

**Disabled People’s Organisations Australia**

**(DPO Australia)**

**Activity Progress Report: July 2015 – July 2016**

# Publishing Information

Disabled People’s Organisations Australia (DPO Australia or DPOA) Activity Progress Report July 2015 – July 2016.

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About DPO Australia

Disabled People’s Organisations Australia, known as ‘DPO Australia’ or ‘DPOA’ is an alliance of national Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs) in Australia. The key purpose of DPO Australia is to promote, protect and advance the human rights and freedoms of people with disability in Australia by working collaboratively on areas of shared interests, purposes and strategic priorities and opportunities.

DPO Australia (formerly known as the ‘Australian Cross Disability Alliance’) was founded by, and is comprised of four national cross-disability DPOs: First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDNA); Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA); National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA); and People with Disability Australia (PWDA).

In June 2016, the ‘Australian Cross Disability Alliance’ formally changed its name to ‘Disabled People’s Organisations Australia’, to accurately reflect its culture, purpose and intent, specifically in order to:

* reflect the unique role of the alliance as an alliance of DPOs;
* educate stakeholders that DPOs are self-determining organisations led by, controlled by, and constituted of, people with disability;
* enhance understanding of our role and purpose at the national and international levels;
* better reflect Article 4(3) of the CRPD that outlines the central role of representative organisations ***of*** people with disability;[[1]](#footnote-1)
* affirm that people with disability are the key participants in the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD.

DPO Australia has been funded by the Australian Government to be the recognised coordinating point between Government/s and other stakeholders, for consultation and engagement with people with disability in Australia. The four founding member organisations of DPO Australia recognise and value the strength of working together in a spirit of mutual respect and trust, to proactively pursue human rights outcomes for all people with disability in Australia.

[Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA)](http://wwda.org.au) is the national cross-disability DPO for women and girls with all types of disability in Australia. It operates as a transnational human rights organisation and is run by women with disability, for women with disability. WWDA represents more than 2 million disabled women in Australia, has affiliate organisations and networks of women with disability in most States and Territories, and is internationally recognised for its global leadership in advancing the human rights of women and girls with disability.

[National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA)](http://neda.org.au) is the national peak organisation representing the rights and interests of people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD/NESB) people with disability, their families and carers throughout Australia. NEDA advocates at the federal level so that CALD/NESB people with disability can participate fully in all aspects of social, economic, political and cultural life.

[First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDN)](http://fpdn.org.au) is the national cross-disability DPO representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability and their families. FPDNA utilises a range of strategies in its representative role, including through the provision of high-level advice to governments, and educating the government and non-government sectors about how to meet the unmet needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

[People with Disability Australia (PWDA)](http://pwd.org.au) is a national cross-disability DPO, representing all people with disability. Its primary membership is made up of people with disability and organisations primarily constituted by people with disability. It also has a large associate membership of other individuals and organisations committed to the disability rights movement. Founded in 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons, PWDA provides people with disability with a ‘voice’ of our own.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA) | National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) | First Peoples DIsability Network Australia (FPDN) | People with Disability Australia (PWDA) |

Purpose of DPO Australia

The key purpose of DPO Australia is to promote, protect and advance the human rights and freedoms of people with disability in Australia by working collaboratively on areas of shared interests, purposes and strategic priorities and opportunities.

Key Objectives of DPO Australia

DPO Australia will:

* work to advance the rights of all people with disability from all walks of Australian life, in relevant policy frameworks, strategies, partnership agreements and any other relevant initiatives;
* promote and engender a collaborative, co-operative and respectful relationship with all levels of Government in the efforts of DPO Australia to advance the human rights of people with disability;
* build on and further develop networks, strategic alliances and partnerships at state/territory, national and international levels to advance human rights of people with disability;
* promote DPO Australia at national and international levels as the coordinating point for engagement with the Australian DPO sector; and
* build respect for, appreciation of, and faith in the DPO sector in Australia.

Guiding Principles of DPO Australia

DPO Australia will:

* recognise and agree that the international human rights normative framework, including international human rights treaties and instruments to which Australia is party provide the human rights framework to advance the rights of people with disability;
* work from and within a human rights framework and approach in its work to promote, protect and advance the human rights and freedoms of people with a disability;
* build a culture of engagement with, and inclusive of all persons with disability;
* recognise and support the right of all people with disability to join one or more of the DPO Australia organisations, and other DPO and representative organisations; and
* represent a cross-disability perspective that ensures there are no gaps in representation of people with disability.

About this Report

This report provides an overview of the key activities of DPO Australia for the period July 2015 – July 2016 under four key, interconnecting areas:

1. **Submissions & Policy Advice**: active participation in reform and review processes conducted by government/s and other key stakeholders, including through active participation on working and advisory groups and by providing high quality submissions and policy advice.
2. **Representation**: active membership and involvement in mechanisms that enable the issues and concerns of people with disability to be represented, including through participation on a range of reference, advisory and working groups, in forums and events and at conferences and functions.
3. **Stakeholder Engagement & Development**: engaging collaboratively and in partnership with key government and non-government stakeholders, including through projects and campaigns and awareness raising activities; actively communicating with and engaging people with disability in policy and legislative reform processes; and building the capacity of people with disability to participate in the disability rights movement.
4. **Operational Planning & Development**: building operational capacity to be an effective, professional and credible national alliance of DPOs that engages and represents all people with disability in Australia and that strengthens DPO credibility, respect and integrity across government/s and other key stakeholders.

The activities undertaken within the four areas are mutually reinforcing and interconnected, with many of the activities containing elements that correspond to all four areas. This means that activities are reported in the area that it is most relevant.

Importantly, the activities undertaken within these four areas aim to progress the human rights of people with disability and assist Australia to give effect to its obligations under international human rights treaties that Australia is a party, and in particular the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This report highlights the relevant, key articles that are associated with activities, recognising that some activities correspond to multiple CRPD articles.

The member organisations of DPO Australia are listed after activities only where they have specific responsibility for an activity, or where they have taken a lead or substantial role in driving activities on behalf of DPO Australia. However, the work of DPO Australia *collectively* aims to progress and promote the human rights of all people with disability in Australia.

