



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Dear Disability Health Network member,

Please see below the Disability Health Network (DHN) Executive Advisory Group (EAG) July 2020 news update for distribution to your networks.

This is an opportunity for you to share the work of the DHN and to seek input from your networks to promote engagement activities to improve the health care of people with disability.

Kind regards,
Disability Health Network

Disability Health Network EAG Communique

The DHN EAG met for the second time this year on Wednesday 22 July 2020 via MSTeams. The decision to move to an online meeting was made due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The principal goal of the DHN EAG is to support the Network to guide improvement in health outcomes for people with disability across Western Australia.

Resignation

- Monica McGhie resigned from the EAG and her contributions were acknowledged along with a feature article published in the May 2020 Health Networks Bulletin.

New Members Welcomed

- Dena Zarif from the National Disability Services - replaces Geoff Holden, recently retired from NDS
- Bob Johnson – Consumer Representative from PWDWA
- James Thomas – Executive Director Health Programs, WACHS who is replacing Margaret Denton on the EAG
- Alistair Conwell – replaces Catherine Hunter, Department of Communities

Presentations

- **NDS – Ready to Go Home Program – overcoming delays in leaving hospital – NDIS ILC Mainstream Capacity Grant**
 - Danielle Loizou-Lake – Project Lead, Disability Health Projects, National Disability Services, was invited to present in conjunction with Dena Zarif.
 - Project launch information was shared.
- **[Dental Story Book](#)**
 - Martin Glick, Manager Central Clinical & Support Services, Dental Health Services NMHS presented on the benefits of using Social Stories to address anxiety and uncertainty for People with Disability when undergoing unfamiliar procedures.

State Disability Strategy – Department of Communities

- Work on the State Disability Strategy and Action Plan is progressing, with a further round of engagements with stakeholders underway over the coming months.

Sustainable Health Review (SHR)

- Jenny Campbell, as the Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, is providing the lead for Recommendation 15 – *Improve the interface between health, aged care and disability services to enable care in the most appropriate setting and to ensure people do not fall through the gaps.*
- Discussion regarding interface of health services with NDIS

Capacity Building

- Research
 - Partnering with organisations already mapping Health Services used in Primary Care setting, Hospitals, Dental and MH services
 - Tracking along 12 months of data
 - Running health literacy survey with front line support workers as well, to understand better how care is provided / decisions made/ health information works
 - Focus not broadly across all disability, but looking at the interface between disability service organisations and Health Services
- [Making the Link Project](#) (ACI – NSW)
 - Feedback provided to the Making the Link Project team in NSW in regards to a draft “Essentials Toolkit” that was circulated for consideration as to whether it was useful for HSP’s to better deliver health care to people with intellectual disabilities.
- Feedback was gathered and collated from ‘Cognitive Impairment’ project officers and ‘Cognition / Dementia & Delirium champions’ in the HSP’s. Disability Health Reference Group
 - Co-Leads were invited to join the group giving the network an opportunity to be formally represented in the HSP arena in supporting inclusive health care
- My Health Record
 - Co-leads working with HSS (Frank Pattison) and the Australian Digital Health Agency in conjunction with Dr Rachel Skoss to investigate whether the MHR could be used to convey important information regarding people’s disability to health workers (eg in Emergency departments)
- Employment of people with disability (Public sector commission target)
 - Funding available to support Public Service Agencies to adapt their practices.
- NDIS-Health Community of Practice
 - This sixth meeting of the NDIS-Health Community of Practice was held on 30 June with over 50 attendees at 44 sites in WA. The meeting confirmed a continued interest and engagement from health clinicians in education around the NDIS.

NDIS in WA update – Department of Communities

- Individuals receiving State funded specialist disability services in Western Australia (WA) are continuing to transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- As announced by the Minister for Disability Services on 21 May 2020, WA is delaying the transition of the quality and safeguarding functions to the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission from 1 July 2020 until 1 December 2020. This is a delay to assist providers manage the COVID-19 response. See

<https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/news/more-time-for-transition-to-quality-and-safeguards-commission/>

- Communities has developed a new policy on the *Authorisation of Restrictive Practices in Funded Disability Services*. The policy applies to the use of restrictive practices in disability services funded either through the NDIS or by the State Government and also comes into effect on 1 December 2020. See <http://disability.wa.gov.au/wa-ndis/wa-ndis/new-policy-on-authorisation-of-restrictive-practices/>. A series of information sessions are being held in August and September with further sessions planned.

NDIA update

- Exceptionally complex support needs program is now underway and the provider is Nulsen

DHN contributions to COVID-19 Documents

- [Health Worker Checklist – Caring for People with Disability](#)
- [COVID-19 guidelines for the Western Australian community-based care](#)

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD)

- SMHS and DoH commenced planning for 2020 IDPwD event

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the DHN EAG will be held on 28 October 2020.

Please feel free to distribute this communique to your colleagues and networks. For further information on the Disability Health Network please go to https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Disability-Health-Network

Disability Health Network

