



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

Dear Disability Health Network member,

Please see below the Disability Health Network (DHN) Executive Advisory Group (EAG) October 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 third and last time this year on Wednesday 24 October 2018 at Brightwater Care in Osborne Park.

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.

The EAG welcomed Catherine Hunter from the Department of Communities, Disability Services to the membership who replaces Clare Meredith who has now joined Brightwater. The EAG thanked Clare for her wonderful support over the past few years.

The EAG welcomed Megan Burley, Director, Health Networks who provided an overview of the role of networks and encouraged the DHN to collaborate broadly and set one or two priorities that will achieve significant health outcomes for people with disability.

Janet Wagland provided a comprehensive overview of Brightwater Care which continues to provide services to people with high and complex needs as it has done since it began in 1901.

Priority Areas:

1. Understanding and recognition
 - Jennifer Campbell met with WA Country Health Service (WACHS) who are keen to incorporate the WA Disability Health Framework 2015-2025 (the Framework) into their regional training program. Discussions will continue with WACHS.
 - Fiona Payne continues to work with East Metropolitan Health Service, Royal Perth Hospital to embed the Framework into their service by leveraging existing initiatives such as the 1000 Day

Challenge, the Consumer Advisory Council, the Long Stay Initiative and their Take 5 Resources.

- DHN and South Metropolitan Health Service are co-hosting the 2018 International Day of People with Disability on 3 December at Fiona Stanley Hospital. The theme for 2018 is: “empowering persons with disability and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. Keep a look out for advice on how to register for the event and join us to celebrate.

2. Health and wellbeing

- Healthways have released their new strategy document. The co-leads will follow up with them regarding lack of attention to the specific needs of people with disability in health promotion activities, as per our feedback previously.

3. Inclusive health care

- Care Coordination is progressing with the DHN successful in their submission for a grant to map health service utilisation for people with disability living in supported accommodation. This is part of the work to operationalise the Hospital Stay Guidelines.
- NDIS in WA Health Community of Practice – two events have been held this year and a third is planned on psychosocial disability, in conjunction with the NDIA. Feedback to date has been positive with people wanting to learn more about specifics such as psychosocial.

DHN Priorities for 2019

The EAG participated in a facilitated workshop to develop the network priorities for 2019. Stay tuned for a summary of these, and opportunities to be involved in working groups to progress them in 2019.

The next meeting of the DHN EAG will be held on 20 March 2019.

Please feel free to distribute this communicate onto 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

Kind regards,

Disability Health Network



