



Women
With
Disabilities
Australia
(WWDA)



First Peoples
Disability Network
Australia



Children
with Disability
AUSTRALIA



N E D A

cross-disability alliance

Introduction

Consistent with the Australian Government's commitment to ensure efficient, effective, and comprehensive representation of the interests and views of all people with disability in Australia, Children with Disability Australia has committed to formalise our well-established and highly successful working relationships with our preferred Disabled Peoples Organisation (DPO) colleagues through the formation of a cross-disability alliance.

The cross-disability alliance will consist of five (5) independent national DPOs that will work co-operatively, with mutual respect, understanding and commitment, to promote, protect and advance the human rights and freedoms of people with disability in Australia. Whilst these five (5) national DPOs will work independently to provide specialist expertise for and on behalf of their members and constituents, we will come together as a cross-disability alliance to work collaboratively on areas of shared interests, purposes and strategic opportunities to advance the human rights of people with disability. The DPO's making up the cross-disability alliance are:

- Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) – the national DPO representing women with disabilities;
- People with Disability Australia (PWDA) – the national DPO representing the interests of people with all kinds of disability;
- First People's Disability Network Australia (FPDNA) – the national DPO representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability and their families;
- Children with Disability Australia (CDA) – the national representative organisation for children and young people (aged 0-25) with disability.
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) - the national DPO representing Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD/NESB) people with disability and their families.

Key Principles

The alliance will operate from a basis of key principles and shared understandings which will underpin its work. The alliance will:

- a. Recognise that the international human rights treaties and instruments to which Australia is a party,¹ provide the human rights framework to advance the rights of people with disability;

¹ These include for eg: the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* [2008, ATS 12]; the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* [1983, ATS 9]; the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* [1980, ATS 23]; the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* [1976, ATS 5]; the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* [1991, ATS 4]; the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* [1989, ATS 21]; the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* [1975, ATS 40]; the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* [2009, A/RES/61/295].

- b. Represent a cross-disability perspective that will ensure that there are no gaps in representation of people with disability, and that all people with disability can elect to join one or more of the alliance organisations;
- c. Work to advance the rights of all people with disability from all walks of Australian life, in national policy frameworks, strategies, partnership agreements and initiatives, including for eg: the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 (NDS); the National Indigenous Reform Agenda 'Closing the Gap'; the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010–2022; the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020; the Roadmap for National Mental Health Reform; the National HIV Strategy; Development for All: Towards a Disability Inclusive Australian Aid Program 2009-2014; and, Delivering Services To Multicultural Australia 2012 – 2016.
- d. Contribute to the implementation, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS);
- e. Operate in an environment of collegiality and mutual respect, whilst acknowledging and respecting the independence, identity and policy priorities of each alliance member;
- f. Promote and engender a collaborative, co-operative and respectful relationship with all levels of Government in our collective efforts to advance the human rights of people with disability;
- g. Build on and further develop strategic alliances and partnerships at the state/territory, national and international levels in order to achieve our collective objectives;
- h. Promote the alliance at the international level as the coordinating point for international engagement with the Australian DPO sector;
- i. Work to re-build respect for, appreciation of, and faith in, the DPO sector in Australia.

Mechanisms

The alliance members are deeply committed to building on and strengthening representation of the interests and views of all people with disability in Australia. Each alliance member is currently widely respected in its own right, however formalising our relationship through the formation of a cross-disability alliance will:

- enable the provision of a unified, coherent voice to government and other stakeholders;
- provide a streamlined, co-ordinated approach to the development and provision of policy advice;
- reduce duplication and promote efficiency and effectiveness;
- provide opportunities for innovation, capacity building, and sector development;
- promote opportunities for the development of the evidence base through research, analysis, and the collection of relevant data;
- ensure there are no gaps in the representation of people with disability in Australia;
- promote Australia as a leading voice in the international disability rights movement.

In a spirit of co-operation, the alliance will, as a priority, aim to:

- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for and between each alliance member;
- Develop an alliance Strategic Plan;
- Pool a percentage of funds to establish an alliance 'Leadership, Development and Innovations Fund';
- Establish a range of mechanisms to enable effective collaboration;
- Develop mechanisms to promote the alliance.