1. Submissions & Policy Advice

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CRPD Rights** | **Activity** |
| **All CRPD rights and obligations** | **National Disability Strategy (NDS)**  Provided extensive advice on the draft Second Implementation Plan for the NDS, *Driving Action 2015-2018* at meetings, consultations and informal discussions with DSS. |
| **Article 27, Work and employment** | **DSS National Disability Employment Framework review:**   * Submitted substantial information, supporting documents, evidenced based research reports, advice to inform DSS national consultation process. * Provided submission to DSS for the National Disability Employment Framework Issues Paper. (PWDA) * Organised participants with disability to attend the Canberra & Sydney co-design workshop for the Disability Employment Taskforce. (PWDA, WWDA) * Participated in meetings with DSS to discuss the Disability Employment Framework workshop outcomes. (WWDA) |
| **Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) Inquiry into Employment Discrimination for Older Workers and Workers with Disability:**   * Participated in meetings with AHRC to provide advice and expertise on the Inquiry consultation process, key issues for the terms of reference. (WWDA, PWDA) * Joined (June 2015) and participated on high level advisory panel to provide expertise and advice and facilitate input into the Inquiry from DPO Australia, members and stakeholders. (PWDA) * Participated in public consultation processes throughout Australia, including CaLD/NESB consultation. * Provided submission to Inquiry (PWDA), and joint submission (NEDA/FECCA) * Provided substantial advice regarding the draft recommendations for the final Inquiry report (PWDA), and provided additional resources and information on gender, disability and employment discrimination issues for inclusion in the Inquiry report.(PWDA, WWDA) * Participated in the AHRC launch of the Inquiry report, *Willing to Work*.   A group of people are seated around two work desks. A PowerPoint presentation is visible in the background.  *Jane Flanagan (far right), NEDA representative at the CaLD specific consultation meeting* |
| **Article 9, Accessibility**  **Article 21, Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information**  **Article 30, Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport** | Submission to Joint Standing Committee on Treaties: Consideration of the **Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for People who are Blind, Visually Impaired or otherwise Print Disabled** (Marrakesh, 27 June 2013)  <http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties/16_June_2015/Submissions> |
| Submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission concerning the **Australasian Trains Association Temporary Exemption Application under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992***. (PWDA) |
| Submission to the **Department of Communications and the Arts discussion paper, *Communications Accessibility: 2016 and Beyond***. (PWDA) |
| **National Accessible Public Transport Advisory Committee (NAPTAC):**  Significant technical advice and expertise provided to NAPTAC in regular meetings, working group meetings, and formal written submissions to progress the review of the National Accessible Public Transport Standards under the DDA. (PWDA, NEDA)  Participation in NAPTAC meetings and working groups requires regular out of session research and consultations, including with accessibility experts and people with disability. Working groups include Whole of Journey Accessibility Working Group (WJAWG), Marine & Ferries Working Group (MFSWG), Train & Rail Standards Working Group (RSWG), Buses Standards Working Group (BSWG), Information & Technology Working Group (ITWG), and each group requires specific advice and expertise. |
| **Article 6, Women with disabilities**  **Article 7, Children with disabilities**  **Article 15, Freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**  **Article 16, Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse**  **Article 17, Protecting the integrity of the person** | Submission and supporting materials provided to the **Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence**. (WWDA) |
| Joint submission provided to the UN **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Draft General Comment on Article 6**, Women and girls. (WWDA, PWDA) |
| **Senate Community Affairs References Committee: Inquiry into violence, abuse and neglect against people with disability in institutional and residential settings:**   * Research, analysis, drafting for formal submission and collation of case studies; provision of advice, expertise, support and recommendations to Senate Secretariat, including organising witnesses for public hearings; assisting with development of hearings program and content; undertaking research, providing supporting materials to inform the Inquiry, assisting with the development of Easy English guides, development of the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry, supporting witnesses to give evidence, working collaboratively with other participating groups and individuals. (WWDA, PWDA) * Provided comprehensive submission and supporting case studies to the Inquiry (WWDA, PWDA) <http://dpoa.org.au/submissions/acda-submission-to-senate-inquiry-into-violence-abuse-and-neglect-against-people-with-disability-in-institutional-and-residential-settings/> * Provided evidence in support of submission at the Sydney public hearing. DPO Australia delegation consisted of Carolyn Frohmader (WWDA), Jess Cadwallader (PWDA), Damian Griffis (FPDN), Therese Sands (PWDA), Jane Flanagan (NEDA).   Five people stand side by side in the foyer of a building.   * Communications Plan developed and implemented to highlight key recommendations from the submission and the final report. Plan included social media campaign #endtheviolence, traditional media stories and interviews, and the use of a third party campaign website to inform and galvanise people to call on their MPs to address the issues <http://endtheviolence.good.go> (updated for July 2016 election). (PWDA) * Roundtable discussion with Senate Committee Chair, Senator Rachel Siewert regarding the Committee’s recommendation for a Royal Commission into violence and abuse of people with disability in institutions and residential settings. (WWDA, PWDA, FPDN, NEDA) |
| **Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services:**  Provided submission and evidence at public hearing to the Victorian Parliamentary [Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fcdc/inquiries/inquiry/397). |
| **Reportable Conduct Schemes for child abuse and neglect allegations:**   * Provided a submission to the ACT Government’s consultation for a Reportable Conduct Scheme for child abuse and neglect allegations. The submission was endorsed by People with Disabilities ACT and Advocacy for Inclusion. (PWDA) * Provide a submission to Child Safe Standards Victoria, VIC Department of Human Services regarding a proposed Reportable Conduct Scheme. (PWDA) |
| **National Plan for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Their Children:**   * Provision of advice, expertise, support and recommendations to the **Family Safety Branch of DSS**, including the provision of resources, written submissions and participation in formal consultation processes and informal discussions to inform the development of the Third Action Plan under the National Plan. This includes participation in consultation forums focused specifically on sexual violence, women with disability (PWDA, WWDA, NEDA, FPDN) and women from CaLD/NESB (NEDA). * Provided expert advice to **Our Watch** advisory groups to inform the development of the Third Action Plan for the National Plan. Written submissions and recommendations were also provided including in relation to intersectionality. (FPDN, NEDA, PWDA, WWDA) |
| Comprehensive advice and expertise provided to KPMG to assist their work for DSS on the development of **Draft Standards for Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Services**.(WWDA) |
| Development of a Briefing Paper for Family Safety Branch, DSS and Office for Women, Prime Minister and Cabinet, entitled “**Training Considerations for the 1800Respect First Response Service** to improve service responses for women with disability experiencing, or at risk of experiencing violence”. (WWDA) |
| Significant advice and technical expertise provided as a member of the **National 1800Respect Implementation Clinical Advisory Group (ICAG)**, which was established in May 2016. (WWDA) |
| **Article 4(1)(a), General obligations**  **Article 13, Access to justice**  **Article 16, Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse**  **Article 33 (3), National implementation and monitoring** | **DSS Review of the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP)**   * Participated in ongoing discussions and meetings with DSS regarding the NDAP review process and issues. * Provided a submission to the review of the NDAP Framework.   <http://pwd.org.au/pwda-publications/submissions.html>   * Participated in the NDAP Quality Assurance Review Reference Group meeting (NEDA). * Conducted roundtable meetings with advocates, colleague organisations and peer connectors (PWDA), and provided submission to the NDAP Review. |
| **Article 20, Personal mobility**  **Article 26, Habilitation and rehabilitation**  **Article 28, Adequate standard of living and social protection** | **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**  There has been significant focus on NDIS submissions and policy advice to government and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) including through regular meetings with the NDIA, participation on advisory groups and NDIA CEO Forums. Advice is also provided to the NDIA at a range of regular meetings of reference and advisory groups and forums:   * NDIA Intellectual Disability Reference Group (FPDN) * NDIA Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) Strategy Reference Group (NEDA) * NDIS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Plan Working Group (FPDN) * NDIA Remote Disability Service Provider Forum * NDIA Assistive Technology Forum * NDIA Practice Standards Technical Reference Group (NEDA, PWDA) * NDIS Act Review Focus Group.   Consultations and meetings where policy advice and issues and concerns for people with disability are provided include:   * Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Commissioning Framework consultation * NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework consultation * ILC Toolkit invite only consultations (NEDA, PWDA)   Submissions have also been provided to advise on key NDIS Discussion Papers and Frameworks as well as on the NDIA:   * Provision of written advice to Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield, Assistant Minister for Social Services in regard to proposed review of the NDIA board and advisory committee. * submitted comments for the NDIS Guided Planning consultation * submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS on the issue of accommodation for people with disabilities and the NDIS (PWDA) * submission to the NDIA Specialist Disability Accommodation Pricing and Payments Framework * submission to the NDIA ILC Commissioning Framework consultation   <http://dpoa.org.au/submissions/acda-submission-to-ndia-information-linkages-and-capacity-building-ilc-commissioning-framework-consultation/> |
| Provide substantial advice to the Early Childhood Intervention Australia (ECIA) NDIS Practice Standards Expert Advisory Group on the development of the **Early Childhood Intervention practices standards for the NDIS**. This involved two full day advisory panel sessions, with follow up written responses and consultation processes to develop strong ECIA practice standards. (NEDA) |
| Provision of advice to the **Australian Consumer and Competition Commission** in regard to its education campaign to **inform people with disability and NDIS participants of their rights and protections under consumer law**, in the context of the NDIS rollout and moves toward a market-based system. (NEDA) |
| Provided a witness statement to the **Fair Work Commission, Four Yearly Review of Modern Awards, Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010** to outline concerns regarding changes to the definition of part time hours and its impact on NDIS service provision for people with disability. (PWDA) |
| **Article 12, Equal recognition before the law**  **Article 23, Respect for home and the family** | Provided advice to the **Attorney General’s Department about people with disability, marriage and informed consent** for the preparation of professional development training for marriage celebrants. This has implications for the issue of legal capacity and supported decision-making particularly for people with cognitive impairment, who may be considered unable to consent to marry. |
| **Article 7, Children with disabilities**  **Article 24, Education** | Provided submission to the **Senate Education and Employment Committee Inquiry into the current levels of access and attainment for students with disability in the school system, and the impact on students and families associated with inadequate levels of supports,** and provided evidence at the Sydney **public hearing** for the Inquiry. (PWDA) |
| Provided submission to the **Senate Select Committee on School Funding Investment Inquiry into the effect of reduced Commonwealth funding for State and Territory provided schools**. (PWDA) |
| **Article 19, Living independently and being included in the community** | Provided submission to the **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** for its 14th session for the drafting of a **General Comment on the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Live Independently and be Included in the Community**. The submission included brief discussion on: The context of people with disability and human rights in Australia; Violence against People with Disability in Institutional and Residential Settings; Intersectionality and gendered disability violence; The Senate Inquiry into Violence against People with Disability in Institutional and Residential Settings; The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS); Right to Housing. (WWDA) |
| Provided submission to The **Treasury’s Council on Federal Financial Relations Affordable Housing Working Group issues Paper**.(PWDA) |
| **Article 25, Health** | Provided submission to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) in regard to Standards for General Practices (5th edition). |
| **Article 12, Equal Recognition before the law**  **Article 14, Liberty and security of person**  **Article 15, Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**  **Article 18, Liberty of movement and nationality** | Provided submission to **Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Indefinite Detention of People with Cognitive and Psychiatric Impairment in Australia**. The submission made twelve recommendations, including a recommendation that Australian urgently ratify and ensure domestic implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and the establishment of an independent national preventive mechanism to monitor places of detention, including where people with disability are detained, such as immigration detention centres, prisons, forensic facilities, juvenile justice detention centres, disability justice centres and mental health facilities. (PWDA)  <http://dpoa.org.au/submissions/acda-submission-to-senate-inquiry-into-indefinite-detention-of-people-with-cognitive-and-psychiatric-impairment-in-australia/> |
| **FPDN established the First Peoples Disability Justice Consortium** to coordinate a submission to **Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Indefinite Detention of People with Cognitive and Psychiatric Impairment in Australia**. This submission presents the specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives on the problem of indefinite detention of people with cognitive and psychiatric impairment in Australia. (FPDN) |
| Substantial written advice, resources and materials were provided to the office of the **UN Special Rapporteur on Migrants** in relation to the situation for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disability in Australia. This included information regarding the health requirement within the Migration Act, the ten year waiting period for the Disability Support Pension (DSP) and the situation of asylum seekers with disability in offshore and onshore immigration detention, including NEDA research report. (PWDA) |

