



1. What is a network?

A network is when groups or people join together to have their voices heard and to make change happen.

People or groups network because they care about the same issues.

Instead of one group or person speaking up there are lots of groups or people speaking up.

People listen to what networks have to say!!!



2. Why are networks important?

Networks are important because:

- There is strength in numbers.
- The more people who join together the louder voice you have.
- You can learn from each other and share your information, ideas, and resources.
- You can work together to plan projects and campaigns to make change happen.
- It can lead to other opportunities and projects.
- You get to meet other people and new groups.





3. Why do you want to network?

Some of the reasons you might want to network with other groups or people are to:

- Speak up about the issues faced by people with a disability such as jobs, housing, rights, accessible transport, abuse and neglect and more.
- Join together with other self advocacy groups to support each other and speak out about the issues.
- Share information and learn from other groups and organisations.
- Learn new things, share skills and ideas and make new friends.
- Get support to set up a national self advocacy network.



Activity Idea

Discuss why your group wants to network with others and make a list of the issues that are important to you.



4. How to start networking.

Step 1: Decide why you want to network.

Step 2: Find the right groups and/or people to network with. To find the right group you can use:

- The internet – try googling the issue or ideas you are interested in.
- Word of mouth – talk to people and organisations you already know and ask for their help.
- The organization contact list which is on the next page.

5. Start Networking

Here are some top tips to start networking with the groups or the people who are interested in working with you:

- Ask to go on their mailing list and add them to your mailing list.
- Invite them to visit your group.
- Ask to visit their organization or group.
- Talk about projects, campaigns or issues you can work on together.
- Hold a forum and send out invites.
- Hold planning meetings.
- Share your resources.



Contact Information

Below are the names of different organisations or groups who might want to work with your group.

Disability Advocacy Services

To find a disability advocacy service near you contact:
the Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA)
Ph: 02 6175 1300

Disabled Peoples Organisations

National Ethnic Disability Alliance
Ph: 02 6262 6867 or 0407 878 933

Women With Disabilities Australia
Ph: 0438 535 123
Email: carolyn@wwda.org.au

People With Disability Australia
Ph: 1800 422 015

Physical Disability Australia
Ph: 1800 732 674
Email: manager@pda.org.au

Inclusion Australia
Email: paul.cain@inclusionaustralia.org.au



Disabled Peoples Organisations *continued*

Blind Citizens Australia

Ph: 1800 033 660 or 03 9654 1400

Down Syndrome Australia

Email: info@downsyndrome.org.au

Brain Injury Australia

Ph: 1800 272 461

Email: admin@braininjuryaustralia.org.au

Deaf Australia

Email: info@deafaustalia.org.au

Deafblind Australia

Phone: 427 006 890

Email: info@deafblind.org.au

First Peoples Disability Network

Ph: 02 8399 0882

Email: enquiries@fpdn.org.au

Autistic Advocacy Network

Email: autisticadvocacy@gmail.com



Legal Services

Intellectual Disability Rights Service

Ph: 02 9318 0144 or 1300 665 908

Email: info@idrs.org.au

Villamanta Legal Service

Ph: 03 5227 3338 or 1800 014 111

Email: legal@villamanta.org.au

Community Legal Services

Follow this link to find one near you

http://www.naclc.org.au/need_legal_help.php