

# ATSIDNQ

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland

Edition 1 - August 2015

### A Voice for our Community

Welcome to the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland (ATSIDNQ) newsletter.

It's important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability, their families and carers to connect with each other, the wider community, government and policy makers.

This newsletter, which will be published bi-monthly is about giving you a voice as well as keeping you informed of news, updates and events in the disability sector.

Speaking of news. Queenslanders with Disability Network has handed over support of ATSIDNQ to QADA (Queensland Aged and Disability Advocacy).

QADA has over 20 years experience in community services and many years supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

We're excited to be able to connect with you and look forward to growing the ATSIDNQ network so that members voices can be heard.

ATSIDNQ and the QADA TEAM



### New Logo

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland has a new look and a new logo.

At the centre of the logo, is the person with a disability. They are surrounded by multiple layers of support, network, family, community and culture.

The colours are symbolic of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples connection to country and culture and represent the land, waters, sky and people.

## Ted's Story

I'm Ted Thorburn, I'm 64 and I have Glaucoma. I had reasonable sight until my mid 30s and then I slowly lost it from there. My mum is Torres Strait Islander from the Darnley Island region (Erob). I have been a member of ATSIDNQ for nearly 12 years and got involved when I was up in far North Queensland, but now I live in Maryborough.

When I first lost my sight I found it very hard to get connected with any disability services as there wasn't much around and many regional people just lived with their disabilities and didn't reach out. Now I'm well connected, but there are still many people living regionally and in communities that are not aware or do not have access to services.

I've been an active member of many disability organisations over the years and have held various roles including participating in shire health advisory committees and equal access groups. I've also been involved for many years with Vision Australia and was a co-convenor for their Indigenous working group which helped to formulate Vision Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan.

I look forward to seeing the ATSIDNQ network continue to grow and I encourage people to join. The network will be a great resource for when the NDIS comes, as many people may feel isolated and will not know enough to make use of new opportunities which could help them.

### Be a feature member

Each edition will feature one ATSIDNQ member to share their story. We welcome your interest in being the next ATSIDNQ member to feature in the bi monthly newsletter. Contact ATSIDNQ to learn more.

## Become a Member

What being an ATSIDNQ Member means:

- You are a part of a growing network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability, their families and carers.
- You can share your story and hear about other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities.
- You can receive newsletters and gain information about issues which effect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities.
- These issues may be general in nature or in relation to the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) which will be coming to Queensland in 2016. You can be involved in having your say about how the NDIS may effect you.

The network can feedback wider issues to the Government to inform policies which impact the services you receive.

SO JOIN UP TODAY. IT'S FREE!



Ted Thorburn ATSIDNQ member





## In the Community

The ATSIDNQ team is working hard to connect with the community, keeping people up-to-date on latest news in the disability sector and most importantly to answer your questions and listen to your stories.

We were excited to have a stall at the 34th Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival on the 19th of June. Culture, language, song, dance and stories were celebrated over three days as people from across the nation watched the passing of culture across generations.

Over the weekend hundreds of people chatted with Barry and Melissa to learn more about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network Queensland.

Suzy Berry from the National Disability Insurance Agency also joined our stall to promote the roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which will commence in Queensland from 1 July 2016.

The festival was an incredible, unique experience and a big congratulations to the Lockhart River Kawadji Wimpa Dancers who won the shield!

We also had NAIDOC Week stalls at Family Day across Queensland. The ATSIDNQ team spread the word about the network and connected with those who were also interested in becoming members.



**Do you have a community event coming up and would like to invite us to be involved or would like some material to hand out about the Network? Send us an email or give us a call.**



## Frequently asked Question

**Q:** Is ATSIDNQ going to help me get ready for the NDIS?

**A:** No, ATSIDNQ is not a 'Readiness' organisation. But the network can help link you into organisations that are providing readiness support and keep you updated on readiness education opportunities around Queensland that you could attend.

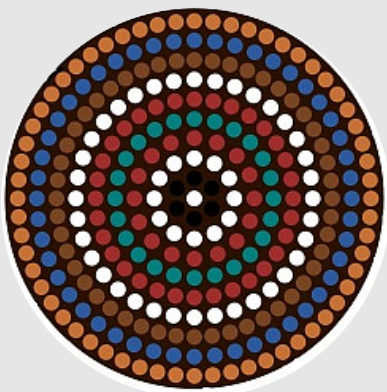
The purpose of the network is to build a social community of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability so that when the NDIS comes to Queensland, your voices can be heard.

The network will gather feedback from ATSIDNQ members to help inform the government on issues that may impact on you accessing and receiving the full benefit of the NDIS.

Becoming a ATSIDNQ member is free to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability, their families and carers. Membership forms are available from [atsidnq@qada.org.au](mailto:atsidnq@qada.org.au) or by phoning 1800 818 338.

## Yarning Circle

Some ATSIDNQ members have recorded digital stories, speaking a little about themselves and the ATSIDNQ network. These can be viewed online at: [www.qdn.org.au/about-qdn/the-yarning-circle](http://www.qdn.org.au/about-qdn/the-yarning-circle)



## Be Inspired

29-year-old Jameson Casson was born with an intellectual disability and bullied during his childhood. Today he spreads joy in the tiny outback town of Tennant Creek as a popular and active community member.

