

ACT NOW 2 Aboriginal Gathering, Coffs Harbour, 2014



Aunty Elaine Turnbull performing the smoking ceremony at ACTNOW 2

In March 2014 a highly innovative gathering of Aboriginal people from across Northern NSW came together for the ACT NOW Aboriginal Gathering in Coffs Harbour to discuss ways of improving disability support service delivery. This conference video features a range of participants and highlights the issues facing Aboriginal Australians in the lead up to the NDIS. Watch the video [here](#)

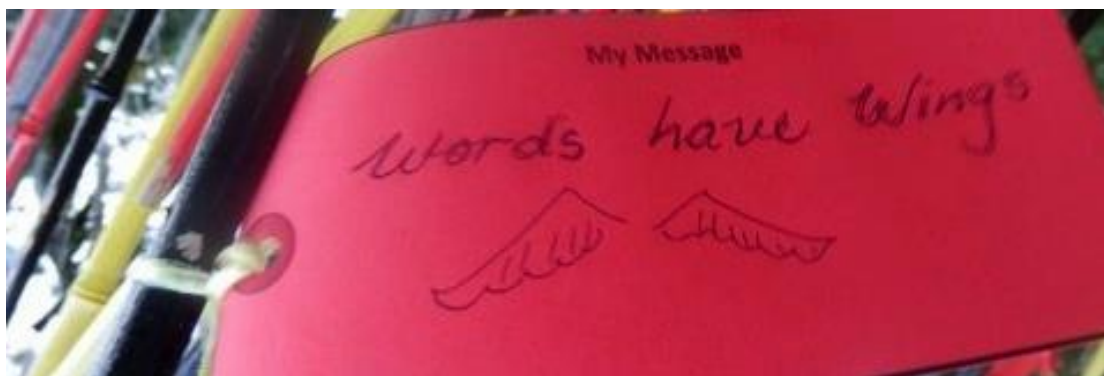
‘The aim of ACTNOW is to shift the conversation to focus on community strengths and to ensure that Aboriginal people are heard in planning, policy and service provision.’

Elizabeth Ervine - ACTNOW facilitator



Digital Stories

Tracey Barrell (OAM) was a guest speaker at the ACT NOW Aboriginal Gathering in Coffs Harbour in early 2014. Tracey is an outspoken advocate for people with disability and proud Aboriginal woman. Watch her story [here](#)



Chantelle Melovich talks about the challenging experience that led to the diagnosis of her son, with an extremely rare deletion on the 15Q gene. He is currently the only known person in the world with this condition. An articulate Aboriginal woman from Dharug country, Chantelle candidly discusses the long road to proper diagnosis and medication, and the racism she endured by the hands of the medical profession and particular respite services. Watch her story [here](#)

Lisa-Marie talks candidly about her experience bringing up a child with severe autism and the innovative disability support service entitled, Services Our Way, based in the NSW regional country town of Tamworth, that has helped her. Watch her story [here](#).



Zac Paden attending ACTNOW 2

Zach Paden and Yasmin Garrawirritja were participants at the ACT NOW Aboriginal Gathering in Coffs Harbour in early 2014. These inspiring young Aboriginal people tell their experiences of growing up with disability and their dreams for the future. Zac dreams of playing in a band and writing songs. He returns to ACTNOW 3 with his band Brotherhood of the Blues. Watch their story [here](#).



The Gilbert Family: (LtoR) Dianne, Glen, Sue & Amy

Glen Gilbert lives in Grave's End, in remote northern NSW near Moree, with his family. Aboriginal father of three children, two with disability, Glen tells of his hopes for his family and his daughter who is looking at a career in disability support and his hopes for the future. Watch his story [here](#).

Daniel Froome, with his brother Luke, live in the regional NSW town of Armidale. They talk about an innovative program for Aboriginal people, run by Lifestyle Solutions, that allows Dan to employ his brother as his support worker. This digital story was produced as part of the ACT NOW Aboriginal Gathering project. Watch his story [here](#).

Cherrie talks about her experience of innovative disability support program Services Our Way in the NSW regional town of Tamworth. Her son has benefited from the culturally appropriate holistic program that works with Aboriginal Australians to create an effective support service. Watch her story [here](#)

Cheryl Hill gives a historical perspective on disability support services in the northern NSW town of Inverell. Cheryl and her husband have been supporting their son, Mark, who has an acquired brain injury, for nearly 40 years. Watch her story [here](#)

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Digital stories are a powerful tool of empathy and advocacy - reinforcing cultural values and reigniting hope. Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars.

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