

Connecting Peers Cross Culturally

Connecting Peers Cross Culturally is an ILC-funded project that will continue and further develop the core work at DDAlliance. This project will support peers in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities to build and sustain peer support networks and access peer to peer learning opportunities. The aim is to expand peer support networks and build a confident, skilled peer workforce.

DDAlliance has advanced a model of peer support in CALD communities that values the expertise of peers and supports people with disability to gain more voice, choice and control in their lives. We have done this through peer-led cafes, peer-led training programs, and collaborations with other organisations and CALD communities.

In building on this pioneering work, through Connecting Peers Cross Culturally we will train and utilise the skills of 30 new peers (additional to the 15 already trained) to deliver peer support in existing and new communities and we will work with 15 new communities to set up peer support structures. We will run 12 peer-led community events on topics identified by the communities we work with and hold 30 events providing information sessions and themed workshops.

These activities will benefit people with disability by:

- providing peer to peer learning opportunities as the preferred way of learning and sharing expertise;
- providing skill development, leadership and paid employment opportunities to 45 contracted peers (for some of the peers this will be their first ever paid employment);
- expanding the participation of CALD communities in peer programs and improving access to skills and knowledge development;
- enhancing the motivation and confidence of people with disability in CALD communities through expanded access to peer-led support and community connections.

This project will also provide opportunities for families participating in these events to gain the information, knowledge and skills needed to effectively contribute to the capacity building and independence of people with disability.

This project will allow us to continue our work in building the peer movement across NSW so that peers can engage with and shape the communities we live in.