



From the IIMHL and IIDL Update List

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## Country Resources for COVID-19 and Disability

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### **Looking at COVID -19 through the fresh lens of capacity building – Discovering positive opportunities during a difficult time**

On the 26th June 2020, this session was hosted by Maryanne Diamond, Eddie Bartnik and Anne Skordis, Co-Chairs of the Australian National Reference Group for IIDL and featured key presenters from their national and international network.

This session was originally scheduled for our Australia and New Zealand Regional Combined IIDL/IIMHL face to face meeting in Sydney but was subsequently scheduled as a Zoom meeting and we were delighted that this also enabled some of our colleagues from New Zealand and England to also join us. A total of 55 members participated in the zoom meeting and lively discussion.

The objectives for the session were as follows

(<https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/20200815a.pdf> for full program):

- Fresh focus on lessons learned and new opportunities arising from the COVID -19 experience
- Australian and international perspectives from national organisations and lived experience
- Rapid exchange of latest information, resources and ideas
- Continue momentum of the IIDL Australian membership network during the COVID -19 situation where face to face regional and international meetings are being postponed
- The meeting also provided an update from the Australian IIDL Reference Group and sought members involvement in our exciting plans for Australian domestic and joint New Zealand events in 2020 – 2022.

The session was of very high quality and featured a series of outstanding speakers including:

- Australian speaker Dr Sam Bennett, General Manager of Advice, Research and Evaluation with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) (<https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/20200815b.pdf>). Sam highlighted the whole of system learnings about collaboration and ensuring continuity of flexible, required supports as well as feedback and evidence to learn as we progress through the phases of recovery.
- International speaker – Clenton Farquharson MBE, Chair of Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) Partnership UK and IIDL SCLG member for England (<https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/20200815c.pdf>). Clenton highlighted the England experience and key issues of intersectionality and health inequalities, including the disproportionate impacts on disabled people and the importance of economic development and social inclusion
- Australian songwriter and musician, Dan Read from Gympie in Queensland, who shared from his personal experience. Dan was assisted by his friend Linc. (<https://vimeo.com/431492751>). This presentation highlighted the importance of a “can do attitude”, relationships, a network of family, friends and supporters and being the master of one’s own destiny with the support of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- It was decided to make the 2 hour video available to all IIDL and IIMHL members (<https://www.veed.io/download/0f9aa52b-d22f-410e-8c4a-29d4d5c5cd98>)

Future plans include a member survey for IIDL members in Australia, the establishment of some virtual match networks aligned to match areas for Christchurch 2022 and the combined Australia and New Zealand IIMHL/IIDL regional event in Sydney March 2021.

Eddie Bartnik  
Chair – Sponsoring Countries Leadership Group  
International Initiative for Disability Leadership

### **COVID-19 planning resource for people with disability to make a plan for their own individual needs and situation during COVID-19**

This planning guide helps people with disability to get the facts about Coronavirus (COVID-19) and make a plan for how they will manage the impact of this situation. People with disability need a plan that is tailored to their unique support needs.

This planning guide was developed by researchers at The University of Sydney who lead research on disability inclusive disaster risk reduction. It was developed in partnership with the Queenslanders with Disability Network with funding from the Queensland Government Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors. We work in partnership with people with disability to make sure they are included in all decisions about emergency management and disaster risk. This resource was co-designed with people with disability and their representatives. We collaborated with the Australian Government Department of Health to make this guide nationally relevant – so that all Australians with disability can make a COVID-19 plan that is tailored to their capabilities and support needs. The Australian

Government Department of Health supported the translation of this planning guide into an Easy Read format.

The COVID-19 Planning Resource for People with Disability enables people with disability to exercise control over their response to planning how to manage during the pandemic. It is a helpful resource for people with disability to work with people who support them (including family and paid supports) to develop their individual plan. It also assists organisations and governments to understand needs and supports to be able to continue to deliver essential services during times of critical need during the pandemic. There is also easy read version. They can be found here at <https://collaborating4inclusion.org/covid-19-person-centred-emergency-preparedness/>

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