



Australia Awards

# Australia Awards in Indonesia – Short Term Award The Role of DPOs in the Implementation of Policy Reform



*Participants of The Role of DPOs in the implementation of policy reform Short Term Award and the course facilitator from the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre at the University of Sydney were visiting Sydney Harbour during the short course in Australia.*

## Course Highlights:

- Pre-course workshop held in Jakarta on 26 - 28 November 2019
- Two-week short course held in Sydney on 20 - 31 January 2020
- Online post-course workshop in April 2020

Following the success of previous courses on Organisational Leadership and Management Practice for Disabled People's Organisation Short Term Award, a group of 18 emerging leaders from government representative and various Disabled People's organisations spent two weeks in Australia under the program **The Role of Disabled People's Organisation in the Implementation of Policy Reform** Short Term Award in January 2020. Delivered by the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre at the University of Sydney, the course focused on the role of disabled people's organisations in policy advocacy. The participants learned about the Australian National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and other Australian disability-related initiatives, developed a campaign to implement on their return to Indonesia, and honed their policy advocacy skills by pitching their policy change.

During their time in Australia the participants met a range of Australian disability activists, policy makers, disability service providers and end users. Their interactions with these diverse stakeholders helped increase their understanding of disability policy in Australia and inspired them to seek new ways to tackle the disability-related policy challenges they face in Indonesia. The participants also met with officials from the National Disability Insurance Agency and heard from four different users of the NDIS. These encounters provided a comprehensive overview of the NDIS, how it works and how it is perceived by different stakeholders.





STA participants, course facilitators and AAI Team celebrate the end of the Pre-Course Workshop in Jakarta.

These experiences prompted participants to reflect on the differences between schemes in Australia and Indonesia. For example, Ranie Hapsari (YAKKUM) wrote an article for the Indonesian Disability Movement for Equality website in which she concluded that people with disability in Indonesia are highly dependent on the decisions made by the government about what they need, in contrast with Australia, where people with disability are offered greater choice and control. She argued that despite some activists' critique, the NDIS is "an important example of a form of social protection for people with a disability".

Another key experience for participants came in the form of a discussion with Sylvana Mahmic, director of Plumtree, an early childhood intervention centre. Sylvana spoke about how her own experiences of parenting a child with a disability prompted her to establish programs to support the families of children with a disability. This encounter had a deep impact on the participants and helped them reflect on their own programs.

Sylvana's stories resonated with many of the participants, both in terms of their own experience of living with a disability. It also made them aware that they have in most cases, not engaged with parents of children with disabilities. After the session, participants reflected on how the principles discussed with Sylvana could be directly applied in their own organisation's practices.

Upon their return to Indonesia, participants immediately began applying their knowledge and tapping into their new networks. Within days of returning to Indonesia, Roby Nyong secured a meeting with the Deputy of the Office of the President and was given a commitment that the National Paralympic Week, to be run in his home province of West Papua, would be accessible. He plans to run a disability audit, a tool he acquired through the course, of the sports facilities being built for this major national event.



Course participants with guest speakers on the last day of the course in Sydney, Australia.



Mr Budi Pramono, Difabel Community Development Program Coordinator of Yayasan Sidikara at the University of Sydney.

When Kertaning Tyas launched East Java's first disability focused integrated health care clinic (Posyandu) within a few days of returning from Sydney, he secured a meeting between the East Java Department of Health, his organisation, other disabled people's organisations and other stakeholders to lobby for an expansion of this model of health care. This meeting is a direct contribution to the campaign plan that he developed in Sydney as part of the course.

Gema Gumelar reported that, upon landing in Jakarta, he delayed his trip home to Bandung to meet with Australian researchers interested in mental health issues who had learned about his work through the STA in Sydney.

Agus Wahyudi reported that he provided a well-received overview of the NDIS at a DPO forum in his local area. Local government officials present at the meeting identified a number of technical hurdles to the adoption of a policy like the NDIS in the local district of Sukoharjo but expressed support for the idea of designing and implementing a similar policy in support of people with disabilities.

These experiences show how a program of this nature can have an immediate and significant impact on the way participants think about themselves and their advocacy work. Their involvement in the course led to the widespread and immediate dissemination of new ideas and skills across the disability movement through both formal and informal channels.

The many success stories reported by the participants demonstrate that, with the right support, disability-focused courses can yield important results. These programs also contribute significantly to increased mutual understanding and cooperation of Australian and Indonesian disability activists by offering unique pathways for direct and sustained engagement.

For further information about the course, please contact:

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