



# Country Update Australia

**Angus Graham, OAM, Chairman**  
**Dr Ellen Skladzien, CEO**

# Key Outcomes

- Introduction of Inaugural World Down Syndrome Day Parliamentary Morning Tea
- Participation in the independent review of the NDIS Act – one of only four groups representing people with intellectual disability invited to do so
- Development of the DSA Easy Read website
- Release of the first DSA National Survey collecting information from people with Down syndrome and their families
- Participation in the Disability Discrimination Commissioner National Consultations on ‘Shaping our Future’

# Key Outcomes (cont'd)

- Collaboration with the National Ethnic Disability Association to address discrimination against people with Down syndrome regarding migration to Australia
- Release and publication of 3 new resources – Down syndrome in the Workforce for employees, Down syndrome in the Workforce for employers, and Ageing and Down syndrome
- Successful bid for the 2022 World Down Syndrome Congress
- Commencement of new CEO, Dr Ellen Skladzien
- Commencement of new Voice editor, Leticia Hodson

# Memberships

- Full membership of AFDO (almost!)
- Continual participation in the First Step Alliance, an alliance in the development and delivery of the Better Start workshops
- Australian Council on Social Services (ACOSS)
- Inclusion Australia
- Asia Pacific Down Syndrome Association
- Down Syndrome International

# Our most recent success

Below is a highlight of some of what we have achieved in the last year.

## Success in attracting grants/philanthropic support

- ILC National Grant
- ILC Jurisdictional Grant
- Sherry-Hogan project (more funding than previous years)
- AFDO ILC Readiness Grant/ smaller projects
- Alzheimer's Australia grant
- Increase in passive donations (approximately 50% increase in paypal donations)

# Our most recent success (cont'd)

## Improved profile

- Increased following on social media (40% increase in facebook followers in 12 months)
- Increased visitors to our website (40% increase in website traffic over the last year- (152,974 vs 109,061))
- Good uptake of our new newsletter with 475 direct recipients and more than 800 opens
- Positive impact of our World Down Syndrome Day Count Down
- Increased subscribers to Voice including international (through the website)

# Our most recent success (cont'd)

## Improved collaboration

- Collaboration on the ILC Grants
- 7/8 states agreeing to the logo
- All states participating in Voice
- Monthly EO meetings and good collaboration
- Agreement to collaboration on national resources
- Agreement to work towards a national website
- Work commenced on sharing of a CRM

# Our most recent success (cont'd)

## Increase in Policy and Advocacy Work

- 6 major submissions developed and provided to Government
- Contributions to other submissions through AFDO
- Outcomes achieved in terms of the Disability Support Pension

## Development of new initiatives

- Preliminary work on a Down Syndrome Advisory Network
- National Resources and Toolkits being developed through ILC
- Publication on dementia