Jameson struggled throughout his school years, cried a lot and had low self-esteem.

But after spending 12 months walking the street knocking on doors for a job, Jameson was offered a sports and recreation position.

"I've watched my son grow over the years [and] he's taken on disability as nothing to worry about." Jameson's guardian. Source ABC

### Do you have an inspiring story?

Do you know an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person with a disability who has an inspiring story that we can feature in our newsletter? Give us call or email us.



# NDIS Readiness Events

## SEPTEMBER

**1 Calamvale**  
**2 Victoria Point**  
**Blackwater, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba**  
**3 Blackwater, Coolangatta, Elanora**  
**Clermont**  
**4 Clermont, Emerald**  
**5 Beenleigh, Maryborough**  
**7 Bundaberg**  
**8 Capalaba**  
**Rockhampton**  
**9 New Farm, Sunshine Coast, Mackay**  
**10 Southport**  
**12 Sunshine Coast**  
**14 Sunshine Coast**  
**15 Lutwyche**  
**Townsville, Roma, Logan**  
**16 Lowood, Ayr, Roma**  
**17 Coolangatta**  
**Carindale, Airlie Beach, Ipswich**  
**18 Mackay**  
**22 Calamvale**  
**23 Moorooka**  
**24 Ipswich**  
**26 Caboolture**  
**29 Carindale**  
**30 Annerley**

## OCTOBER

**1 Brisbane South**  
**Redlands**  
**6 Robina, Toowoomba**  
**7 Capalaba, Brisbane North**  
**8 Brisbane South**  
**10 Toowoomba**  
**12 Sunshine Coast**  
**13 Toowoomba**  
**14 Brisbane North**  
**15 Robina**  
**17 Ipswich**  
**21 Chermside**  
**24 Coorparoo**

# NDIS News

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is coming to Queensland in 2016. This initiative will change the way that people with a disability receive services and engage with their providers. More information can be found online at [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au).

To find out about Queensland Preparation for the NDIS go to:  
[www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reform-and-renewal/disability-services/national-disability-insurance-scheme-in-queensland/preparing-queensland-for-the-national-disability-insurance-scheme/ndisreadiness-initiatives](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reform-and-renewal/disability-services/national-disability-insurance-scheme-in-queensland/preparing-queensland-for-the-national-disability-insurance-scheme/ndisreadiness-initiatives)

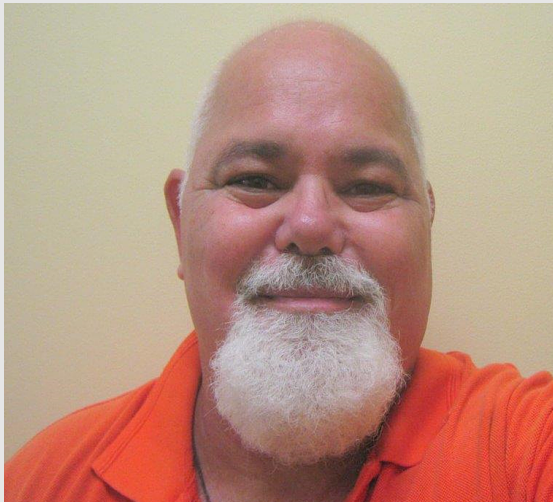
We encourage all ATSIDNQ members to learn more about the NDIS by attending NDIS readiness events to help you to understand the NDIS and to help you get ready. These events are planned all across Queensland and hosted by nine different organisations.

The events coming up in September and October are listed below for your interest. For more information on these events contact:

[www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reform-and-renewal/disabilityservices/national-disability-insurance-scheme-in-Queensland/ndis-calendar](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reform-and-renewal/disabilityservices/national-disability-insurance-scheme-in-Queensland/ndis-calendar) or

Phone: 1800 800 110

## Barry Fewquandie



Hi I'm Barry, i'm based in Cairns and cover Mackay across to Mt Isa and up to the Torres Strait Islands. I've been busy yarning with mob about the ATSIDNQ Network, as I believe that people with a disability and their supporters will benefit from joining the network to be connected. My family line links include Aboriginal and Australian South Sea from Malikoola, Vanuatu and Goreng Goreng in the Gladstone area.

## Nilisa Allen



Hello, i'm Nilisa and my mob are the Waanyi tribe from around Doomadgee / Lawn Hill area. I'm based in Toowoomba and cover the Darling Downs. Some of the towns I visit include Dalby, Miles, Oakey, Goondiwindi, Texas, Stanthorpe, Crows Nest and Cooyar. I sometimes visit areas around Gatton, Laidley and Rosewood. I'm excited to help spread the word about how people can become an ATSIDNQ member.

# JOIN

**US - ITS FREE**

Friends, family and carers can also join ATSIDNQ. Complete a membership application form.

For a copy email us [atsidnq@qada.org.au](mailto:atsidnq@qada.org.au) or ring us 1800 818 338

## Help grow a strong Network

Contact ATSIDNQ at:  
QADA — ask for the NETWORK

Phone: 1800 818 338  
Email: [atsidnq@qada.org.au](mailto:atsidnq@qada.org.au)  
Post: 121 Copperfield St Geebung, 4034