



**NATIONAL ETHNIC
DISABILITY ALLIANCE**

**2007-2008
Annual Report**



National Ethnic Disability Alliance

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NEDA gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance provided by the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

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Key Statements

Vision

An inclusive Australia where cultural diversity and disability rights are valued as essential aspects of an equitable society.

Mission

To represent the rights and interests of people from non-English Speaking Backgrounds (NESB) with disability, their families and carers across Australia.

Purpose

NEDA exists to:

- Advocate at the federal level for the rights and interests of people from NESB with disability, their families and carers so that they can participate fully in all aspects of social, economic, political and cultural life.
- Provide policy advice to the federal government and other agencies to secure equitable outcomes for people from NESB with disability, their families and carers.

Statement of Principles

- People from NESB with disability, their families and carers are individuals who have the right to be respected for their human worth and dignity, and to be free from all forms of discrimination.
- People from NESB with disability, their families and carers are experts in knowing how they want to receive services and supports.
- All our activities must take into account the lived experience of people from NESB with disability, their families and carers.
- We believe that the interests of all people in society are best served by establishing equal rights and opportunities for people from NESB with disability, their families and carers.
- We are accountable to people NESB with disability, their families and carers and to the agencies who provide our funds.
- We are open, honest and transparent in our relationships.

President's Report

The NEDA 2007 & 2008 year has been very busy & a year of transition for the organisation. NEDA has experienced changes to both its Council & Staffing, all within a year. NEDA & its membership has seen a change of government at a Federal level, with prospects of improvements in legislation & rights including creating a higher profile of the needs of families & people with disability. Within government in particular, increased participation across the board for people from NESB with disability in Australia is gaining momentum.

NEDA was honoured in early 2008 to host a visit from the new Parliamentary Secretary for Disability, the Hon. Mr Bill Shorten, MP, where he was briefed on the many issues facing peoples from NESB with disability. Its true to say forming collaborative partnerships with the Australian Government is essential in ensuring we are all working in the right direction.

2007 / 2008 has also been a highly significant symbolic year for all people with disability around the globe, with the passage of the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD), a treaty which has rightfully generated a new aspiration of change for the disability movement.

Time will tell how this UN Convention will be utilised & put to use in government policy & programs.

NEDA has worked diligently with the Australian Government to highlight human rights issues of concern for people from NESB with disability, particularly in the area of migration which is highly topical at the moment.

There are real constraints which hinder the future growth & development of small peak organisations like NEDA & the continual need to be recognised by the funding bodies. It is truly amazing the productivity of NEDA & its ability to manage the work load & response to government bodies within its finite resources.

However, NEDA as an organisation continues to grow, consolidate & strengthen its advocacy role as representative of the NESB disability sector of the community.

NEDA's Board has seen the addition of 2 new members, Ms Theresa Chu, representing 'Diversity & Disability' (DnD) & Ms Elida Meadows representing the Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCoT) each bringing an array of skills to value add to the Council.

Unfortunately NEDA had to farewell Ms Janet To, & Ms Sajini Sumar in the middle of the year. Sincere thanks go to these 2 Council members for their sterling contribution to NEDA's past, present & future. Ms Christine Williams is also acknowledged for her important, but brief contribution during 2008.

NEDA is certain that all this accumulation of talent will be utilised elsewhere for the betterment of NESB people.

NEDA's Council held 2 face to face meeting during '07 & '08 – one in Alice Springs NT, & the other in Sydney, NSW. Two face to face meeting are a rare occurrence in any given financial year, since budget constraints usually mean that Council can only meet once per year. All remaining Council meetings occur by teleconference, nationwide. As you may appreciate working in this manner is not easy & presents difficulties of logistics, time & distance. Consolidating & working as a team is equally difficult to achieve. Under the circumstances it can be said that NEDA manages their governance & business responsibilities with great aptitude.

NEDA's February '08 face to face meeting in Alice Springs was a particularly memorable & productive experience. Not only did Council engage in serious hard work in developing the Strategic Plan for 2009 – 2012 (a document that will be released in early 2009) but also engaged with community to meet key stakeholders working in advocacy & service delivery to the multicultural community in Central Australia.

