

NEWSLETTER MAY 2024

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Help us continue providing essential services by donating to our mid-year appeal!

[Click here to donate](#)



Message from the CEO

Welcome to Down Syndrome Queensland's May newsletter!

There continues to be much happening in relation to the outcomes from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Review findings. In late March, the Senate referred the provisions of the NDIS Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill 2024 to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 20 June 2024. The changes that the Bill will make to how the NDIS operates are significant and will impact people with disability in varying ways. DSQ as a member of the Queensland Disability Advisory Council has had input to a submission which challenges many aspects of the Bill.

The Bill introduces major policy changes to the NDIS that alter how current or future participants access supports. The NDIS Review recommended the Commonwealth, states and territories should develop a foundational supports strategy.

The Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services has engaged Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) to work with them and the sector to undertake some targeted early input into the design of the disability foundational supports strategy in Queensland. QTC are working with QLD Disability Network (QDN), National Disability Services and QLD Advocacy for Inclusion to lead and facilitate initial engagement activities to provide feedback on four specific foundational supports. As DSQ is a member of QDN, we will be involved in providing input to this process.

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government grants which we deliver on their behalf to the intellectual disability community in Queensland. We also undertake a variety of direct fundraising activities throughout the year to support our ongoing services. There has been a noticeable tightening of funding available through government grants which is likely to impact the breadth of our services.

DSQ's mid-year fundraising appeal is a key opportunity for our community to support our work. The funds raised through this appeal will be used to further our range of Support Services. Every dollar raised does make a difference!

DONATE NOW

Written by Chris McMillan, Chief Executive Officer

Don't miss out on this very special night!

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

Can you believe it is May already? There is so much going on, the year is just flying by! Before you know it, it'll be October and that means an opportunity to celebrate with our community.

We are excited to be holding our first Brisbane Gala Dinner in over 10 years at Victoria Park on 25th October, as part of Down syndrome awareness month. This special event is a unique opportunity for us to come together to celebrate inclusion, diversity, and most of all, living our best lives!

We would love to have you join us for this special occasion. Whether you come by yourself, as a couple, a table of 10 with your friends, colleagues, or family, this will be a great night and opportunity to meet likeminded people and, most of all, have fun and celebrate Down syndrome awareness month!

To find out more and book your tickets, click below!

BOOK YOUR TICKETS

Written by Michael Harrison, Community Engagement & Fundraising Manager

SUPPORT SERVICES

Have your say and help shape a better future for Carers by registering for the Community Consultation Program!

Supported by the Queensland Government, Carers Queensland are conducting

a statewide analysis to understand the current requirements and challenges faced by unpaid family and friend carers.

Register at your regional consultation date to be heard:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/community-carer-consultations-3278079>

'Young Person Comprehensive Health Assessment Program

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care has recently published information about the new health program called, 'Young Person Comprehensive Health Assessment Program (CHAP)', for people aged 12-18 with intellectual disability. You can access it for free on their website at health.gov.au/chap-yp.

The Easy Read guide on Yearly Health Checks has also been updated to include information about the Young Person CHAP. An updated version of the Adult CHAP will be coming soon.

Written by Laura Mugaba, Support Services Manager

EDUCATION

We successfully hosted our first online Professional Teaching Cluster (PTC) meeting of 2024, welcoming 38 education staff from all across Queensland.

Facilitated by our accredited Key Word Sign presenter, Denise Maindonald, the attendees learnt about the structural components of signing – the “how” of signing, engaged in a practical session learning school-based signs – the “what” of signing, and finished off with gaining insight into resources and apps to assist in ongoing learning – the “where to go from here” of signing. All attendees received a copy of the PowerPoint presentation with visuals of the school-based KWS's, recommended resources and apps.

If you are interested in hosting a Key Word Sign (KWS) workshop at your school, our accredited KWS presenter can provide a 2hr tailored workshop for all staff at your school. Please email education@downsyndromeqld.org.au for further information.

If you would like to register for our next Professional Teaching Cluster Meeting (PTC) meeting on Thursday the 6th of June, [please register HERE!](#) More details to be announced soon!

Written by Carly Lassig, Lead Education Consultant

The response to the Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) Program has been incredible – it's fantastic to see such interest and enthusiasm!

For those who may have missed out this time, [please register your interest here](#) to join the next group starting 22nd July. This program undoubtedly offers valuable support and resources, and getting involved can lead to wonderful experiences and growth. By engaging in our Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) program, participants will develop fundamental skills vital for pursuing their career aspirations and increase chances of transitioning into further training or employment.

REGISTER NOW

Join our Virtual Events

Join our online karaoke/talent shows, trivia nights, Dance Parties and connecting with Down Syndrome Victoria a couple of times a month all from the comfort of home—it's a fantastic way to stay connected with our wonderful community and entertained.

Offering such diverse activities ensures there's something for everyone to enjoy! Click below to register. We look forward to seeing you!

Written by Georgie Greaves, Office Manager

SEE OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

BECOME A MEMBER

www.downsyndrome.org.au/qld



Down Syndrome
Queensland