



# Country Report: Australia

Asia Pacific Down Syndrome  
Federation Meeting 2018

# Information and Awareness

- Development of a suite of new resources for families that provide information at some of the key life stages and transition points for a person with Down syndrome:
  - Guide for expectant parents
  - Guide for new parents
  - Early years
  - Adolescence
  - Living independently
  - Employee's Guide
  - Employer's Guide
  - Ageing
- Translation of four resources into Cantonese, Hindi, Vietnamese, and Arabic
- Creation of community inclusion toolkits that provide practical advice, tips, and guidance on inclusion. These focus on health, employment, education and community groups.
- World Down Syndrome Day Morning Tea 2018 hosted by our Patron, the Governor General of Australia.



# Policy and Advocacy

- Development of the Down Syndrome Advisory Network- a national group of self-advocates who meet monthly and provide advice to the DSA CEO and Board
- Advocacy on the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (funding for disability services). This includes addressing eligibility for the scheme, issues with planning meetings, and barriers to services
- Position statements on inclusive education, employment and prenatal screening
- Advocacy on access to the Disability Support Pension and reviews of eligibility.
- Advocacy on issues around prenatal screening/ NIPS.



# New Initiatives

- Grant to develop a single national information portal (website) on Down syndrome bringing together the 9 websites that currently provide information about Down syndrome in Australia.
- Funding to further develop the community toolkit and to create a new app to distribute these tools
- ACT and NSW Jurisdictional grants which will provide support, community engagement and linkages for families in the ACT and NSW.
- Continued grant funding from the Sherry Hogan Foundation to support the continued development of a National Down Syndrome Advisory Network
- Funding to develop a digital version of Voice and to promote its reach to regional areas of Australia