



Message from the CEO

Welcome to Down Syndrome Queensland's August update. You heard it here first, along the DSQ Grapevine!

On 31st July, the Queensland Government released the [Queensland Disability Reform Framework – The Next Chapter](#) (Framework). The Framework has been developed in consultation with the wider disability sector.

It provides a cohesive initial approach to disability reform in the context of the Disability Royal Commission and the Independent Review of the NDIS. Importantly these have been reviewed conjunction with each other, given the many intersections across recommendations and findings.

The Framework communicates the key outcomes for disability reform in Queensland across three Reform Domains.

Reform Domain 1 – Inclusion, Rights and Voices

There are three outcome areas under this reform domain: inclusion and participation; empowerment; partnership with people with disability. Examples of work focus include: increasing opportunities and pathways for people with disability in employment and reforming of guardianship systems to support independence.

Reform Domain 2 – Quality services and supports

There are six outcome areas under this reform domain: mainstream services; foundational supports; NDIS participant experience; NDIS systems and frameworks; quality and safeguards and disability workforce. Examples of work focus include: improving the attraction and retention of skilled workers in the disability workforce and reforms of the education, health, mental health, housing and justice mainstream service systems.

Reform Domain 3 – Commitment and Accountability

There are three outcome areas under this reform domain: inclusive governance; government partnerships and evidence and accountability. Examples of work focus include: establish governance structures that provide transparency and accountability of government reform initiatives.

DSQ will keep you abreast of future work in the reform space, through our work as a member of the Queensland Disability Network and Queensland Disability Advisory Council.

Written by Chris McMillan, Chief Executive Officer

The countdown has begun—only two months to go until the DSQ Gala Dinner, and we have fewer than 100 tickets remaining! This event is a chance to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month with us and support people with intellectual disabilities in living their best lives.

You can now make the most of your gala experience with a stay in the city! Enjoy exclusive discounts from our partner hotels:

- 15% off at Clix Apartments with promo code DSQ2024 ([Book now at Clix](#))
- 10% off at Rydges Southbank ([Book now at Rydges Southbank](#))
- 15% off plus additional perks at Kennigo Hotel Brisbane ([Book now at Kennigo](#))

These rates are only available for the night of the gala, so book now to secure your spot and make the most of this special evening!

We want to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful sponsors for their ongoing support of the gala and the wider DSQ community. This event would not be possible without the commitment and collaboration from our generous sponsors!

Thank you to **TO OUR GALA SPONSORS**

GOLD



SILVER

Packages available

BRONZE



Package available

TABLE



Packages available

SUPPORTER



RYDGES
HOTELS · RESORTS



Julia Dixon
HAMILTON WARD COUNCILLOR

CLLIX
APARTMENTS AND HOTELS



BOOK YOUR TICKETS

Written by Michael Harrison, Community Engagement & Fundraising Manager

SUPPORT SERVICES

Blood Tests – Tips and Tricks

Blood tests can be the most traumatic and stressful time for everyone involved. After many different blood test experiences with taking my three children, here are some tips I've learned to make it easier...

To read more of Amanda's blog, please click here:

<https://idqld.org.au/2024/06/11/easing-hospital-visits-with-books/>

DSQ Let's Chat – September Online Session

Let's Chat sessions are a space for adults with intellectual disability to talk openly and honestly about their feelings and experiences.

These sessions are also a great place to chat about life's joys and challenges. The activities and conversations that group members have will help to build group connection, encourage peer support, reduce stress, and increase coping skills. This group is facilitated by DSQ's Support Services Team.

Legal Considerations For Future Planning – Webinar

DSQ will be hosting a free online information session on disability law with Brennan Solicitors. Nathan and Tony will provide a concise and easy-to-understand presentation on various strategies available to secure the future well-being of your loved one.

Brennans Solicitors is a reputable law firm based in Birtinya on the Sunshine Coast who specialise in Wills and Estates, Property Law, Commercial Law and Litigation. Brennans Solicitors merged with Insight Law and Insight Disability Law in May 2024 who have a particular interest in disability law which continues to be a key area for Brennans Solicitors moving forward.

The topics that will be discussed include setting up wills and trusts. If you or someone you know may be interested in the opportunity to gain a better understanding of these often complex and daunting legal matters, please join us for this session!

Date: Tuesday 10th September 2024

Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm (QLD)

Where: Online on Zoom

Register here: <https://www.downsyndrome.org.au/blog/event/legal-considerations-for-future-planning-webinar/>

Written by Laura Mugaba, Support Services Manager

Bookings for ID:8 Transition Consults now open!

EDUCATION

We are excited to announce that we are currently taking bookings for ID:8 Transition Consults!

This is a unique opportunity to enhance the transition experience from this year to next year for the teaching team and your students with Down syndrome or intellectual disability.


At DSQ, we understand that these transitions can be both exciting and challenging for educators and students. That's why we would like to make you aware that our ID:8 consultation service can support you in this crucial phase.

Continues on next page


Our vision is to make the transition process as seamless and inclusive as possible. We propose a collaborative approach, involving the current teacher, the upcoming 2025 teacher, and our DSQ Education Consultant. Set an inclusive goal to ensure a successful transition for your student into their new class or school 2025.

To support the transition process, schools who access a FREE ID:8 transition consult can receive a range of valuable resources such as:

Transition Passport: A comprehensive document to help you compile all the critical information about the student in one place for the 2025 teaching team.




Transition Checklist: Utilise this tool to assess and monitor the transition support put in place.



Social Story Templates: These templates, designed for both primary and secondary students, aid in creating social stories that enhance students' understanding and help them adapt to new environments and teachers.



'About Me' Template: A one-page resource for parents and their child to outline their vision for schooling and beyond, highlight their strengths and interests, and specify how they prefer to be supported.



We can also create and tailor resources that suit the specific needs of the staff and student. To start your transition planning, we invite you to view our latest FREE education webinar on Transitions!

Watch now: <https://youtu.be/kZIN-OMQ6zM>

Our consults can be booked around your schedule. We can be available during school hours, before or after school, or on the upcoming Pupil Free Day, Friday 30th August.

For more information and to request support, contact our DSQ ID:8 Team at id8@downsyndromeqld.org.au

Join our next cohort for the Possibility Pathways Program!

PROGRAMS

Ready to unlock new opportunities? Our Possibility Pathways Program is here to support young Queenslanders with intellectual disabilities in achieving their career and personal dreams.

Over 8 weeks, you'll gain essential job skills, from resume writing to IT literacy, all while receiving ongoing support from our dedicated employment team.

Upcoming cohorts:

- Monday 14 October - Tuesday 9 December
- Monday 3 February - Tuesday 14 April

Location: DSQ Ascot Office, 77 Kitchener Road, Ascot

Days & Times: Mondays & Tuesdays, 9am to 3pm

Cost: Absolutely no cost (no NDIS funding needed!)

Spaces are limited - apply now and take the first step towards your possibilities!

Apply now: https://groups.operoo.com/public_forms/1109429/new

Written by Georgie Greaves, Office Manager

BECOME A MEMBER

www.downsyndrome.org.au/qld



Down Syndrome
Queensland