2. Representation

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| **CRPD**  **Rights** | **Activity** |
| **Article 6, Women with disabilities**  **Article 7, Children with disabilities**  **Article 15, Freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**  **Article 16, Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse**  **Article 17, Protecting the integrity of the person**  **Article 23, Respect for home and family** | Submitted written Application for DPO Australia to present a Conference session on ‘Building Alliances to Address and Prevent Gendered Disability Violence’. The 13th **AWID International Forum on Women’s Rights** and Development: Feminist Futures: Building Collective Power for Rights and Justice, May 5-8, 2016 Salvador, Brazil. (WWDA) |
| Presentation to the **Australian and New Zealand Disability Discrimination and Health Complaints Commissioners** on Restrictive Practices and Human Rights. (PWDA) |
| **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Youth and Disability Global Human Rights Program:**   * Extensive technical advice, sector coordination and engagement and representation provided to assist the [United Nations Population Fund](http://www.unfpa.org/) (UNFPA) to develop, launch and implement the four year Program, ‘WE DECIDE’. Key representation activities include: * Member, Global Advisory Group ‘WE DECIDE’ Youth and Disability Global Human Rights Program (UNFPA). (WWDA) * Member, Technical Advisory Group (TAG) FOR THE Global Study on Youth and Disability: Ensuring Social Inclusion and Gender Equality to Address Discrimination, Gender based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health (Global Study) (UNFPA). (WWDA) * Representation at UNFPA International ‘Expert Group Meeting on Youth and Disability Global Initiative (2015-2018)’. The meeting, *‘Youth and Disability Policies of Social Inclusion, Gender Equality, Non-Discrimination and Prevention of Sexual Violence’* was held in Montevideo, Uruguay over 3 days. Carolyn Frohmader (WWDA) and Therese Sands (PWDA) facilitated a number of panels and working groups, and presented on the work of WWDA, PWDA, the WWDA Youth Network and the DPO Australia model. A significant outcome from the ‘Expert Group Meeting on Youth and Disability Global Initiative (2015-2018)’ was the support for DPO Australia, through WWDA to conduct a national youth forum in Australia and to participate in the launch of the Global Initiative at the UN Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (see section 3, Stakeholder Engagement and Development in this report).   Two women sit at a desk behind a microphone  PowerPoint slide for Youth and Disability presentation. Presentation title appears next to a collection of images of young women with disability.  *Therese Sands and Carolyn Frohmader Youth & disability powerpoint presentation* |
| Member, **Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety** (ANROWS) **National Practitioner Engagement Group**. (WWDA, PWDA) |
| Participated in the **CaLD/NESB specific consultation** conducted by the **Council of Australian Governments’ (COAG) Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence Against Women and Their Children**. COAG consultations informed the implementation of the Women’s Safety Package. (NEDA) |
| Participated in the **ANROWS Inaugural Conference**. (WWDA, PWDA) |
| Participated in an Australian Government **Roundtable on the Cross-Examination of Victims of Family Violence in the Family Law Courts**, Canberra. The Roundtable was followed by a March consultation regarding **Cross-examination of Victims of Domestic Violence by Perpetrators in Family Court conducted by the Attorney General’s Department**. (WWDA, PWDA) |
| Presentation on the critical issue of ‘inclusion’ of women and girls with disability in women’s policy, program and service development to the annual **National Women’s Alliance’s** two day Forum, held in Canberra at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. (WWDA) |
| Representation at the **Ministerial Launch of the Australian Government’s Funding Package for Family and Domestic Violence** and additional meetings conducted with Minister for Social Services, the Hon. Christian Porter and Minister for Women, the Hon. Michaelia Cash. (WWDA)  Four people stand together and smile at the camera  *L to r: Minister Cash, Carolyn Frohmader,*  *Cheryl Gwilliam, Chief of Staff to Minister Porter, Minister Porter* |
| Representation on the **National Advisory Committee, Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) and Our Watch international conference on violence against women** to be held in Adelaide in September 2016. (WWDA) |
| Attended the **Our Watch Award ceremony.** The Awards recognise excellence in reporting to end violence against women. (PWDA, WWDA) |
| Participated in the **Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) and Juvenile Justice** Roundtable convened by the **National Children’s Commissioner** to discuss how a national preventive mechanism could be designed based on the current oversight system for juvenile justice. (PWDA) |
| **Article 24, Education**  **Article 27, Work and employment**  **Article 28, Adequate standard of living and social protection** | Member, **DSS Carers Payment & Carers Allowance Reference Group** – provision of advice to DSS in regards to Carers Payment and Carers Allowance through the lens of the diversity of people with disability, and their families/communities. (FPDN, NEDA) |
| Member, **DSS Carers Gateway Advisory Committee**. (FPDN) |
| Member, **Disability Employment Services Operational Working Group** (DES OWG) – working group meetings, and the provision of additional advice as required in relation to the reform of DES operations.(PWDA) |
| **DSS Job Access Gateway:**   * provided advice at to DSS regarding the development of the Job Access Gateway, Canberra. (PWDA, NEDA) * participated in two advisory sessions and provided expert advice to DSS in regard to strategies and considerations to meet the needs of CaLD /NESB people with disability. (NEDA) * conducted a series of **language workshops with NEDA member organisations** across Australia to ensure that the preparation of factsheets for the Job Access Gateway was accessible and consistent for the CaLD/NESB disability community. |
| Presentation to the **National Disability Coordination Officer Forum, Department of Education & Training**. The presentation focused on the ways in which education and employment sectors can better **support people with disability to engage in education and meaningful employment,** and provided expert advice in regards to the barriers people with disability, and particularly people with disability from diverse cultural backgrounds face around education and employment. (NEDA) |
| Provided panel presentation on ‘Challenging the Barriers to Employment of People with Disability’ at the **Equal Employment Opportunity Network (EEON)** forum. (PWDA) |
| Participated in an Employment Roundtable convened by **Assistant Minister for Disability Services, the Hon. Jane Prentice MP.** (PWDA) |
| Participation in the **MS Australia employment summit** to discuss employment issues, disability and the CaLD/ NESB community. (NEDA) |
| **Article 4(3), General Obligations**  **Article 32, International cooperation** | Presentation on the Australian disability rights sector and key priority issues to a **delegation of government officials and disability advocates from the Philippines**. (PWDA) |
| In conjunction with the **Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the AHRC**, participated on a panel **presentation on Engaging with UN Human Rights Mechanisms to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, Chongqing, China. (PWDA) |
| Provided advice and input to DFAT for its **review of DFAT Pacific aid and donor programs**. (PWDA). |
| Participation in the **Pacific Disability Forum** regional conferences and meetings, including women’s sub-committee and DPO Funds Committee meetings. PWDA and FPDN are members of the Pacific Disability Forum, with PWDA actively participating on sub-committees. |
| PWDA is the Vice Chair of the **Australian Disability and Development Consortium** (ADDC), and is actively engaged in monthly teleconferences, strategic planning, working with DFAT, and participating on sub-committees, such as the employment sub-committee. (PWDA) |
| Participated in the 4th International Assembly of **DPO United Asia Pacific** DPO United, Korea. PWDA is the Co-Chair of Executive Committee of DPO United Asia Pacific. (PWDA) |
