



PRESS RELEASE

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PHYSICAL DISABILITY AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST AMBASSADOR Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM to head up New Campaign Launch

Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM has proudly been announced as Physical Disability Australia's (PDA) first Ambassador.

Palipana is an Australian doctor, legal professional and disability advocate who was the first quadriplegic medical intern in Queensland, the second Australian with quadriplegia to graduate as a doctor and the first with a spinal cord injury. His ongoing work in changing the way in which both the medical community and the public view doctors with disabilities makes him a welcome addition to PDA as its Ambassador.

Known for his determination, physical disability advocacy and incredible work towards raising awareness and recognition of the contributions made by those with physical disabilities, Palipana's involvement was an obvious choice for PDA as it mirrors the organisation's values, activities and mission.

Dr Palipana was deservedly awarded Australia Day honours this year (2019) earning a medal (OAM) for his service to medicine. He looks forward to his involvement with PDA and said "I am honoured and so excited to be supporting this wonderful organisation. I love the work that PDA does. Hopefully I can help inspire others to take on big challenges and reach their full potential, regardless of their disability."

PDA's "Looking beyond physical disability" campaign will launch early in the new year. This new awareness campaign will work to inspire Australians living with physical disability to unite and challenge perception of what physical disability can bring to the workforce, community and society.

PDA is incredibly excited to have Dr Palipana playing a valuable role in promoting the physical disability needs agenda, representing the PDA community and driving continued interest in the organisation and its membership. Liz Reid, PDA's President, said "we are absolutely thrilled to

have such an incredible advocate for thinking beyond physical disability involved with PDA. Dinesh embodies everything we stand for at PDA and we excitedly look forward to working with him to show that the physically disabled have a lot to offer society.”

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