

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2023

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FROM THE PEN OF PDA'S PRESIDENT

Words from
Andrew Fairbairn

"NDIS in REVIEW" CONVERSATION WITH DOUGIE HERD

Now available on PDA's
YouTube channel

PHYSICAL DISABILITY
AWARENESS DAY
GOES GLOBAL IN 2024
Sunday 4th February 2024

From the pen of the President



Wow, where did that year go?

So much has happened and changed in the disability sector in the past 12 months.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) finalised their Board recruitment process and we are very happy with the appointment of Mr Kurt Fearnley as Board Chair. An organisation that is there for people with disabilities must have people with disabilities in the most senior leadership roles.

We have welcomed Rebecca Falkingham to the role of CEO of the NDIA. We look

forward to working with her and the Leadership team to bring about positive results in the lives of our members.

PDA has been acknowledged as a leader in the disability social media space, and my congratulations go out to our Communications and Engagement Manager Natasha for all her diligent work in this space and my fellow Board Members, who have posted blogs, vlogs, and stories on our website. I am constantly in awe of the depth and breadth of knowledge and experience that they have.

PDA has been engaged to deliver forums to our members regarding the NDIS Review, NDIS Commission Focus Groups, Review of the Transport Disability Standards, and the Australian Disability Strategy Consultation. This has been incredibly rewarding work for us and provided PDA and its members to be a heard, visible and important voice. We thank all the members who put up their hands to be involved and to share their experiences, thoughts and opinions.

We have been heavily involved with AFDO in all aspects of their work, from Member Forums to Board Meetings to submission papers to Government and their Strategic Planning. We acknowledge the ongoing work of AFDO and look forward to

continuing our relationship with them as a Disability Representative Organisation.

Our Social Hours continue along and provide people with a space to feel connected, talk and belong and are very popular with our members. If you haven't yet joined us at a Social Hour, I would love to see you join us and add to the conversations. You never know what topic will come up, so you must be there to check it out.

As a part of the NDIA Review, we set up a most informative and educational webinar with special guest, NDIS Review Panel Member Dougie Herd. On behalf of the organisation, I would like to thank him for his time, his wisdom and insight and willingness to share what is happening.

Personally, I have been involved with the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) movement and have attended a forum in Brisbane and follow up online sessions. As the President of PDA, I see it as my responsibility to educate myself about what has and is affecting our members. The work has opened doors to be involved with the implementation of Person-Centred Emergency Planning in conjunction with the team at the University of Sydney. I find this work to be fascinating and, quite frankly, rather scary. My hope is that I will never have to enact my plan, but it is good to be prepared.

I would like to thank the Board for all their hard work in their home jurisdictions. Local knowledge is power.

I would like to acknowledge the work done by PDA's Directors and Associates for the work that they do in furthering PDA and advocating for the rights of Australia's disability community. I would also like to thank the staff: General Manager, Simon; Communications and Engagement Manager, Natasha; and our Finance guru, Trish for the work done behind the scenes. They keep the organisation rolling along, growing, and becoming more influential.

PDA has come a long way in the past 12 months. We have had some challenges, but

they have been risen to, and overcome. We will not sit back and say our work is done, it never is, but we will continue to maintain our position as the national peak membership-based representative organisation run by people with physical disability for people with physical disability.

Andrew Fairbairn
PDA President/WA Director

Our most recent webinar, “NDIS in Review – a conversation with Dougie Herd”, was a very interesting presentation that provided insights and stories around the establishment of the NDIS, thoughts and predictions moving forwards and gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions and to share ideas and opinions and be heard.



Since its inception 10 years ago, the NDIS has both been celebrated & criticised for the way in which it has delivered supports & services to participants, its eligibility criteria & whether it is fit for purpose.

In this exciting presentation, renowned & well respected disability advocate Dougie Herd shared his story of being a member of the senior executive leadership team of the NDIA, the launch of the NDIS and led the conversation around the release of the NDIS Review's preliminary “what we have heard” report based on public consultations and submissions.

