



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health

Dear Disability Health Network member,

Please see below the Disability Health Network (DHN) Executive Advisory Group (EAG) March 2019 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

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## Disability Health Network EAG Communique

The DHN EAG met for the first time this year on Wednesday 20 March 2019 at the Department of Health, Royal Street, East Perth.

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.

Two new members were welcomed to the EAG:

- Tim Fettis from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)
- Dr Robina Redknapp, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Department of Health

### Guest Presenter

Samantha Jenkinson, Executive Director, People with Disabilities WA (PWdWA) was invited to share the PWdWA [Co-Design resource](#). Samantha stressed the difference between Co-Design and consultation is that Co-Design involves people with disabilities at all stages of the process. They are key people, heavily involved in all stages from start to finish, whereas, consultation tends to involve feedback only.

### DHN Priorities for 2019

In October 2018, the EAG participated in a facilitated workshop to develop the [network priorities](#) for 2019.

Three priority areas were identified and nominations sought to form working groups to progress actions developed as part of the workshop plan:

- [Information Access and Exchange](#) – Working Group 1 (FP hosted the initial working group meeting on 26 March 2019)
- [Training and Professional Development](#) – Working Group 2 ([JC to convene late April/early May](#))

- Care Coordination – Working Group 3  
(To be convened post release of Sustainable Health Review Report)

Please contact [Health Policy](#) if you would like to participate in the Working Groups, noting the intent is for groups to meet three times this year and report back to EAG in October 2019.

### **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in WA update**

- NDIA
  - NDIA are progressing with existing participants of WA NDIS.
  - They have had an increase in planning staff with Partners also recruiting Local Area Coordinators.
  - Partners in the community (including Mission and APM) will commence operating as of 1 May 2019 and will have a strong presence in their allocated regions (determined by Local Government Area).
  - Wanslea are partners in the Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) space with a second ECEI Partner to be announced this calendar year.
  - Focus on community engagement with participants of the scheme and their families.
  - NDIS 101 events to understand available options are being held.
  - In 2019 NDIA are focussing on existing and new roll-out areas.
  - Partners will provide a crucial link between participants, carers and their families.
- WA Health
  - Completed a submission to the Royal Commission on Aged Care.
  - Provided Ministerial and Director General Briefings to support NDIS Discussions at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council and the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.
- Chief Health Professions Office
  - Jenny Campbell attended nongovernment organisations (NGO) Ministerial Advisory Group with the Minister for Health.
  - Presented current Health and NDIS interface issues at the National Disability Services (NDS) hot topic breakfast.
- Department of Communities
  - Pathways and Service enhancements underway with new complex support needs and service enhancement for Remote, Very Remote and (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people in Pilbara region.
  - Sector sustainability and development funding from State Government:
    - \$20.3 million over two years to support service providers transitioning to the NDIS.
    - \$1.2 million to support systemic advocacy across the State.
    - \$440,000 to provide Aboriginal advocacy services in the Kimberley.

- \$7.017 million in funding from the National Disability Insurance Agency for Information, Linkages and Capacity Building activity.
- Engagement activities are enabling greater choice and control for people with disability. In the last two years, the number of providers registered to deliver NDIS services in WA has grown from 140 to 315.
- State NDIS governance
  - NDIS Interface Steering Committee (NISC) report regularly to the Community Safety and Family Support Cabinet Sub Committee through the Minister for Disability Services.
  - Raising awareness of the need to coordinate State Government services with the NDIS is a key deliverable of the NISC and will inform the State Government's ongoing engagement with the NDIA to continuously improve the Scheme.
  - The NISC is also contributing to NDIS policy development by coordinating a State Government response to the NDIA WA Market Review being led by Deloitte.

### **State Disability Plan**

- State Government development of a 10 year State Disability Plan which includes:
  1. Development of 10 year vision.
  2. Consultation workshops state-wide (current stage), this will be completed at the end of April. Conversation kit being developed which should be online by 22 March.
  3. 10 year Strategy will be produced that will be implemented via 2 year Action Plans
  4. Due to be completed in September.
- There will also be a communication campaign aimed at increasing understanding of disability and encouraging the community to be more inclusive. It will be a State plan and it will align with Department of Communities' obligations under the National Disability Strategy.
- Go to the webpage for more information and to stay up to date with what is happening <https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/wa-have-your-say/state-disability-plan/>

### **International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD)**

The [2018 IDPwD](#) was hosted by South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) and DHN at Fiona Stanley Hospital on 3<sup>rd</sup> December last year. Over 80 people attended and SMHS have offered to host the event again in 2019.

### **Royal Commission**

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability has been announced and WA Health response will be coordinated by the Office of the Chief Health Officer.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the DHN EAG will be held on 24 July 2019.

**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](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Disability-Health-Network)

Kind regards,

**Disability Health Network**

