



People with disability - leading individual and systems change



Celebrating
15 YEARS of leading
and influencing change

About Queenslanders with Disability Network

- Of, by and for people with disability
- Statewide network of over 1500
- 15 year anniversary 2017
- Systemic policy and advocacy



About Disability Support Organisations

- Initiative of National Disability Insurance Agency
- Funding provided to 18 organisations across Queensland
- Purpose is to develop peer led networks to support people with disability, and their families and carers get ready for NDIS
- QDN only organisation funded in Queensland



QDN in its role as DSO

- 25 local support groups in different locations and virtually across the state
- Project strategic advisory group
- Secretariat support
- Training and development for Group Convenors
- Ongoing coaching and mentoring for Group Convenors and group members
- Information and knowledge sharing about NDIS to groups



Aims of Local Support Groups

- Build the capacity of people to engage with NDIS
- Increase people's knowledge, understanding and confidence of:
 - NDIS and principles that underpin it
 - Choice and control
 - Supports available
 - Self-management, independence and community inclusion
- Increase community connection
- Developing people with disability as leaders, actively contribute to leading, shaping and influencing their community



What is a Local Support Group?



Peer led approach to help people with disability:

- ▶ Get helpful information, with NDIS focus
- ▶ Share information, stories, experiences and learning
- ▶ Connect with community, and build on the strengths
- ▶ Support people to think about and plan for the life they want

How the Townsville Group started

- ▶ Community conversations
- ▶ Group formation, new members and growing the group
- ▶ Co-convenor model
- ▶ Shared power across group to set priorities and direction



Working at the individual level

- ▶ Meetings every 2 weeks
- ▶ Focus on NDIS pre-planning
- ▶ Guest speakers
- ▶ Sharing stories, information and tips
- ▶ Closed facebook page to connect with each other
- ▶ Connecting with other groups and what they are doing via group convenor network

Working at the community level

- ▶ NDIS forum in partnership with QCOSS and Townsville City Council in 2016 and 2017
- ▶ Connecting with other groups to share information
- ▶ Presentations at community forums
- ▶ Working to make Townsville more inclusive

Working at the systems level

- ▶ Conduit for individual lived experiences of NDIS rollout to inform QDN's systemic policy work with NDIA and State Government
 - ▶ Taxi Subsidy Scheme
- ▶ State-wide network of local group convenors share information of what is happening in each local community and identify systemic issues to inform QDN's work

Ingredients for success of local support group

- ▶ Peer led
- ▶ Shared vision and purpose of the work
- ▶ Built strong connections
- ▶ Networking with key allies in community
- ▶ Good supports in place from QDN
- ▶ Diversity of group and members lived experiences
- ▶ Processes for giving people a voice

Impacts on us and the system

