

# Peer Support & Disabled Persons' and Family Organisations (DPFOs)

- Successful implementation of the NDIS requires participants to be empowered to make choices and take control.
- Participants continue with services used prior to transition and do not use capacity building provided under reasonable and necessary support. Plan utilisation is below expectation. The UK Government addressed similar challenges by funding Disabled Persons' User Led Organisations (DPULOs)
- Will the UK experience assist the NDIS?

Extending the Australian version of user led organisations, DPFOs is a low cost strategy that can assist people with disability to make choices and take control as well as transform the system.

There is a gap in the NDIS infrastructure foreshadowed by the Productivity Commission

- The Productivity Commission envisaged a new type of organisation, a Disability Support Organisation (DSO), to act as an agent for a people with disability on a range of matters including implementation of a person's package of support.
- In 2014, the NDIA funded 20 DSOs outreaching to a very small part of the target group. Project evaluation demonstrated effectiveness of the approach.
- The name DSO caused confusion with calls for name change to Disabled Persons and Family Organisations to consolidate identity as rights-based organisations of and for people with lived experience and differentiate them from providers of core supports.

We have a great solution

In UK, DPULOs:

- support people to exercise choice and control by providing wide range of supports.
- Social Care Institute for Excellence provided quantitative and qualitative evidence of effectiveness.
- were funded by government for their effective role in the transformation of social care.

In NDIS, DPFOs could:

- focus on a range of target groups e.g. by age, disability type, geographical area etc.
- host peer support groups.
- support people to build a vision, develop skills, connect with others in similar situations, take action to improve access and inclusion in community.
- have capacity to be a 'guide for life' while the LACs is a guide on the Participant Pathway.
- be a resource to the NDIA in planning, capacity building, removing barriers in community, support participation and belonging.
- provide individual capacity building.

We can deliver & mitigate the risks

1. Risks associated with not investing in DPFOs include:
  - a) many will cease to exist
  - b) NDIS will lose a one stop shop for a thoughtful voice
  - c) there will be less informal and community support for people
  - d) there will be pressure for increased reasonable and necessary support.
2. Use ILC to fund a network of DPFOs in local and regional communities.
3. Support peer networks to flourish.
4. Incentivise and support DPFOs to provide individual capacity building.
5. Provide a Technical Support Hub to support DPFOs with:
  - a) Training and development
  - b) Resources
  - c) Consultancy support.