| Participated in the ‘**Make the Right Real’ International Workshop on the Implementation of the CRPD: Incheon Strategy**, Korea and the outcome press conference at the Korean Parliament House. This workshop was an invitation only event and facilitated by the International Disability Alliance in conjunction with Korean DPOs and parent and family organisations. (PWDA) |
| Provided significant advice, feedback and a written report on the draft CRPD Shadow Report for the Indonesian DPO Coalition Group through the DFAT funded project, **Indonesia Australia Justice Project**. (PWDA) |
| Participated in the annual **DFAT NGO Human Rights Forum** (NEDA, FPDN, PWDA, WWDA) |
| Provide advocacy training for **Chinese Disabled Persons Federation** (CDPF), hosted by AHRC. (PWDA) |
| Endorsement, ‘**No-One Left Behind’ Position Paper**, submission to the 2016 Session of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division for Sustainable Development. This Paper was coordinated by the International Disability Alliance. |
| Participation in the Civil Society Organisations Consultation regarding the **DFAT 13th Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue**. (NEDA) |
| **Keynote presentation at University of NSW NAIDOC** week event. (FPDN) |
| **Article 5, Equality and non-discrimination**  **Article 8, Awareness-raising**  **Article 9, Accessibility**  **Article 28, Adequate standard of living and social protection** | Participation in historic, **commemorative event to honour Indigenous Paralympians** at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern, Sydney. The event was co-facilitated by FPDN and the Australian Paralympic Committee. (FPDN) |
| Attended the launch of the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner’s Report for 2015**. This AHRC report includes a major focus on the situation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability. (FPDN) |
| Member, **NSW Joint Koori Interagency**. (FPDN) |
| Delivered the Kevin Cook Memorial Lecture at the **Yabun Survival Day Festival**, Sydney. (FPDN) |
| Participation in **Settlement Services International (SSI) Disability Forum**, which examined the CaLD/ NESB community, migration services and the nexus of disability. (NEDA) |
| Member, **National Multicultural Advisory Group (NMAG), Department of Human Services (DHS).** This is provides an on-going advisory opportunity to provide advice, expertise and recommendations to DHS on the quality & effectiveness of service delivery to customers from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. (NEDA) |
| Participation in the **Red Cross Disability Action Plan Implementation Group (DAPIG)** to provide advice regarding disability inclusion in the employment and service provision of Red Cross. This group has also discussed issues for people with disability in the Red Cross Disaster Management Plan and the development of a CaLD/NESB disability inclusion plan. (PWDA, NEDA) |
| Participation at **roundtable to develop an agenda to further advance research on ageing in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities**, and to strengthen the evidence base that informs policy and practice. This is a joint initiative by the **Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia (FECCA) and the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI)**. Participants included leading academics and researchers in population and ageing issues as well as key stakeholders in the multicultural sector from all around Australia. (NEDA) |
| Participation in the **Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity**, Hawaii. Scott Avery (FPDN) and Jane Flanagan (NEDA) delivered several presentations, sat on discussion panels and addressed key priority issues for people with disability.  Two people stand together and smile at the camera. Both wear name tags on lanyards |
| Participation in the Inaugural **National Aged Care & Disability Summit** convened by the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney. The Summit examined the differences, intersections, inequities and outcomes between the disability and aged care service sectors and the impact of this on people with disability who are ageing. (NEDA, PWDA) |
| Presentation to **Australian Services Union (ASU)** national delegates and organisers on disability support workers, the NDIS and the needs of people with disability. (PWDA) |
| Presentation, **Aboriginal people with intellectual disability**, Intellectual Disability and the NDIS Conference, Sydney. (FPDN) |
| **Article 25, Health** | Participation in roundtable on the **NDIS implementation and the intersections with the mental health system** conducted by Senator Rachel Siewert, Parliament House. (NEDA) |
| Lecture developed and presented on the ‘**Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights Among Young People with Disability**’ for the students in the **International Adolescent Health (Masters of Public Health), The Nossal Institute for Global Health, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne**. 15 international adolescent health course students, predominantly public health practitioners from developing countries attended the lecture. The DPO Australia lecture received the most positive feedback of any contributor to the course in a formal evaluation process. (PWDA, WWDA) |
| Member, **Banksia Hill (WA) Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Juvenile Justice Project Steering Committee**, focused on developing a culturally appropriate assessment tool for FASD. (FPDN) |
| **Article 5, Equality and non-discrimination**  **Article 12, Legal capacity**  **Article 13, Access to justice** | Participation in the **Commonwealth Ombudsman Disability Complaint Handling Forum** to examine effective and equitable complaint handling procedures for people with disability. FPDN and NEDA participated on panel discussions at the forum to highlight the specific issues for Aboriginal people with disability and CaLD / NESB people with disability. (NEDA, FPDN, PWDA, WWDA) |
| Participation in **Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman** (TIO) **Critical Friends Group meeting** and follow up discussions and advice in regard to accessible complaints handling for people with disability. (PWDA) |
| Participated in **University of Melbourne Symposium**, “**Future directions in supported decision making research**”. (PWDA) |
| Attended public **debate on legal capacity and supported decision making run by the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC),** Sydney (PWDA) |
| Delivered presentation to the **NSW Legal Assistance Prisoners Forum**. (FPDN) |
| Provided advice to the **University of Melbourne for a research project** in relation to voting rights of people with cognitive impairment. (PWDA) |
| Participation on the **Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) Disability Reference Group** providing expert advice in regards to removing barriers to access and equity for people with disability, including CaLD people with disability. (NEDA, PWDA) |
| **Article 29, Participation in political and public life** | Participation on the **ACT Electoral Commission Disability Advisory Committee** to ensure the democratic rights of all people to fair and just election process with special consideration given to the disability community and those CaLD/ NESB people at an ACT level. (NEDA) |
| Participation in the **NSW Electoral Commission’s Equal Access to Democracy Disability Reference Group**. This group provides guidance, information and feedback in relation to electoral services for electors with disability. (NEDA, PWDA) |
| Participation in the **Australian Housing Urban Research Institute (AHURI) National Conference** and moderator for session on ‘Disability Housing Futures’. (PWDA) |
| **Article 19, Living independently and being included in the community** | Participation on the **Housing Futures Working Group**, made up of academics, researchers, housing providers and DPOs and providing advice to the NDIA on the NDIS and housing. (PWDA) |
| Participation in the **Home Modifications Conference** conducted by Home Modifications Australia, Canberra. FPDN and NEDA participated on panel discussions to discuss and advise on how to effectively meet the home modification needs of Aboriginal people with disability and CaLD people with disability. (FPDN, NEDA) |
| **Article 31, Statistics and data collection** | Participated in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Roundtable on statistics and data collection in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. (FPDN) |