It was an opportunity to experience and understand the tyranny of distance & associated issues that go with living in rural & remote areas. A welcoming BBQ was held to introduce the NEDA members to the wider NESB community; this presented an occasion for positive interaction & was a real learning curve for all who participated.

As you will see from the Executive Officers report the work output from NEDA has been tremendous (see particularly the list of submissions and reports at page 12). Due thanks & acknowledgement is given for the enthusiasm & energy of Dr Dinesh Wadiwel for his dedication & commitment in advancing the aims & objectives of NEDA as a whole, and enhancing our credibility as an organisation.

In conclusion my sincere appreciation to my fellow councillors for their passion, time, commitment & hard work. Special thanks for your support, loyalty & gusto in making NEDA what it is today, a highly reputable and respected peak body organisation.

Michele Castagna 2008

Executive Officer's Report

I began in this role at NEDA in August 2007. It has been an honour to lead such a strong and principled organisation through what has been a busy and productive year. NEDA continues to use its 2005-2008 Strategic Directions as a framework to guide the organisation: I will report on progress for the organisation under each of the identified four key priority areas.

Policy Advice

NEDA continues to be a strong advocate at the national level seeking legislative and policy improvements. It provided substantial policy input to a range of policy areas including the National Disability Advocacy Program Review, the Disability Standards for Accessible Transport, Housing Affordability and Supported Accommodation, Citizenship, Immigration and Detention Centres and Employment.

In particular, there are two key areas of NEDA strategic policy work that are worth highlighting.

Firstly, NEDA has engaged proactively with the new Australian Government's social inclusion agenda. While NEDA is supportive of the new approach, NEDA remains concerned that the framework of social inclusion does not encompass cultural and linguistic inclusion as core elements, and thus risks glossing over the need for people from NESB, including people with disability, to actively participate in Australian social and economic life. NEDA has briefed members of the Australian Social Inclusion Board, and has also presented on social inclusion at key opportunities, such as the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) National Conference.

Secondly, NEDA has concentrated significant effort in using the new United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a tool to improve the rights of people from NESB with disability. In 2008 NEDA has worked proactively with key stakeholders, including the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) to highlight the discrimination faced by migrants and refugees with disability, particularly in relation to migration administration and social security entitlements.

A list of NEDA submissions and reports is included at page 12 of this report. Individual submissions are available on NEDA's website or by contacting the NEDA office.

Representation

NEDA actively represented the rights and interests of people from NESB with disability, our families and carers at the following high level reference groups:

- Advisory Committee on Functioning and Disability Data (ACFADD)
- Attorney General's Non Government Human Rights Forum
- Australian Bureau of Statistics Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Reference Group
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Centrelink Disability Customer Service Reference Group
- Centrelink National Multicultural Reference Group
- Cultural Considerations Project Committee
- Multicultural Mental Health Consortium
- People with Disability / Disability Studies Research Centre Abuse and Violence Project
- Telstra Disability Forum

NEDA works closely with member organisations and key stakeholders in order to adequately represent the issues faced by people from NESB with disability, their families and carers. In June 2008 NEDA held a face to face meeting of member organisations and a number of key stakeholders in order to plan strategically for the coming year, and enable networking.

Networking and Partnerships

NEDA continues to build productive, open and honest partnerships with a range of stakeholders in order improve the rights, wellbeing and participation of people from NESB with disability.

NEDA has fostered good relationships with key national peak organisations: working closely with FECCA on issues affecting migrants with disability, productive partnership with ACOSS on developing a "Diverse Communities" workshop at national social inclusion conference, and continuing representation on the Multicultural Mental Health Australia consortium are examples of our continuing success in this area.

NEDA also developed its research capacity during the 2007/2008 year, with the aim of taking a lead role in improving statistics and data on people from NESB with disability in Australia. NEDA formed a partnership with the University of South Australia in order to secure funding for a research project, and has also been in discussion with research organisations such as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the University of New South Wales Social Policy Research Centre.

Organisational Capacity

NEDA recognises the importance of investing in increasing organisational and governance capacity. In 2007 / 2008 NEDA Council held two face to face meetings, an investment that paid dividends in providing opportunities for the governance board to focus on policy development and strategy for the organisation. During the year NEDA took the opportunity to redraft its Financial Management policy, with tighter and clearer accountabilities and delegations agreed upon. Organisations such as NEDA, with small and often uncertain resource bases, can face difficulties in this area: however I am pleased to see that NEDA has a strong strategic direction, clear internal policies and processes, and a vigilant and committed governing board to steer the organisation forward.

