

## New access award honours national champion

### *Faye Druett Award announced for achievement in advocacy*

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**A new award honouring nationally celebrated inclusion advocate Faye Druett has been included in this year's Tweed Shire Access and Inclusion Awards.**

The Faye Druett Award For Achievement In Advocacy has been added to the list of annual awards following the death of the Tweed Shire Equal Access Advisory Committee member early this year.

To mark the new award, Ms Druett's partner Chris Walters will be part of next week's launch of nominations for the 2016 Tweed Shire Access and Inclusion Awards. The launch of nominations will be held on Monday 2 May at 10.30am, at one of the 2015 award winners, Daily Grind Café at Kingscliff Shopping Centre.

Ms Druett's passing brought a flood of tributes from throughout Australia, honouring her life-long advocacy for change across the whole spectrum of human rights for people with disability.

She was an Executive Officer of the Disability Council NSW (1989-1993) and a member of Council (1999 – 2003), serving first as Deputy Chair and as Acting Chair in her final year with the organisation.

Her term as Executive Officer included the introduction of two landmark bills to Parliament – the Disability Services Act 1993 (DSA), and the NSW Complaints, Appeals and Monitoring Act 1993 (CAMA).

Ms Druett went on to manage the Disability Policy Unit at the Human Rights Commission, and was involved in the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act.

She took a major role on the Pacific Disability Forum to foster advocacy in Pacific nations, supported the Aboriginal Disability Network and worked at the AIDS Council, developing connections between the disability sector, the gay community and other diverse groups.

Ms Druett lived on the North Coast since 1998, and was a wheelchair user almost all her life. She famously took the NSW Government to court after being unable to access the jury box when called up for jury duty.

Council's Development Officer – Aged and Disability, Karen Collins, said the new award, adopted by Ms Druett's peers on the Tweed Shire Equal Access Advisory Committee, was a wonderful tribute to an inspiring woman.

"It's also a fantastic new feature of the awards because Faye is a shining example of the contributions people with disability can make to society," Ms Collins said.

"She used the law to extend rights to people with disability and she stood up for some of the most oppressed people in our community."

Another of Australia's most high-profile activists for inclusion, former Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes, paid tribute to Ms Druett when he was guest speaker at last year's Tweed Shire Access and Inclusion Awards, describing her as a "hugely valuable asset" on the advisory committee.

"Faye worked as the Executive Officer of the most effective advocacy organisation in Australia," he said.

"Make sure you use her knowledge and wisdom - she has a lot."

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