Hub, Red Cross and FPDN support the Fella's Together project repurposing of discarded materials for good!
- **Mungkarta Kids from a homeland school:** approx. 80km south of TC- visit regularly and use PSH as their base for the day to access disability, medical, and sport services centring essential links in education of children and families.

The Paterson Street Hub is community owned and led operating in partnership with the Tennant Creek and Barkly community, a philanthropic supporter and FPDN.



### FPDN IN TENNANT CREEK AND UTOPIA WITH THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER

In October FPDN CEO Damian Griffis, Deputy CEO June Riemer and National Project Manager Paul Calcott travelled to Utopia and Tennant Creek in the NT, with the Australian Human Rights Commission's Disability Discrimination Commissioner Alastair McEwin and Ashurst's Pro Bono Manager Garth.

The Disability Discrimination Commissioner in partnership with FPDN and Ashurst held consultations with community living with disability, their families and friends along with service providers to find out what was important to them.



### BUILDING THE ABORIGINAL DISABILITY SERVICE SECTOR GATHERING

FPDN hosted our 'Building the Aboriginal Disability Service Sector Gathering over two days, August 16 & 17 In Tamworth NSW attended by Aboriginal service providers, professionals and community interested in service sector career opportunities. The 2-day workshop covered a wide range of topics focused on skill building, challenges and opportunities in building the Aboriginal disability and aged care service sectors. Initially targeted to the local area, the gathering was widely attended

by local, regional and remote Aboriginal disability service sector providers, health professionals and community from around Australia.

FPDN was not funded to produce the Gathering and the overwhelming response from our attendees was for FPDN to deliver more of these workshops across the country, which saw us hold a second one day workshop model of the gathering in Adelaide.



### NATIONAL DISABILITY STRATEGY COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The Department of Social Services (DSS) engaged FPDN to consult with our communities across the country to ensure the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability were included in the development of the National Disability Strategy Beyond 2020.

The outcomes of these conversations will contribute to the development of the National Disability Strategy beyond 2020.



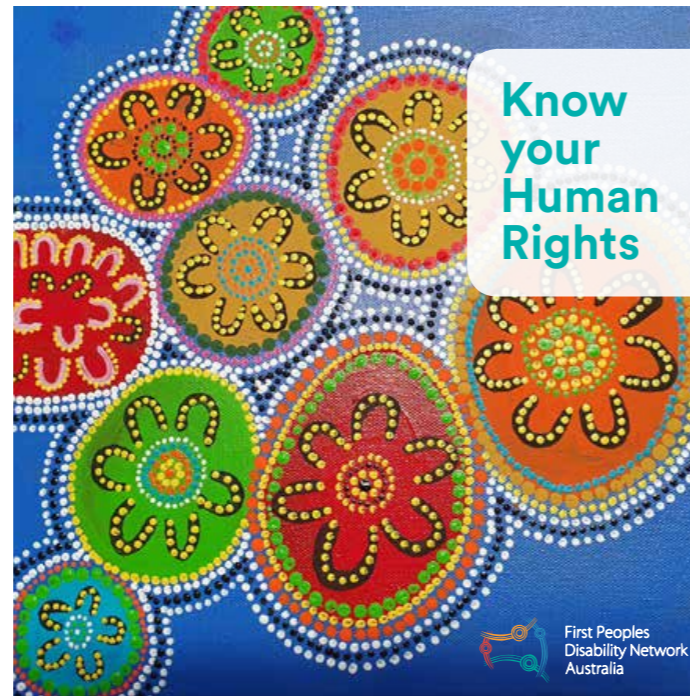


## NDIS INTENSIVE OUTREACH NAVIGATOR PROJECT

First Peoples Disability Network South Australia were commissioned to deliver outcomes in regards to the Navigator Project for the Department of Human Services (DHS) from July 2018 - January 2019. This project involved reaching out and finding extremely hard to reach Aboriginal community members who had not yet transitioned from state funded support over to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), or to other support. Through FPDN community connections and our culturally appropriate service delivery we were able to connect with a large portion of the referrals made by DHS, so that they could be transitioned over to the NDIS in a very expedient time frame. This project involved;

- Making connections through local Aboriginal community networks in South Australia to find and connect with DHS referrals and hard to reach community members.
- Connecting and meeting with Aboriginal community members to discuss what the DHS Navigator project could mean for them and their future
- Providing community members with an understanding of the NDIS in a culturally appropriate way.
- Supporting referrals to understand and complete the access process.
- Assisting community members with the NDIS pre-planning process.
- Making referrals to relevant local disability service providers for continued support.

