



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 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

Disability Health Network EAG Communique

The DHN EAG met for the third and last time this year on Wednesday 16 October 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.

Welcome to our new Co-Lead Steph Coates

The DHN EAG welcomed Steph Coates as the new Clinical Co-Lead of the DHN. Steph has 20 years of experience across health services in WA. She currently leads the largest hospital based Occupational Therapy Department in WA, and has held leadership roles in local community and Ministerial Advisory Council for Disability (MACD). She is the chair of the Fiona Stanley Hospital Group (FSHG) Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) Committee and a member of the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Disability Advisory Network. We look forward to Steph sharing her knowledge and passion for equitable access for people with a disability and guiding the work of the DHN EAG.

Guest

- Kerry Allan-Zinner, Chair of Ministerial Advisory Council for Disability provided an introduction and brief outline of her role.
- Julie Ireland, Down Syndrome Australia, presented on the work currently being undertaken on behalf of people with intellectual disability regarding their health needs, how these are met and the resources available.
 - [Easy Steps to Inclusion](#)
 - [Other resources](#)
- Geoff Holden from National Disability Services (NDS) attended and shared outcomes from the NDS conference.
- Sue Coltrona and Conrad Natoli from Department of Communities provided an update on the State Disability Plan.

DHN Focus for 2019 - update

- **Information Access and Exchange** – Working Group 1
 - Health Service Utilisation – RS
 - progress on the Surveillance Tool and tracking the impact of health information exchange
 - Research translation for health literacy progressing through ethics process to develop a Health Literacy Assessment Tool
 - Information gathering consultations with AHS, NGOs and parents of children with complex health needs to be conducted
 - Information related to NDIA Mainstream Health Grant – JC
 - Job and market development grants released
 - Co-design a fundamental requirement
 - Create synergies for systematic focus to inform future grants
- **Training and Professional Development** – Working Group 2
 - NDIS-Health Community of Practice November 7 event on Disability Related Health Supports
 - Take 5 education video resources in final stages of production
 - Core Capabilities Resource focus for 2020
- **Care Coordination** – Working Group 3
 - Sustainable Health Review Strategies and Recommendations focus for DHN identified, people with disability are one of the primary cohorts mentioned in the care coordination recommendations
 - Activities pending Independent Oversight Committee outcomes

NDIS in WA update – Tim Fettis

- Ed Duncan has been appointed as the NDIS State Manager
- Currently implementing the outcomes of the Disability Reform Council in relation to Disability Related Health Supports
- Delivery of Transition of WA State Participants from defined programs into NDIS is on track for agreed Bilateral dates
- **WA health NDIS interface update – Jenny Campbell**
 - WA Health has a comprehensive work plan focusing on NDIS interface issues current focus includes:
 - Impacts of Disability Related Health Supports
 - Monitoring impacts on health services, including discharge delays
 - Business case development to address gaps, eg. Equipment
 - Commenting on government submissions eg. Thin Markets paper.
 - WA Health has inputted to several ILC grants for Mainstream Capacity Building, we would be keen on engaging with successful submissions.
- **State Disability Plan – Department of Communities**
 - Consultations and co-design with PWD finalised
 - Journey mapping in progress
 - Comment paper to be released November 2019
 - The first action plan is expected to be implemented in 2020
- Continuity of Support Program for people aged over 65 receiving State-funded specialist disability services commences from 1 November 2019. Information available for clients at agedcare.health.gov.au/programs/commonwealth-

[continuity-of-support-programme/information-for-clients.](#)

- **International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) – Save the Date**
 - The 2019 IDPwD will again be hosted by South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) and DHN at Fiona Stanley Hospital on 3rd December.
- **EAG Reflections and 2020 Focus**
 - EAG Members are participating in a Groupmap survey to provide feedback and assist the Co-Leads to draft the 2020 Focus Areas.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the DHN EAG will be held on 18 March 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

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