This interesting presentation is now available to view on PDA's YouTube channel

[youtube.com/watch?v=60XMA6R_f9w&t=1512s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60XMA6R_f9w&t=1512s)).

Once you've watched this video, we encourage you complete a short survey on it (surveymonkey.com/r/2JV7MFB) and then check out our other videos and subscribe to PDA's YouTube channel so that you're notified when other presentations and webinars are uploaded.

We've got a number of exciting webinars in the pipeline for the rest of 2023 and into 2024, so make sure that you keep an eye out for our emails and social media posts about these.

On Sunday 5th February, PDA proudly launched the first ever Physical Disability Awareness Day, with people from all over Australia joining us to bring to life a day that was established after seeing a gap in the awareness calendar for highlighting physical disabilities.

This inaugural event was run as an online DisabiliTEA event, providing those attending with a celebration of support, friendships and recognition and promotion of the significant number of Australians living with a physical disability,



PDA Member Laura (pictured) was the lucky winner of a signed copy of our Ambassador, Dinesh Palipana's "Stronger" book at this event for having the most interesting tea cup.

Little did we know that this first year would spike interest globally. We have had a number of organisations and individuals overseas reach out to us to express a real interest in assisting us to turn it into an international awareness day from next year. Together we hope to put Physical Disability Awareness Day on the calendar and grow

and strengthen the movement to celebrate and raise awareness and consideration of the many millions of people globally who live with physical disability.

With so many wonderful ideas and feedback from those who did attend that event, we also look forward to growing and strengthening this opportunity of celebration and recognition moving forwards.

Thanks and congratulations must go out to the hardworking Committee (comprised of Sharon, Robert, Melanie, Tammy, Krystal, Andrew, Talia and Paul) who brought to life an event celebrating the achievements and contributions made by Australia's physical disability community.

The second Physical Disability Awareness Day will be held on Sunday 4th February 2024, **Walk with Us** will be introduced at venues across Australia and provide an opportunity for many to meet face to face and join in a roll and stroll type meetup. These events will be run at 10am local times and provide an opportunity for the awareness baton to be passed across Australia's and participating overseas countries' time zones and will be shared as live feeds across social media platforms. We are very excited about this and look forward to having as many people as possible involved.

Walk with Us venues will be dependent on our capabilities as an organisation and how many people sign up to be involved. If this is you, send an email to promotion@pda.org.au with details and together we'll work at making it happen.

For those outside of our **Walk with Us** event sites who wish to join in the celebration of Physical Disability Awareness Day, we will also be running our online **DisabiliTEA** on the same day at 2pm Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time (AEDT).

Details on registering for the **Walk with Us** and **DisabiliTEA** events will be provided closer to the day and we look forward to having as many of you as possible involved.

feel part of a community that cares and understands.

Social Hours are run on the first Monday of every month at 6pm AEST.

If you would like to join a session you can register by going to:
[us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqc--qqjkjG903J2KoieI9ASV?pwd=7b4mxr](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/903J2KoieI9ASV?pwd=7b4mxr)

If you don't already have a Zoom account, you can easily sign up for a FREE account by going to: zoom.us/join

Join us for one of our Socials soon. You'll be glad that you did!

Important Dates for the rest of 2023



Monday 2nd October 6pm AEST

PDA Social Hour

Register at:

[us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqc--qqjkjG903J2KoieI9ASV?pwd=7b4mxr](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/903J2KoieI9ASV?pwd=7b4mxr)

Monday 6th November 6pm AEST

PDA Social Hour

Register at:

[us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqc--qqjkjG903J2KoieI9ASV?pwd=7b4mxr](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/903J2KoieI9ASV?pwd=7b4mxr)

Saturday 18th November 1pm AEST

PDA AGM

All PDA Members are invited and encouraged to attend. The official notices and forms are attached below.

