



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Dear Disability Health Network member,

Please see below the Disability Health Network (DHN) Executive Advisory Group (EAG) March 2021 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 first time this year on Wednesday 17 March 2021 via MSTeams. The decision to move to an online meeting was made due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We plan for the July meeting to be face to face.

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.

Farewell to our Co-Lead Fiona Payne - [Health Network Bulletin - article](#)

The DHN EAG farewelled Fiona Payne as the Co-Lead of the DHN. Fiona worked endlessly to champion improvements to the patient journey for people with disability across WA. Fiona's experience, innovation and passion will continue to see her advocate for improved outcomes and equity in health care for people with disability.

Guests

- Danielle Aubrey - Autism Association of Western Australia presented on specific training modules for those working in the dental and medical fields, along with the development of targeted resources that are available for both professionals and individuals with Autism and their family. The training modules are now live and available via this link <https://aawa.learnbook.com.au/login/index.php>
- Jen Hart & Danielle Loizou-Lake - National Disability Services presented on the Ready to Go Home Project to improve hospital discharge processes <https://www.nds.org.au/news/ready-to-go-home-overcoming-delays-in-leaving-hospital-for-people-with-disability>
- Rebecca Shepherd from the Chief Allied Health Office provided a presentation on the data collected from HSPs for the NDIS snapshots.

State Disability Strategy – Department of Communities

- The State Disability Strategy 2020 – 2030 was launched by the Minister for Disability Services on International Day of People with Disability, 3 December 2020. The Strategy along with the inaugural two-year Action Plan is available at communities.wa.gov.au/strategies/state-disability-strategy-2020-2030/

Sustainable Health Review (SHR)

- SHR recommendation 15 - *Improve the interface between health, aged care and disability services to enable care in the most appropriate setting and to ensure people do not fall between the gaps.* Recommendations on a page are with the SHR board for consideration

Capacity Building

- Research
 - Mapping the current levels of health information exchange and health service use for people with disability living in supported accommodation will have ongoing data collection across health and disability sectors
 - New projects are being developed in partnership with the Transition and CONNECT Clinics at PCH
- Making the Link Project
 - Resources are accessible through the following links:
<https://aci.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/intellectual-disability/id-essentials/home>
<https://aci.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/intellectual-disability/id-essentials/resources/the-essentials>
- COVID-19 Update
 - [Information for people with disability about COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- Disability Health Reference Group
 - Next meeting is in April. The DHRG continues to be a positive forum with excellent information sharing opportunities
- NDIS-Health CoP
 - Handouts from the 25th March meeting will be available on the website <https://www.subacutecare.org.au/j/index.php/resources?id=325>
Access to the recordings of the previous NDIS-Health CoP can be reached by scrolling down the page.
- Disability Pathway in Health Pathways
 - Care of Patients with Disabilities pathway soon to be published on HealthPathways WA.
 - Two additional disability HealthPathways are currently planned for localisation:
 1. Disability Requests
 2. Intellectual Disability
- **NDIS in WA– Department of Communities update**
 - Communities provided Agency submissions to the NDIA regarding their three streams of consultations on access and eligibility with Independent Assessments, the plans, budget and funding stream and early childhood stream. Currently leading on a whole of government response to a joint standing committee on the NDIA and enquiry into Independent Assessments.
- **NDIA update**
 - Independent Assessment Panels have been announced <https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/6118-independent-assessment-panel-announced>
 - The National report is scheduled to be published late April to early May 2021.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the DHN EAG will be held on 21 July 2021 at 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Venue TBC

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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