

# TEN PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS DISABILITY INEQUITY

In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities for the National Disability Strategy and National Disability Insurance Scheme.

FDPN launched a 10-point-plan for the implementation of the NDIS in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, with bipartisan support, in 2013. In 2018, FDPN is launching an updated document to include *all* First Peoples with disability.

Not all people with disability are eligible for the NDIS, and while the original 10-point-plan still has merit, the new plan must be broader and more comprehensive. The national rollout of the NDIS is now well underway and these priorities are informed by the experiences of our people through a period of significant change in the disability sector.

A key aspect is the requirement that appropriate companion schemes and services are available and accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the long-term. These priorities are intended to form the foundation for a comprehensive

national plan collaboratively created to ensure that the services and supports provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disability accessible, culturally appropriate and will work in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This can be achieved by adopting a whole of community approach.

**The plan should be based on the ten priorities identified by FDPN and be developed by using three pillars:**

1. Build the capacity of communities and individuals to understand their rights and entitlements
2. Invest to create a First People's Community Controlled service sector
3. Develop and support an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce

1



Invest to create an Aboriginal Community Controlled Disability Service Sector for the provision of disability supports by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability for their communities

2



Address the barriers facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

3



Prioritise timely intervention to ensure supports and services are provided, and available over the long-term, and at the right time in people's lives

4



Recognise and value the existing knowledge, skills and expertise within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We are leaders in the inclusion of people with disability

5



Resource a community-directed research strategy which specifically focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disability

6



Endorse and support peer-to-peer leadership to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability lead the engagement with community themselves

7



Develop and implement an access to justice strategy for First People with disability, particularly those with cognitive impairment, sensory and intellectual disability

8



Develop and implement programs for inclusive education and employment for First People with disability in line with national strategies for their full social participation

9



Create links between the National Disability Strategy and Closing the Gap Framework for coordinated policy and programs at the Commonwealth, State and local levels in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability and their organisations

10



Develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Performance Framework for the independent monitoring of the social and economic outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability



In conclusion, we acknowledged that common goals, and respectful partnerships such as those between the national representative disabled people's organisations, between the First Nations national peak and community controlled organisations, and between FDPN and governments are key to achieving the outcomes outlined above. Together we must stay the course.