3. Stakeholder Engagement & Development

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| --- | --- |
| **CRPD**  **Rights** | **Activity** |
| **Article 4(3), General obligations**  **Article 8, Awareness-raising**  **Article 33 (3), National implementation and monitoring** | * DPO Australia member organisations have **extensive links, networks and partnerships in a diverse range of sectors, including with other DPOs and NGOs in Australia and internationally within the disability, human rights, women’s, multicultural, children and youth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and LGBTIQ+ sectors.** Many formal and informal meetings have been conducted over the reporting period by DPO Australia member organisations. Many other formal and informal meetings have been conducted with a range of local, State/ Territory and national organisations by DPO Australia member organisations. * DPO Australia member organisations are also members of many **DPOs and NGOs in Australia and internationally and / or work collaboratively and in partnership** with DPOs and NGOs on a broad range of human rights issues. A sample of these organisations include: * International Disability Alliance * Pacific Disability Forum * DPO United Asia Pacific * International Network of Women with Disabilities * Women Enabled international * Disabled Peoples International * Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) * Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) * Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) * Human Rights Law Centre * Australian Centre for Disability Law (ACDL) * Australian Human Rights Centre, University of NSW * National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples * Change the Record * Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils Australia (FECCA) * Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) * Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) * Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) * DPO Australia member organisations engage extensively with **UN agencies and human rights mechanisms**, such as UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. * At the national level, DPO Australia member organisations engage extensively with the **Australian Human Rights Commission**, including with the President and Commissioners and senior policy and research staff. * DPO Australia member organisations also engage extensively at the State / Territory and local level with DPOs, NGOs and governments.   The broad range of stakeholder engagement, collaborations and partnerships is exemplified within each area of this report. |
| Lead member and participant, **Global Network of Indigenous people with disabilities**: active engagement, participation, advice and expertise, including through acting as Chair, to build the capacity of an international movement of Indigenous peoples with disability, with a particular focus on specific issues for colonised Indigenous peoples. (FPDN) |
| **FPDN conducted local level community engagement activities in NSW during NAIDOC week**, including participating in community forums and staffing stalls in Blacktown, Liverpool, Campbelltown and Katoomba, NSW. |
| Providing stalls at the **IDEAS Expo in Penrith, NSW to provide information and engage with people with disability at the local level**. (FPDN, PWDA) |
| **Desert Harmony Festival Tennant Creek (Northern Territory)**. FPDN had a stall, made public presentations and engaged with local community members. (FPDN) |
| Engagement with a range of stakeholders, including the Aboriginal and Deaf communities to organise and facilitate the inaugural 3 day **DEADLY DEAF MOB Conference**, Sydney. This was an historic gathering, the first of its kind aimed at supporting Deaf and hard of hearing Aboriginal people to discover they are not alone in the challenges that they face, to develop bonds, and allow them to share experiences. The conference enabled Deaf Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal role models and service providers to provide knowledge and skills building activities. (FPDN) |
| **NEDA** invited by the Governor General to participate and celebrate **Harmony Day at Government House.** |
| Participation in the **2016 Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA) Advocacy Summit**. The Summit provided an opportunity to network with disability advocacy organisations, share information about advocacy activities, key issues for people with disability and to discuss views and recommendations in relation to the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) review. (PWDA, NEDA)  Small groups of people sit around round tables in a conference venue  *Participants at the DANA Summit* |
| Participated in the judging panel for the **DSS sponsored Disability Access and Inclusion Award,** which is part of the **National Awards for Local Government.** (NEDA) |
| **National Disability Awards:**   * Provided advice to DSS on the process for the 2015 National Disability Awards, the focus and content of categories and judging panel membership, participated on the judging panel for the Awards and participated in the Awards ceremony, Canberra (PWDA, WWDA, NEDA, FPDN) * Coordinated regional and local media engagement Australia wide in collaboration with DSS media centre for 2015 IDPWD and National Disability Awards (WWDA) * Promoted the 2016 National Disability Awards, the nomination process, deadlines and event registration through networks, social media and websites; targeted specific organisations and individuals to encourage nominations; responded to requests regarding support for nominations; and initial planning for media engagement and further promotion. (PWDA, WWDA, NEDA, FPDN)   Two people stand either side of a banner which says National Disabiltiy Awards  *Suresh Rajan, NEDA President & Dwayne Cranfield, NEDA CEO* |
| **National Research Collaboration (NRC):**  DPO Australia is working in partnership with DPOs, academics, research centres and National Disability Services (NDS) to establish a DPO-led research strategy. In October 2015, a National Disability Research Group Roundtable was held to discuss and progress this collaborative initiative (PWDA, UNSW, NDS). Following the Roundtable, work has involved drafting a co-designed research proposal and strategy and conducting meetings with stakeholders. (PWDA) |
| **9th session Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the CRPD, “Implementing the 2030 development agenda for all persons with disabilities: Leaving no one behind”:**   * Significant work was undertaken to coordinate a DPO Australia delegation to the COSP, including identifying delegates and organising the logistical requirements for all delegates; ensuring capacity building and mentoring opportunities for youth delegates with disability; liaising with DSS, DFAT, and the AHRC to co-ordinate the civil society and government delegations program; organising side-events and collaborating with international partners, DFAT and UN agencies; organising key meetings for delegation members; and promoting delegation activities throughout the COSP on social media. * Key meetings /activities included: * pre and post COSP meetings with representatives of the Australian Government delegation; * meeting, Gender Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; * meeting, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (Mr. Alhendawi); * participation, ‘Workshop on the Measurement of Disability – Washington Group on Disability Statistics / UNICEF / International Disability Alliance; * participation, ‘Expert Meeting on Non-discrimination and Disability in the World Bank’s Proposed Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESF)’ - World Bank; * participation, ‘Reception celebrating ten years of the UN CRPD and the road to inclusive sustainable development’, H.E. Ms Gillian Bird, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations; and Ms Maryanne Diamond, Chair of the International Disability Alliance. * Side-event engagement: * Facilitated side-event, ‘Demonstrating the work of NHRIs on the rights of persons with disabilities and the value of their participation in the UN Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ (The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions & the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; NHRIs from Africa, Americas, Asia Pacific & Europe; the Governments of Australia, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Morocco and Mongolia); * Facilitated side-event, ‘Human Rights and Disability: The Current Use and Future Potential of Human Rights, A conversation with Quinn and Degener 15 years on’, (Human Rights Watch); * Panel member, ‘SDGs and Accessible World (PM of the Republic of Korea Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the Republic of Korea, National Information Agency, UN CRPD NGO forum, UN DGACM, United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD)); * Panel member, ‘Foreign Aid and inclusion of People with Disabilities: Article 32, the SDGs and tracking inclusive development (Pineda Foundation for Youth, the School for Global Inclusion & Social Development at University of Massachusetts, AidData & the Canadian Network on Disability Inclusive Development; People with Disability Australia); * Panel members, ‘The indefinite detention of people with disability in Australia (Australian Cross Disability Alliance, First Peoples Disability Network); * Speaker: Launch of WE DECIDE Programme to support Young Persons with Disabilities for Equal Rights and a Life Free of Violence (UNFPA, PMs of Spain & United Kingdom; International Disability Alliance; Women with Disabilities Australia; Women Enabled International) * During COSP, the delegate from the WWDA Youth Network interviewed seven delegates from around the world, both from civil society and Government, to discuss the global barriers facing young women and girls with disability, and the changes each of these advocates hoped to see in the years to come. These interviews are available as short videos at <http://youth.wwda.org.au/cosp9-women-girls-with-disability-lets-look-to-the-future/>   Eleven people sit on sofas and chairs arranged in a circle  *DPO Australia delegation to COSP* |
| **Second Universal Periodic Review of Australia (UPR):**   * Substantial participation in the UPR NGO Human Rights Coalition (over 200 NGOs) preparing the civil society report for the UN Human Rights Council’s second UPR of Australia. (PWDA) * DPO Australia coordinated the [UPR Disability Coordination Group](http://www.pwd.org.au/issues/periodicreview.html) on behalf of the NGO Human Rights Coalition, working on the ‘disability’ sections of the NGO report (PWDA), developing 6 lobbying factsheets (PWDA), participating in the [UPR pre-sessional meetings](http://www.upr-info.org/en/upr-process/pre-sessions/pre-session-upr-23) and lobbying with permanent meetings in Geneva (PWDA) and participating in the delegation to the UPR at the UN in Geneva (PWDA, FPDN). DPO Australia also coordinated social media, media releases and promotion of the UPR during the October 2015 pre-session and the 9 November review. * At 9 November review of Australia, FPDN worked with Amnesty International (AI) and the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to conduct a side-event panel discussion on the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the adult and juvenile justice system, including the indefinite detention without conviction of Aboriginal people with disability. FPDN CEO, Damian Griffis participated as a panellist, along with Les Malezer, former Co-Chair, National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, Gillian Triggs, AHRC President, Mick Gooda, former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, and Tammy Solonec, AI Indigenous Rights Manager. <http://www.amnesty.org.au/news/comments/38389/> * During the review process in Geneva, DPO Australia took the opportunity to also conduct meetings with the Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to discuss key issues affecting people with disability in Australia. * Following the review, DPO Australia participated in the NGO Forum conducted by the Attorney General’s Department and DFAT in December 2015 to discuss the recommendations from the Human Rights Council. * DPO Australia contributed to the NGO Human Rights Coalition submission to the Australian Government on the post-review recommendations, including on issues relating to forced sterilisation, violence against women with disability and indefinite detention of people with disability without conviction. (PWDA) |
