

Human Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC) Meeting – 2 October

The most recent HRAC meeting, conducted across several locations, was very productive and featured engaging, meaningful discussions.

HRAC Guidelines

Elyce shared the guidelines she developed for members and presenters, designed to improve clarity, specificity, and feedback. The guidelines were well received for being inclusive and comprehensive.

Potential new approach to supporting participants

Work is progressing to improve coordination and create a single point of contact for people accessing Aruma services. The aim is to simplify the participant journey by reducing multiple contacts and paperwork, ensuring a more streamlined and person-centred experience.

Guest Speakers Jen Cush and Leigh Creighton

They discussed Hunter Circles, a Newcastle-based grassroots organisation that helps people with disability build friendships and community connections, promoting inclusion and equal participation through genuine relationships.

AI Project Update

Elliot Dowling discussed Aruma's work with Artificial Intelligence (AI), highlighting its applications in smartphones, healthcare, and transportation. He introduced Arumie, Aruma's first AI bot, which supports grant and tender processes, identifying optimal responses based on past successes, and providing summaries for human review. Aruma will be exploring other ways to use AI.

NDIS Changes

James McCoy discussed recent NDIS changes, including the Thriving Kids program and the shift from annual to quarterly funding periods highlighting the potential benefits and drawbacks of both.

Supported Employment 'Onboarding Overview'

Kelly Davenport outlined Aruma's employment pathways—school, work-ready, and supported employment. The work-ready program now blends classroom learning with community-based work experience, supported through one-on-one and small group learning. Three supported employees shared their positive experiences working in Aruma's kitchen, horticulture, and manufacturing programs.

We are excited to get together at the **Human Rights Conference on the Gold Coast 12th November**. Get your FREE tickets they are going fast!