**EDSN Purpose:**

EDSN acts as a lead regional network for Disability Service Providers in the Eastern Metropolitan Region. Its aim is to provide a conduit for information and learning in the Disability Sector, especially during NDIS transition, and the opportunity to discuss, inform and address sector issues

**Purpose of Document**

This document outlines the strategies and activities of the EDSN for 2018 which underpin the purpose of the network and comply with the terms of reference for the group. The document is a result of a strategic planning meeting held by the members of the Steering Committee in which members reviewed feedback, results of 2017 activities and the financial position of the network.

**Background**

EDSN started as a result of a group of CEOs and Senior Managers meeting on a regular basis to share, discuss and influence topical issues for the Disability Sector in the Eastern region. In 2009 the group applied and were successful in receiving DHHS funding to run the network, with the funding to be used for assistance with administrative costs related to its activities. The funding enabled the employment of a part time Executive Assistant. From 2016 the Executive assistant employment relationship with EDSN is that of a subcontractor.

In 2017, the impact of NDIS roll out and shifts in the sector funding streams resulted in the Departmental funding to EDSN to cease and as a result, EDSN has conducted an impact study and determined it has sufficient funds to continue with the resourcing of the Executive Assistant for a minimum of two years. The following strategy aims to outline the 2018 activities whilst addressing the financial situation of the network steering committee.

**2018 Strategy actions:**

**Presentation format proposals:**

* Forums/ presentations targeting CEO, senior and middle management.
* Shorter presentations, more presenters at each forum and where appropriate workshops.
* Presentations from NDS at each forum
* Potential presentations from market disruptors
* Presentations focusing on the NDIS, from others with experience of the NDIS and sharing of real stories.
* More interaction and engagement from service providers present.
* Conduct three forums as per 2017 format and one panel format which uses case studies to create discussions and facilitate peer engagement.
* Possible Video forum/ panel and upload to Website to engage those unable to attend and attract more interest with EDSN.

**Some suggestions for Presentation Topics**

Forums

* Support Coordination under the NDIS
* Shared Supported Accommodation
* Training, Education and Recruitment in the NDIS space- E- Learning, face to face, options
* Systems and Communication
* Volunteer Management
* Funding and pricing
* Aged and disability

Panel- case studies

* NDIS and
  + shared service provision
  + Travel/ transport under NDIS ( substation of cores support funding for KMs)
  + Keeping a contingency in NDIS packages eg for adhoc services
  + Holidays - planning and funding under NDIS
  + Participant Absentees under NDIS

**Financial Sustainability:**

* Monitor financial situation to ensure projected two year horizon of EDSN operation.
* Pursue opportunities for ongoing funding.
* Review and consider opportunities to reduce expenditure whilst maintaining service quality.