



N E D A

NATIONAL ETHNIC DISABILITY ALLIANCE

People with disability from migrant & refugee backgrounds

What's happening nationally?

26 July 2017



About NEDA

- Disabled People's Organisation
- Advocates nationally for CALD PWD
- Founding member of DPO Australia
 - FPDN; PWDA; WWDA;

www.dpoa.org.au

Advocacy:

- cross disability
- Human rights framework/social model of disability
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CALD PWD in Australia

- Approx 4 million PWD in Australia
 - 1 million are CALD (that's 25%)
- Recently arrived? e.g asylum seekers, refugees or migrants
- From refugee/migrant backgrounds? e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd (etc) generation
- Stats: SDAC, Census, Settlement data

www.neda.org.au



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CALD PWD in Australia

- Experience intersectional discrimination
 - Discrimination is structural & social- stems from language, cultural and migration related factors
 - Compounded by other factors: poverty; migration status; gender; sexuality; religion etc
 - Significant barriers to access and equity
 - Underrepresented in mainstream service systems



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Rights & Protections

- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)
- National Disability Strategy (NDS)
- Disability Discrimination Act (1992)

CALD:

- Race Discrimination Act (1975)
- Australian Multicultural Policy (now statement)



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Disability Discrimination in Migration

- Migrants with disability typically denied permanent residency
 - Migration Act exempt from DDA
 - PWD fail the 'health requirement'
 - Found to be discriminatory by the UN & our own Senate Inquiry 'Enabling Australia'



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10 (15?) year rule & Citizenship

- Only Australian Citizens & permanent residents can access Government services (typically) e.g. NDIS, welfare support, HECs, Public Housing, etc
- PWD who migrate to Australia MUST meet 10 year residency prior to being eligible for DSP
- Current Bills- Citizenship & Payment Integrity Bill both disproportionately affect PWD



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NDIS

- From block-funded to individualised
- PWD required to navigate a marketplace
- Puts PWD at the centre of decision making
- Only 465 000 PWD; vast majority of PWD aren't eligible!
- Approx 70% are ppl w cognitive disability or ID
- Currently 4-6% CALD (NDIA says 20% expected to be CALD); significant underrepresentation!!



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Future of Advocacy

- Advocacy is vital for protecting/promoting human rights of PWD
- Independent, impartial
- Uncertain future? NDAP? State/territories?
- Increased advocacy need
(open market place: NDIS; DES)



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Economic Participation of PWD

- Ableism; including lack of access, soft bigotry of low expectations
- Very low workforce participation of PWD (50%)
- High unemployment rates of PWD (27% of PWD have full time jobs)
- Exacerbated for CALD PWD (70% of CALD PWD unemployed)



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Accessible Infrastructure and Transport

- Transport is a state responsibility
- Accessible public transport significant issue for PWD
- ‘Islands of accessibility’; no seamless whole of journey experiences
- Lack of confidence with equivalent access = providers applying for exemptions to DSAPT
- Underpins social & economic participation



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Housing

- Lack of affordable & accessible housing a big issue for PWD
- Location of affordable & accessible houses in relation to public transport hubs
- NDIS: ‘Specialist Disability Accommodation’; we need to ensure we’re not building problems of the old system into the new (e.g. forced co-habitation etc)



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Social Welfare System

Need to ensure a fair & equitable welfare system

- Reviewing 90K PWD on DSP
- 10 (15 year) wait
- 3 Strike proposal disproportionately affects PWD (inc random drug testing)
- 'Workfare' arrangements- linking DSP payments to DES



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Building PWD into the system

CRPD states PWD are to lead design, implementation and monitoring on all policy that affects them

- Need to move from consultation to true co-design
- DPOs, disability advocacy orgs and other representative organisations are critical- that's where the expertise is!