In closing, I would like to thank the NEDA Council for their tireless commitment and engagement, often with little recognition and of course, with no remuneration. Finally, I would like to thank the member organisations for their ongoing support and guidance.

Dinesh Wadiwel

Executive Officer

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the audited accounts for the 2007/2008 financial year.

I note that NEDA lost the services of its previous Auditor due to retirement in the 2007/2008 year. I would like to wish Mr John Mann of Everalls DFK and Associates thanks for providing thorough and solid audit services to NEDA over the last few years.

Our new Auditor, John E Cross, has audited our accounts and found that our reported financial position as at June 2008 provides a true and fair account, with no outstanding issues. The financial statements indicated that at the end of June 2008, NEDA had a total income of \$163,129 including \$159,800 core funding received from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). NEDA received an additional grant of \$30,000 from FaHCSIA in 2007/2008 to improve our information technology capacity and engage in research on social cohesion. This grant contributes to the \$58,548 in reported current liabilities at June 2008, as the grant will only be expended in the 2008/2009 year. NEDA's net assets at the end of the financial year were \$63,853.

The total expenses at the end of June 2008 were \$161,967 which produced an operational surplus of \$1,161. In some respects this very modest surplus is a good sign that NEDA is working tightly within its budget to maximise outcomes from limited resources. I note that as a result of staffing vacancies, NEDA reported a large surplus on its core grant in the previous financial year, which unfortunately led to a request for a return of unspent funds to FaHCSIA of \$16,669, now adjusted for in the 2006/2007 year. While the return of unspent funds did not pose any danger to NEDA's financial position, it is disappointing that NEDA was unable to have held on to these resources, which could have been used productively by the organisation in future years.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the able assistance of the NEDA Accountant, Neil Jones, who continues to provide effective accounting systems to NEDA.

Milanka Zivanovic

Treasurer

NEDA Council

NEDA Councillors are nominated and appointed via the NEDA membership. According to the constitution at least 75% of Councillors must be people from NESB with disability, their families and carers.

Council Meetings are held at least four times per year. At least one of these meetings is held face-to-face with the remaining conducted via teleconference.

The following people served on the NEDA Council during the 2007/2008 financial year:

Name	Representing	Council Status	Time on Council
Milanka Zivanovic	Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW	Treasurer	Full Year
Janet To	Diversity and Disability (VIC)	Secretary	Till Jan 08
Teresa Chu	Diversity and Disability (VIC)	Councillor	From Mar 08
Christine Williams	Diversity and Disability (VIC)	Councillor	Feb 08
Nihal Escel	Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (WA)	Councillor	Full Year
Michele Castagna	Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia (NT)	President	Full Year
Sajini Sumar	Multicultural Council of Tasmania	Councillor	Till May 08
Elida Meadows	Multicultural Council of Tasmania	Secretary	From June 08
Gustav Gebels	AMPARO Advocacy Inc (QLD)	Councillor	Full Year
Juan de la Torre	Individual	Associate Member (Non voting)	Full Year

Nicholas Proctor	Individual	Associate Member (Non Voting)	From March 07
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NEDA Staff

Dinesh Wadiwel (Executive Officer) full time

Submissions and Reports

Accommodation and Housing

Supported Accommodation Review Sept 2007

Social Housing Review Sept 2007

National Rental Affordability Scheme Review Feb 2008

National Homelessness White Paper June 2008

Advocacy

Post Budget National Disability Advocacy Review August 2007

National Disability Advocacy Program Objectives April 2008

National Disability Advocacy Program KPIs and Standards May 2008

Carers

Carer Disability Assessment Tool Review Dec 2007

Employment

Job Capacity Assessment Review Mar 2008

National Disability and Mental Health Employment Strategy June 2008

Human Rights

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities National Interest Analysis Mar 2008

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties Response National Interest Analysis Jun 2008 (with FECCA)

