



DSAN update

This information is from an article in Down Syndrome Australia's Voice magazine, April 2019.

Michael Sullivan wrote the original article. Michael is Chair of the Down Syndrome Advisory Network (DSAN).



This is a picture of Michael.

The article is about the work DSAN has been doing and why it is important to listen to people with Down syndrome.



We have written this article in an easy to read way.



You can get help to read it.



Here are the main things Michael Sullivan wrote in his article.

He said he is very glad to have such a great chance to be part of the DSAN.

DSAN has done lots of work this year and Down Syndrome Australia (DSA) is now using that work.



The DSAN meetings have been great.

Members talked about how they can make the meetings even better.

They decided they want to meet more often. This will help them stay in touch and learn more from each other.



DSAN members with more experience pass on what they know to the younger members. This will help them become leaders.



DSAN gives important information to DSA.

This includes telling DSA about their experiences and what they think about things.



Michaels says, "People need to actually learn to listen to people with Down syndrome, and actually take in what we've said about what's important to us".



One of Michael's jobs is to go to DSA Board meetings. He tells them about the work DSAN is doing.

He says he passes on ideas and opinions from the whole DSAN.

This is important because DSA needs to speak up for people with Down syndrome, not just their families.



Michael says that lots of parents speak up for people with Down syndrome. Sometimes they think they know best.

They can have great ideas but it is most important to hear from people with Down syndrome themselves.



Parents can get into the habit of making decisions for their child.

So it is hard for them to decide to listen to people with Down syndrome.



People with Down syndrome can get used to parents and other people making decisions for them.

So it can become hard to know what you yourself think about things.



It might take longer to find out what a person with Down syndrome thinks.

So you might just think it is easier if you make a decision for them. But this isn't the right thing to do.



It's important that people give everyone time to say what they think.

DSAN is helping everyone to listen to people with lived experience of having Down syndrome.