



Message from the CEO

Welcome to Down Syndrome Queensland's July update: the Grapevine!

Early last month the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill 2024 (NDIS Bill) was reviewed by the Senate. On 27 June 2024, the Senate voted to refer the NDIS Bill back to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for further inquiry.

In its inquiry, the Senate Committee must examine any circulated amendments to the NDIS Bill and the positions of state and territory governments. The Senate Committee will report by 5 August 2024. The Senate Committee will list details of its consideration of the Bill [here](#), under the Current Inquiries heading.

Over the coming month, the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services will monitor the Committee's further inquiry. I will provide any relevant updates as necessary.

In the last quarter of 2023, we delivered the first Possibility Pathways Program (funded by the Department of Employment Small Business & Training through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative). The Program has been a success, and I am pleased to share that DSQ has been successful in applying for continued funding for 2025. The program aims to help develop the foundation skills to support young people with an intellectual disability so they may pursue their career aspirations to further training, employment or improved job roles.

The next cohort for the Possibility Pathways Program commences 22 July - 10 September. To find out more, please contact the office office@downsyndromeqld.org.au.

As always there is a lot happening behind the scenes. Enjoy reading about the variety of DSQ activities!

Written by Chris McMillan, Chief Executive Officer

What a spectacular week at the World Down Syndrome Congress 2024 in Brisbane!

With over 1,000 delegates from more than 45 countries, we've witnessed amazing performances and powerful presentations from people with Down syndrome, their supporters and experts in health, inclusion, employment, advocacy and more.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has dedicated their time and energy to share their talents and expertise, including talented small business owners with Down syndrome, disability rights and self advocates, medical researchers and leading experts in the community.

The weeks has been filled with meaningful connections, enriching conversations, and stories that celebrate the resilience and achievements of individuals with Down syndrome. We appreciated having this unforgettable experience hosted in our very own sunny Queensland, and being a part of something truly special.

Watch the Congress recap here:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/F2ArWUWR3EnGK2Tf/>

Planning Ahead

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

With the start of July, it's time to start planning your next six months and locking in things to get excited about! One of these is definitely the DSQ Gala Dinner on 25 October 2024 at Victoria Park. In what promises to be a very special night, this is a unique opportunity for our community to dress to impress and celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in style.

Quite simply:

Put on your dancing shoes, my friend,

Share the news and let it trend,

DSQ's Gala is the place to impress,

Helping people with Down syndrome live their best,

Click the link to learn more, this is one event you have to explore!

BOOK YOUR TICKETS

Written by Michael Harrison, Community Engagement & Fundraising Manager

Easing Hospital Visits with Books

Going to hospital for an appointment, surgery or for a stay can be very daunting for a child. Hospitals can be a very scary, unfamiliar and a strange new world.

Creating a Social Story together about the experience by allowing your child to know what to expect can sometimes put a child's worries at ease. By using words, drawings, pictures or photos of themselves, other children or their favourite character you can explain what will happen, how they may feel and how we can deal with these emotions or problems together. This will hopefully help prepare them for their particular hospital experience.

To read more of Amanda's blog, please click here: <https://idqld.org.au/2024/06/11/easing-hospital-visits-with-books/>

Down Syndrome Australia (DSA) National Information Survey

DSA want to hear from people with Down syndrome! Help DSA by doing a short survey, which can take about 10 minutes. The Survey is in Easy Read. You can ask someone you know to support you.

In this survey DSA ask questions about:

- finding information
- getting support.

DSA want to know about:

- what works well for you
- what does not work well
- any problems with getting the right support.

This will help DSA to provide the right support and information for people with Down syndrome.

If you have questions, contact Down Syndrome Australia:

Phone: 1300 344 954

Email: info@downsyndrome.org.au

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Written by Laura Mugaba, Support Services Manager

New podcast on curriculum planning for students with intellectual disability

EDUCATION

The DSQ Education Team have recently released an in-depth podcast: Individualised Plans for Students Accessing an Alternative Curriculum Level. This podcast episode brings together interviews with senior advisors from each of the three education systems in Queensland (State, Independent, and Catholic systems) to discuss students with intellectual disability accessing curriculum aligned with their year level curriculum, alongside their age peers, but that is adjusted to the expectations of a lower year level or to highly individualised goals.

We delve into how teachers make decisions about who should access these individualised curriculum plans, what evidence and processes are involved, how to make decisions about what year level curriculum should be the access point for the student, and what the implications of these plans might be.

Listen here: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6pABqx8NLbIvYQgiZIX82a>

The DSQ Education Team have experience supporting teachers with individualised curriculum planning for students with Down syndrome and/or another intellectual disability. Email us at education@downsyndromeqld.org.au if you would like to find out more about how we can support you with this planning.

LISTEN NOW

Written by Carly Lassig, Lead Education Consultant

PROGRAMS

Applications are open for Project SEARCH Internship Program – An initiative from Uniting Care

The Project SEARCH Transition to-Work Program is a unique, business-led, one-year employment preparation program that takes place entirely at the workplace.

The program assists young adults aged 17 – 28 with a disability to develop workplace skills and secure pathways into stable and rewarding employment in the open labour market.

Learn more by viewing the flyer below, or contact Cameron Williams at cameron.williams@uccomunity.org.au.

Written by Georgie Greaves, Office Manager

BECOME A MEMBER

www.downsyndrome.org.au/qld



Down Syndrome
Queensland