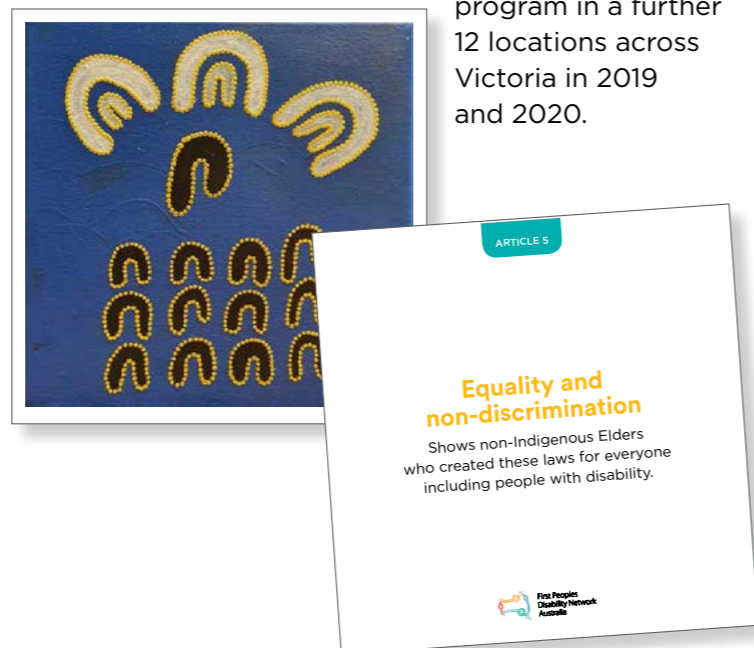
The project was a great success in supporting community members and providing them the opportunity to access culturally appropriate service and support from FPDN.



## LAUNCH OF THE LESTER BOSTOCK HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAM VICTORIA

In honour of FPDN's founding Elder Uncle Lester Bostock, and in continuation of his work, FPDN in partnership with SARU developed a Human Rights Training Program targeted at building rights-based knowledge across multiple human rights instruments to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability to understand and confidently exercise their rights in an everyday context.

In June, FPDN held a community launch of the training program at the Aboriginal Advancement League, Thornbury and will continue to roll out this program in a further 12 locations across Victoria in 2019 and 2020.



## RESEARCH

### Culture is Inclusion: Building a community-based approach to research and policy

Following the release of the publication *Culture is Inclusion: A narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability*, FPDN continues to build a community-based approach to research that strives to elevate and promote the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

FPDN's approach to research is continuing to generate a shift in focus, moving from 'disability' that is seen as a deficit and towards 'inclusion', in line with our cultural values as First Peoples. This is shown by the reaction of people to the publication of *Culture is Inclusion*. This book has been warmly received, not just within the First Peoples disability community, but well beyond it. Since its release in July 2018, the narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability has found a place in University libraries, on course reading lists, in the offices of disability service providers, in law firms, in preschools, in high schools, in medical research centres, in the waiting rooms of Members of Parliament and Senate, and on the coffee tables of people in Australia and abroad who have an active concern for social justice.

Cultural and community participation as an affirmative strategy in the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability

Following the release of *Culture is Inclusion*, FPDN partnered with researchers at the University of New South Wales and the Centre of Excellence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics at the Australian Bureau of Statistics in a project that looked into the ways that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability participated in community and cultural activities, and the positive affect that inclusion has upon their health and wellbeing. This project was funded by the Lowitja Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research.

This project continued the momentum of a community-based approach to research and provided a detailed understanding of the ways in which people with disability participate in community and cultural activities, and what are the factors that enable their inclusion. One of the key outputs from the project to date is the production of a data search engine that allows users to find data which compares the rates of participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability by various community and cultural activities by region. This data search tool is accessible through FPDN's website, and there will be further publications from this project in the coming year.



### Community-based projects

We have also undertaken a number of other research projects that have used a community-based approach to encourage participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in research where FPDN take a lead role, as well as many in an advisory capacity. One research project that FPDN has led that used a participatory research approach was a series of workshops in New South Wales on the attitudes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards kin and foster caring. These workshops generated community views on the factors that influence Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' decision to become a kin and foster carer. The recommendations for major systemic change in how governments and agencies address issues that affect the care and welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the way have been provided to both the Department of Family and Community Services who commissioned the workshops, as well as peak bodies within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Care sector.



## 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, cooperative 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)

## ALLIANCES



Disabled Peoples Organisations Australia (DPO)



Change the Record



Coalition of Aboriginal Peaks NSW  
National Coalition of Aboriginal Peaks

## PARTNERSHIPS



Australian Bureau of Statistics



The Lowitja Institute



University of NSW



SARU



Australian Human Rights Commission



Western Sydney University



EY and Community Services Industry Alliance

## 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
- South Australia Minister for Human Services
- Sunshine Coast Council, Queensland
- The Lowitja Institute
- Perpetual Foundation
- Cages Foundation
- National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland Agency (NIISQ)
- North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community
- Positive Partnership with Autism Spectrum Australia
- Royal Far West - Establish a positive and cooperative working relationship to enhance the health and wellbeing opportunities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities

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For financials please  
[click here >](#)



Back Cover Artwork: 'Rainbow Serpents'  
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