Others

Accessible Transport Standards Aug 2007

Accessible Transport Standards Mar 2008

Citizenship Test Review February 2008

Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers Review Mar 2008

Regional Telecommunications Review Dec 2007

Productivity Commission Consumer Framework Feb 2008

National Ethnic Disability Alliance Inc.
ABN 13 087 510 232
Statement of Financial Performance
For the Period 1 July 2007 to 30 June

2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Income		
FaCSIA Core Grant	159,800	126,787
FaCSIA Project Grant	0	20,000
FaCSIA Disability Conference Funding	0	9,345
NEDA Membership	20	120
Other Income	544	1,819
Interest Received (net)	2,765	3,991
Total Income	<u>163,129</u>	<u>162,062</u>
Expense		
Audit	1,700	900
Bank and Government Charges	8	0
Insurance	2,392	2,292
Rent - Office	6,690	6,615
Accounting Fees	1,260	1,290
Administration Services	5,236	1,504
Advertising and Promotion	0	1,905
Catering & Room Hire	6,168	1,104
Conferences/Seminars	545	0
Accommodation	0	3,730
Attendant Care	0	1,055
Registration	0	2,269
Travel	0	2,786
Consultancy	5,630	19,800
Council Expenses	12,499	0
Depreciation	1,353	1,672
Equipment	1,615	0
Membership and Incorporation	481	307
Postage & Courier	464	487
Printing & Stationery	1,231	1,760
Publications	54	121
Staff Amenities	0	388
Travel and Accommodation	11,315	16,441
Telephone & Communication	4,440	5,801
Translation and Interpreting	1,818	745
Web Site	1,012	612
Wages and Salaries	83,251	49,192
Staff Recruitment	0	2,483
Staff Training	1,477	886
Superannuation	7,458	4,483
Workers Compensation	720	475
Accrued Staff Entitlements	3,148	7,178
Total Expenses	<u>161,967</u>	<u>138,283</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS	<u>1,161</u>	<u>23,779</u>

less:		
Refund of Unspent Funds 2006/7	0	16,669
ADJUSTED OPERATING SURPLUS	1,161	7,110
Accumulated Funds at 1 July 2007 as adjusted	<u>62,692</u>	<u>55,582</u>
Accumulated Funds 30 June 2008	<u>63,853</u>	<u>62,692</u>

**National Ethnic Disability Alliance Inc
ABN 13 087 510**

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**Statement of
Financial Position
As at 30 June
2008**

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Current Assets		
Cash	119,962	93,925
Receivables	0	22
Total Current Assets	119,962	93,947
Non Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment @ WDV	2,441	3,794
Total Non Current Assets	2,441	3,794
Total Assets	122,402	97,741
Current Liabilities		
CBA		
Mastercard	70	0
GST Collected/Paid (net)	4,465	2,781
PAYG Withholding Tax	5,908	2,234
FaCSIA Project Grant in Advance	30,000	0
Superannuation Payable	1,593	0
Provision for Annual Leave	16,513	13,365
Total Current Liabilities	58,548	18,380
Total Liabilities	58,548	18,380
Net Assets	63,853	79,361
Less:Adj for Refund of FaSCIA Grant Funding	0	16,669
Adjusted Net Equity 30 June 2008	63,853	62,692

National Ethnic Disability Alliance

Independent Audit Report to the Members of National Ethnic Disability Alliance Inc.

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of national Ethnic Disability Alliance Inc, which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2008, and the Income and Expense Statement and for the year ended on that date a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by the Committee.

Association's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act 1991.

This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error.

I making the risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the effectiveness of accounting policies and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

(2)

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my review, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Qualification

It is not practicable to establish control over income such as donation until their entry in the accounting records. My audit relating to this type of income was limited to amounts recorded.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In my opinion, subject to any adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report of National Ethnic Disability Alliance Inc. is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1991, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2008 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 provisions.

John E Cross
Company Auditor 1490

Sydney: 10 November 2008

National Ethnic Disability Alliance Inc
ABN 13 087 510 232
For the Year Ended 30 June 2008

The Committee Members of the association declare that:

The accompanying financial statements and notes of the association as at 30 June 2008;

- a) Present a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2007 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- b) Comply with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
- c) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to meet its debts as and when they become payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee Members:

Committee Member

Committee Member

Dated thisday of.....2008