| **Article 4, General obligations**  **Article 29, Participation in political and public life**  **Article 33, National implementation and monitoring** | **Government Relations and Participation:**   * Pursued positive relationships with MPs, Senators, Ministers and Shadow Ministers; participated in **formal meetings with Minister Porter** **Assistant Minister Prentice**; and regularly engaged and met with MPs, Senators and Ministers, Shadow Ministers and members of the cross-bench on a broad range of issues. * DPO Australia member organisations have engaged in key Government processes, including the **2016** **Budget process,** including providing a pre-budget submission to Treasury (PWDA); participating in the community sector Budget Lock Up, analysis and preparation of media statements about implications of budget measures, and participation in media conference following the Lock Up (PWDA, NEDA); participating in the Post Budget Community Sector Press Conference in collaboration with community sector organisations and hosted by ACOSS at Parliament House (PWDA, NEDA); and lobbying and meetings with MPs and Senators on budget measures. (PWDA) |
| **Election 2016:**  Identified key priority issues for DPO Australia member organisations, developed a communications plan and drafted a comprehensive Election Policy Platform, ‘Building a Disability Inclusive Australia’. The 13 key priority areas in this election platform were released throughout June 2016 in the lead up to the election, media interviews were conducted, social media promotion was undertaken and an Election 2016 page established.  An Election 2016 E-bulletin was distributed widely through a broad range of networks, which included information about voting accessibility and the DPO Australia Election Platform.  The Election Policy Platform was sent to the major parties. Party responses were posted on the website and social media to inform voters with disability when making voting decisions. (PWDA) <http://dpoa.org.au/2016-election-platform/>  Election policy document coverpage. Six photos of people with disability, each tinted either turquoise, magenta, burnt orange, green or monochrome. |
| Active member, **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations gathering**. FPDN leads on disability issues and rights within this gathering to ensure inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability in peak organisations. A key activity was the Election 2016 call to action, the **Redfern Statement** and #RedfernStatement campaign released in June 2016. The Redfern Statement called for urgent government action to overhaul Indigenous strategy, engagement and funding. The statement was led by key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, including Damian Griffis, FPDN CEO, and signed by numerous Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations.  Redfern Statement available at: <http://nationalcongress.com.au/the-redfern-statement/>  A man in a suit stands in front of a microphone boom and speaks to media. A number of people stand behind the man cid:6B3CE62F-0417-4738-9B2B-0F9E370C5664  *Damian Griffis, FPDN CEO, speaking at the Redfern Statement press conference and the peak organisations’ gathering.* |
| Letter to the **Attorney General, the Hon. George Brandis QC** calling for the appointment of a **full-time Disability Discrimination Commissioner**. |
| **Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC):**  Participation on reference group for the Centre for Social Impact research project for the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission re **state of the disability sector report**. Participation involves providing input, advice and feedback on report drafting. (PWDA) |
| **Media Relations:**  Participated in media engagement activities to publicly raise issues with government/s and the community in order to provide a ‘voice’ for people with disability in public commentary and debate. This included participating in numerous media interviews for radio, print and TV as producing a range of media releases. A sample of media releases includes:  20/08/15: [Call for action – End violence against people with disability](http://ymlp.com/zJSuuC)  27/08/15: [Violence against people with disability is a national shame – Call to action](http://ymlp.com/zqeGfC)  31/08/15: [Discrimination against people with disability applying for Australian Permanent Residency](http://ymlp.com/zatKnA)  16/09/15: [NDIS commitment welcomed](http://pwd.org.au/latest-news/ndiswelcomed.html)  29/10/15: [PWDA Welcomes Promise for Redress Scheme](http://ymlp.com/zLk0AP)  10/11/15: [UN Serious Concerns about Human Rights Violations Against Australians with Disability](http://crossdisabilityalliance.org.au/news/united-nations-serious-concerns-about-human-rights-violations-against-australians-with-disability/)  23/11/15: [White Flower Memorial: Remembering people with disability who have died as a result of violence, abuse or neglect](http://ymlp.com/zYyJVf)  26/11/15: [ACDA Applauds Senate’s call for Royal Commission into Violence Against People with Disability](http://crossdisabilityalliance.org.au/news/media-release-australian-cross-disability-alliance-applauds-senates-call-for-royal-commission-into-violence-against-people-with-disability/)  28/01/16: [Australian Cross Disability Alliance calls for investment in Australians with disability for future prosperity](http://ymlp.com/z7cAVT)  15/02/16: [Australian Cross Disability Alliance welcomes appointment of new Assistant Minister for Disability Services](http://ymlp.com/z2jDpp)  18/02/16: [Australian Cross Disability Alliance says #letthemstay](http://ymlp.com/zVhllj)  07/03/16: [Australian Cross Disability Alliance says 'Hands off the NDIS'](http://ymlp.com/zsWoik)  03/05/16: [Budget 2016 – Don’t fund our NDIS at the cost of our safety net](http://ymlp.com/zCeYqC)  06/05/16: [Australian Cross Disability Alliance welcomes new Commissioners](http://ymlp.com/zSk0p1)  20/05/16: [Civil society leaders unite to slam vilification of Duncan Storrar](http://ymlp.com/zeMPXs)  14/06/16: [Australian Cross Disability Alliance calls for a disability inclusive Australia](file:///\\PWD-FILE1\Management\Membership%20-%20orgs%20PWDA%20belongs%20to\Australian%20Cross%20Disability%20Alliance\Reporting\Final%20Report%20July2015July2016\crossdisabilityalliance.org.au\issues\advocacy\building-a-disability-inclusive-australia-election-2016\) |
| **NDIS Citizens’ Jury Scorecard Project:**  The NDIS Citizens’ Jury Scorecard project was an innovative project led by PWDA. The project used deliberative democracy to involve Australian citizens who have helped fund the NDIS and those who have direct knowledge of the scheme as a participant, to evaluate the staged roll out of the NDIS in six trial sites.  The project ran across 2014/2015, with project activities continuing until March 2016. More information including a short film of the process is available on the PWDA website, <http://www.pwd.org.au/admin/ndis-citizens-jury-scorecard-project.html>  The project won three IAP2 Awards in October 2015 including Best International Project 2015.  There has been significant interest in this project and presentations have been made at a number of conferences:   * The National Disability Services conference (Sydney, July 2015); * the NDIS New World Conference - Disability In The 21st Century Conference (Brisbane, October 2015). * Project presentations to the International Association of Public Participation conference and members’ webinar (Perth, October 2015 & Melbourne March 2016).   (PWDA) |
| **Article 6, Women with disabilities**  **Article 7, Children with disabilities** | Launch of the **WWDA Youth Network** by the Minister for Women, the Hon. Michaelia Cash at the Australian Human Rights Commission. WWDA initiated the event and facilitated the organising, and DPO Australia member organisations supported young women with disability to participate and assisted with promoting the launch and its outcomes. (WWDA)  The launch received strong social and traditional media coverage. The Network provides a platform for young women with disability to communicate, engage and identify their own issues and concerns.  <http://youth.wwda.org.au/>  <https://www.facebook.com/WWDAyouth> |
| **Youth With Disability National Forum:**  In November 2015, DPO Australia (then known as the Australian Cross Disability Alliance), in collaboration with the [Women with Disabilities Australia Youth Network](http://youth.wwda.org.au/) (WWDAYouth), and the Victorian [Youth Disability Advocacy Service](http://www.ydas.org.au/) (YDAS), hosted a national forum of young people with disability on the theme of sexual and reproductive rights. The Youth with Disability National Forum was held as part of the **UNFPA Youth and Disability Global Human Rights Program**, an exciting and innovative global project to improve the human rights of young people with disability worldwide – particularly their sexual and reproductive rights and their right to freedom from violence (see more information in this report in section 2, Representation and above in this section). (WWDA, PWDA)  Report on the Youth with Disability National Forum available at:  <http://dpoa.org.au/publications/report-on-the-australian-youth-with-disability-national-forum-promoting-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights/>  As a direct result of the Youth With Disability National Forum, the UNFPA formally adopted the name suggested by the Forum participants for the Global Initiative, WE DECIDE. In addition, DPO Australia designed and developed the logo, based on the feedback and input from the participants at the Youth With Disability National Forum. This logo was also formally adopted as the official logo for the Global Initiative.  A round orange circle with various icons of individuals and couples with and without disability. The words 'We Decide' appear in large type below the circle |
| **National Forum for Women and Girls with Disability:**  Organised and hosted by WWDA, DPO Australia member organisations supported women with disability to participate in the National Forum and gave presentations on key issues. Over 60 women with disability participated, and a number of government representatives and representatives from the national women’s alliances were in attendance. The Minister for Women, the Hon. Michaelia Cash MP opened the Forum and gave the keynote address. (WWDA)  Four women and an Auslan interpreter stand in front of a seated audience.  *Australian Government representatives at the WWDA National Forum* |
| DPO Australia participated in the **UNICEF Australia and Child Rights Taskforce’s preparations for the 25th Anniversary of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).** The key outcome was the preparation of a report highlighting how far children’s rights had progressed in Australia over 25 years and the work that still needed to occur. Key aspects of this project included participation in national campaign meetings; drafting sections for the Report and participating in the report launch, [*CRC25:Australian Child Rights Progress Reports*](http://www.unicef.org.au/Upload/UNICEF/Media/Documents/CRC25-Australian-Progress-Report.pdf)  (PWDA) |