Register at:

[us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtcuGhqTqoGdIM26TRQrrr50MmX1PZ-4E9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/903J2KoieI9ASV?pwd=7b4mxr)

Monday 4th December 6pm AEST
PDA Social Hour/Christmas Bingo

Register at:

[us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqc--qqjkjG903J2KoieI9ASV?pwd=7b4mxr](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/903J2KoieI9ASV?pwd=7b4mxr)

Still getting this Newsletter by Post?



If you received this newsletter by post and have an email address, please update your details on the PDA Membership form by going to:

pda.org.au/membership/

In doing so you'll not only save PDA some much needed money, but also hear about email only opportunities, help us to go green and show greater consideration for the environment.

We also encourage all our Members to visit this link to update any changes to your contact details (whether email, address or telephone number) so that we can keep you in the loop regarding any important issues, membership opportunities or just to say "hi".

If you have friends, family or colleagues that you think might benefit from joining PDA, please encourage them to sign up for our FREE membership using the link above.

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter.

Thanks for being part of the PDA community.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 18 November 2023

1:00pm Australian Eastern Daylight-Saving Time

Physical Disability Australia (PDA) will hold its 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) by Zoom Video Conference.

All members are invited to register their intent to attend by clicking this registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZAtcuGhqTgoGdlM26TRQrrr50MmX1PZ-4E9>

Once you have registered, you will receive another email with details of the AGM and a link to the meeting. Make sure you have the Zoom app installed on your computer, tablet or phone.

Alternately, if you would like to attend by phone, please call the PDA Manager, Simon Burchill by close of business (5:00pm AEDT) **Friday 10 November** so that an accurate attendance list can be made and so that we can forward further meeting related documents to you. PDA's contact details are listed in the header of this letter.

At this year's AGM, the Directorships of Tim Marks (TAS) and Tim Harte (VIC) are reaching the end of their current 3 year terms, and there is a vacancy for the role of Associate Director (NT). Full members wishing to nominate for any of these roles need to complete and return the 'Nomination Form' (next page) by close of business on **Friday 10 November**. Similarly, if you wish to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf you need to complete and return the 'Appointment of Proxy Form' (below) by the same date.

We look seeing you at the meeting!



Proxy Appointment Form

2023 Physical Disability Australia Ltd AGM

I, _____
of (address) _____

being an individual member of the Physical Disability Australia Ltd (PDA) appoint:

- *Mr Andrew Fairbairn, President; or
- *(other PDA member) _____
of (address) _____

as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting to be held on **Saturday 18 November** and at any adjournment thereof.

My proxy is authorised to vote *in favour of/*against the following matters:

1. Election of new and/or renominating PDA Directors; and
2. Any other motions and or resolutions put to the quorum.

Signed: _____ Date ____/____/____

Note: If the member wishes to vote in a particular with regard positions on the PDA Board of Directors, or any other motions and/or resolutions put to the quorum, it is the appointing member's responsibility to communicate these to his or her proxy. Otherwise, the proxy may vote as he/she thinks fit.

Physical Disability Australia Ltd
PO Box 345
Toowong QLD 4066
T | 1800 PDA ORG (1800 732 674)
E | manager@pda.org.au
🌐 | www.pda.org.au



Nomination form for Directors / Associate Directors

I, _____ of _____,
(Full name of Nominee) (Nominee's address)

Telephone: _____ Email: _____,

Signature of Nominee: _____ Date: ___/___/___,

Wish to nominate for the role of Director / Associate Director of Physical
(Delete or circle as appropriate)
Disability Australia Ltd (PDA) for the 3 year term: December 2023 to November
2026.

This nomination is proposed and seconded by the following PDA members:¹

Proposer : _____ of _____
(Full name of Proposer) (Proposer's address)

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Signature of Proposer: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Secunder: _____ of _____
(Full name of Secunder) (Secunder's address)

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Signature of Secunder: _____ Date: ___/___/___

All nominations must be received by the PDA Manager by close of
business **Friday 10 November 2023**

Mail: PO Box 345, Toowong QLD 4066

Email: manager@pda.org.au

¹ If you don't know any other PDA members, please return the form anyway and we will assist you in finding proposers and seconders.