| **Article 5, Equality and non-discrimination**  **Article 10, Right to life**  **Article 13, Access to justice**  **Article 25, Health** | **Mental Health in Multicultural Australia (MHiMA) Project:**  NEDA works in partnership with Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia (FECCA) and Mental Health Australia (MHA) to manage and administer and build the capacity of the MHiMA program. This involves an ongoing governance, advisory and stakeholder role to address the mental health concerns and issues faced by CaLD Australians and the movement towards a new peak body within the CaLD/ Mental Health sectors.  Other stakeholders include several State and Territory representatives, and along with NEDA, FECCA and MHA they make up the MHiMA alliance. |
| **Close the Gap Campaign:**  FPDN are active participants in the Close the Gap Campaign and are members of the Campaign’s Steering Committee. This human rights-based Campaign has a goal to raise the health and life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to that of the non-Indigenous population by 2030. FPDN provides advice and expertise and community engagement in relation to the specific issues affecting people with disability in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This is critical given that the incidence of ‘disability’, ‘impairment’ and / or ‘health conditions’ is at least twice to three times that of the non-Indigenous population.  FPDN were successful in ensuring that there is an increased focus on disability in the Close the Gap Campaign, and this is reflected in the 2016 Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee report: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice/publications/close-gap-progress>  The report was launched on 10 February 2016 at a Close the Gap breakfast at Parliament House. Both the Prime Minister, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP and the Opposition Leader, the Hon. Bill Shorten MP spoke at this event.  A man in a suit shakes hand with a woman seated in a wheelchair.  *Gayle Rankine, FPDN Chair shaking the Prime Minister’s hand at the Close the Gap Campaign breakfast* |
| **Article 23, Respect for home and family** | **Policy, campaign and advocacy advice to Touching Base:**  Provision of policy and advocacy advice, expertise, support and recommendations to Touching Base Incorporated. Touching Base advocates for improved access to the sex industry for people with disability. Advice has been provided to Touching Base management committee members on strategic engagement with media and the disability sector.  Touching Base has developed accessible resources to assist people with disability to understand the sex industry and the role sex workers can have in providing services to men and women with disability, [www.touchingbase.org](http://www.touchingbase.org)  Touching Base management committee members appeared on the SBS Insight program on sex and disability and strategic advice was provided on media reactions following the program airing.  <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/insight/tvepisode/sex-and-disability>  (PWDA) |
| **Article 20, Personal mobility**  **Article 26, Habilitation and rehabilitation**  **Article 28, Adequate standard of living and social protection** | **Engagement with CaLD/NESB community in the NDIS:**  NEDA continues to engage with a range of stakeholders to foster greater representation of the CaLD/NESB community in the NDIS. Activities include conducting a series of meetings with the NDIA, FECCA, AFDO, Diversitat, Villamanta Legal Centre and Limbs for Life, as well as the Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, and meeting with FECCA to discuss issues for CaLD/ NESB people with disability and communities, and engagement in ILC. |
| **Engagement with Aboriginal communities in the NDIS:**  FPDN facilitated a number of community forums on the NDIS with Aboriginal communities in order to provide information and foster greater engagement with the NDIS, including forums conducted with communities in Menindee, Wilcannia, Ballarat and Bateman’s Bay. |
| **Article 13, Access to justice**  **Article 14, Liberty and security; of the person**  **Article 15, Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**  **Article 16, Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse**  **Article 17, Protecting the integrity of the person** | **Change the Record: A Campaign for Smarter Justice and Safer Communities:**  FPDN are active participants and members of the Steering Committee for the Change the Record campaign. This campaign is led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, human rights and community organisations, including FPDN.  Change the Record campaign has two overarching goals to:   1. Close the gap in rates of imprisonment by 2014; and 2. Cut the disproportionate rates of violence to at least close the gap by 2040 with priority strategies for women and children.   <https://changetherecord.org.au/home> |
| **International Launch of the Global Program for Young People with Disability: “WE DECIDE: A Programme for Equal Opportunities and a Life Free of Violence”:**  WWDA co-sponsored this Launch in conjunction with UNFPA, the Permanent Missions of the UK and Spain, International Disability Alliance, and Women Enabled International. The Launch was conducted as a high level side-event of the 9th session of the UN Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the CRPD, New York (see further information on work involved in ‘WE DECIDE’ in section 2, Representation and above in this section of this report).  WWDA was invited by UNFPA to co-sponsor and to co-host the official launch. WWDA representative, Cashelle Dunn, Manager, WWDA Youth Network officially co-launched the Global WE DECIDE Program.  WWDA also assisted UNFPA to meet with Australian Government stakeholders regarding the Global Program, and this led to Australian Government representatives being invited to participate directly in the International Launch.  The official launch of the WE DECIDE Program was an amazing success. The Australian Government delegation attended the launch, and Mr James Christian (Group Manager, Disability, Employment and Carers, Department of Social Services) gave a presentation on behalf of the Australian Government as one of the panellists at the launch event. The event was attended by over 150 invited delegates, from a number of countries.  Three people sit next to each other at a desk behing a microphone  *L to r: Cashelle Dunn, WWDA Youth Network Manager,*  *Stephanie Ortoleva, Women Enabled International,*  *James Christian, Australian Government*  As part of the development and establishment of the Global WE DECIDE Program, WWDA assisted the UNFPA and its partners to develop and produce a video to promote the Program and raise awareness of the sexual and reproductive rights of young people with disability. As part of WWDA’s contribution to this work, WWDA interviewed a number of young people with disability who participated in the “Youth with Disability National Forum” in Melbourne in November 2015. Several of these young people now appear in the global video for the WE DECIDE Program. Additionally, WWDA assisted in writing some of the content for the global video.  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mu88coNmAZQ>  Flyer advertising launch of 'We Decide' campaign |
| **Development of the International Violence Against Women Treaty - Everywoman Everywhere:**  ‘Everywoman Everywhere’ is a worldwide Coalition for an International Treaty on Violence Against Women & Girls. WWDA is closely involved in the Everywoman Everywhere Campaign, and is represented on several of the International and Regional Working Groups to draft elements of the International Violence Against Women Treaty.  Two of the Working Groups on which WWDA is represented are critical in the work of ensuring an inclusive legal instrument that recognises all forms of violence against women, regardless of setting and regardless of who perpetrates it - ‘Disability/Inclusion Working Group’, and the International ‘Definition of Violence’ Working Group.  <http://everywomaneverywhere.org/> |
| **White Flower Memorial:**  DPO Australia supported and participated in White Flower Memorial to remember people with disability who have died as a result of violence, abuse or neglect. Held on the [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/), White Flower Memorial The Memorial specifically recognised that women with disability experience higher levels of all forms of violence than the general population.  PWDA coordinated a month-long White Flower social media campaign which culminated in a procession and memorial service in Sydney. People carried white flowers and were invited to lay them in memory as names of people with disability who had died as a result of violence were read out.  <https://whiteflowermemorial.wordpress.com/>  <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=white%20flower%20memorial> |
| **Silent Tears Project: National Photographic Project and Exhibition**:  Silent Tears multimedia arts – Violence Against Women with Disabilities project and exhibition explores violence against women with disability. It is a a platform where women with disability tell their stories of violence in their lives. They describe its impacts and their survival, resilience and resistance. <http://silenttears.com.au/>  WWDA and PWDA provided substantial support, advice, and input for the project content and development, and linked the artists with PWDA and WWDA members who have experience violence and to other networks.  Advice from WWDA and PWDA on the ethical inclusion and support to women participating in the project and supports to people affected by its content was critical and essential.  Editorial assistance with text accompanying artworks, support to exhibition participants attending the opening show in Ballarat, Victoria in August 2015 was also provided.  WWDA also provided advice, support and coordination for the Silent Tears side-event that was conducted at the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 14-24 March 2016. WWDA was represented on the panel presenting on violence against women with disability. |
| Coordination and participation in the **OPCAT Ratification Working Group**, which is examining mechanisms and processes for ensuring that people with disability obtain the benefit of OPCAT once ratified by Australia. The Working Group is planning a second national OPCAT roundtable in the second half of 2016 – the initial roundtable was held in early 2015. (PWDA) |
| **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**  PWDA conducts the **Disability Support for the Royal Commission** project, which involves significant policy advice and expertise to a broad range of stakeholders. DPO Australia member organisations participate on the Project Steering Group and have participated in other forums and meetings conducted by the **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.**  <http://rcsupport.pwd.org.au/>  Key stakeholder engagement activityinclude conducting the **Child Sexual Abuse, Disability and the Justice System Forum** at Parliament House, Canberra (PWDA); assisting in facilitating a community meeting at the multicultural centre in Canberra to look at issues of the CaLD/NESB community and disability (NEDA); and meeting with Professor Jen Harmer from the Royal Commission to discuss issues for the work of DPO Australia and NEDA. (NEDA) |
| PWDA participates in a **joint campaign to collect cases from families about ‘restrictive practices’ applied to their children in schools and to send these to the UN Special Rapporteur on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.** 55 cases have been collated, letters and information drafted and ready to forward to the UN Special Rapporteur in conjunction with submissions from a number of the campaign members. The campaign consists of Autistic Family Collective; Children and Young People with Disability Australia; Bendigo Autistic Advocacy and Support Service; Australia & NZ Autistic Self Advocacy Network; United Voices for People with Disabilities and Julie Phillips.  <http://autisticfamilycollective.org.au/schoolrights/> |

**4. Operational Planning & Development**

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| **CRPD**  **Rights** | **Activity** |
| **Article 4(3), General obligations**  **Article 33 (3), National implementation and monitoring** | **Implementation of the framework of alliance model:**  A key task during this reporting period was to implement the formal agreements that were approved by each DPO Australia member organisation in June 2015:   * Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) * Operating Model * Activity Work plan (2015/16)   A number of planning meetings and workshops were conducted to bring the four member organisations together to progress elements of the operating model and the Activity Work Plan, including preparation of a 2016/17 Activity Work Plan, refinements to the operating model, and preparations for the National Council (Board representatives of each member organisation). |
| **Systems infrastructure:**  Critical to the collective functioning of the alliance model has been the development of systems, processes and agreements to coordinate and share activities, including establishment and operation of central contact point; development of reporting templates for representation activities; branding, design and production of documents and templates; refining decision-making protocols and agreeing on shared resourcing and reporting. |
| **Stakeholder engagement processes:**  During the reporting period, DPO Australia member organisations have built on existing networks, stakeholder relationships and collaborative partnerships to promote the new alliance model of representation and the members of DPO Australia. The work outlined in sections 1, 2, and 3 in this report demonstrate the significant stakeholder engagement processes and mechanisms that have been employed by DPO Australia. |
| **Communications infrastructure and processes:**  All DPO Australia member organisations continue to use their **organisational social media and engagement processes and methods to communicate and engage directly with people with disability** and share a range of information. DPO Australia has also undertaken a range of activities to ensure that it has **infrastructure and processes in place to effectively communicate as an alliance**.  This includes:   * designing logo and branding (WWDA) * design and production of display banner for forums and conferences (WWDA) * developing, design, launch and maintenance of a website, [www.crossdisabilityalliance.org.au](http://www.crossdisabilityalliance.org.au) (WWDA) * establishing a Twitter account (FDPN), and tweeting @DisAllianceAus (WWDA, FPDN, PWDA)   A draft **Communications Plan** was developed (PWDA) to coordinate the activities of communications and media staff within WWDA, FPDN and PWDA, including in relation to website, graphic design and social media (WWDA), coordination of media relations activities, development of media releases and media strategic engagement (PWDA, FPDN).  Screenshot of the DPOA website front page Screenshot of the DPOA twiter feed   * designing publication ‘look’ for Website, Twitter and Election Platform 2016   Vertical banner which inclides many photos of peolpe with disabiltiy. Photos are tinted in different colours and several are monochrome. The Australian Cross Disability Allaince logo is depicted in white, against a black box, surrounded by the photos. |
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1. As outlined by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in her report to the 31st session of the Human Rights Council, January 2016, A/HRC/31/62 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)