



**Disability**  
**Leadership**  
Institute

## 2026 Member Guide

*Develop, Support, Promote – Disability Leaders*

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# Introduction

Welcome to the Disability Leadership Institute! You are now part of one of the largest professional networks of disability leaders in the world.

We have two levels of membership: starter and premium. This Guide will explain how the different levels work and what you get for your membership. It will also help you to engage and be an active member.

**There are two major benefits to premium membership:**

## Monthly Member Groups And The DLI Members Community

This Member Guide provides tips to accessing and making the most of DLI member spaces, as well as other member benefits. To make things easier, this document goes hand in hand with a series of instruction videos you can find on the DLI YouTube Channel.

Store this document somewhere with easy access and bookmark

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDOaNO7IOhyymA6gqiOJggg>

(The Guide is also available on our website under publications - just in case.)

If you need further information or explanation, you can always email the Team at [engage@disabilityleaders.com.au](mailto:engage@disabilityleaders.com.au)

We look forward to your leadership development time with us!



# Your Membership

*‘It’s so good to share with others like me!’*

- DLI Member

*‘Knowing that you’re not out there on your own, there’s this community.’*

- Member Group participant

## Member Benefits

Membership is open to all disabled people everywhere.

### Starter Membership: a Place to Start

Starter Membership is designed to keep you in the disability leadership loop. If you are new to the idea of disability leadership and curious to know more, this is the perfect window to see what is going on at the DLI.

#### Starter Membership Benefits:

- Listing on the National Register of Disability Leaders
- Weekly member only e-bulletins
- Receive news and opportunities from the DLI
- Access to the DLI members Directory in the member portal

### Premium Membership: where your leadership development really happens.

Premium Membership gives you the space and opportunity for meaningful leadership development, whatever your leadership experience.

#### Premium Membership Benefits:

- All the benefits of Starter Membership
- Plus:
- Join a Monthly Member Group
  - Be part of the online DLI Members Community
  - The right to list your business in the [Disability Business Directory](#)
  - Free access to select DLI online courses and webinars
  - Access to our online Libraries including entrepreneur and governance specific information
  - Public promotion through “Members in the News”
  - Access to programs like the CEO internship
  - The right to use DLI after your name

## DLI Member Portal

The DLI Member Portal is where you can manage your membership. Here you can:

- Manage your membership status (renewals etc.)
- Keep your personal information up to date (address, leadership level etc.)
- Register for courses and programs
- Access the (optional) DLI Member Directory to find other DLI members
- View the DLI calendar for the year
- Buy your DLI lapel pin

You can access the Member Portal at: <http://disabilityleaders.helloclub.com>

To help you access and navigate the Member Portal, you can watch a series of short instruction videos.

- [Creating an account and logging in to the Member Portal](#)
- [Updating Your Information and contact details in Member Portal](#)

## The DLI Member Directory

The DLI is a big professional network of disability leaders from right across Australia and around the world. You can use the Member Portal to connect with other disability leaders.

The DLI Members Directory is inside the Member Portal.

When you sign up for membership there is an option to be listed in the Members Directory.

You can find the Directory via the left side navigation bar inside the Member Portal.

You can choose to show:

- your name
- the industry you work in
- your social media handles
- your location (the Australian State you live in, or international)
- whether you are contactable by email (your email address will not show).

You can use the DLI Member Directory to find other members, to network, and to be contactable by other members.

*Not all DLI members opt in to the Member's Directory.*

*The Directory is not public or visible outside the Member Portal.*

## Leadership Levels (career stages)

When you join the DLI we ask how you identify as a leader so we can make sure you receive the right resources and information. Our Member Groups are framed around your leadership level. This is aligned to where you are in your career stage, not a measure of your leadership ability.

Tell us what level best represents your leadership level / career stage?

1. **Getting Started** in my leadership work
  - You are new to your field or to work
  - You are looking to develop the skills you will need
  
2. **Consolidating My Skills** and getting confident at using them
  - You have been working on your leadership development for a while
  - You want to start using the skills and expertise you have gained
  
3. **Stepping Up** to the next level of leadership
  - Your career is well under way
  - You likely have a team or network looking to you for leadership
  - You are recognised as a leader
  - You are asked to be involved because you make a difference
  
4. **Experienced** leader wanting to connect with other experienced leaders
  - Your leadership career is advanced
  - People look to you for guidance
  - You are mentoring others
  - You put your time and energy into the development of others
  - You rarely put time into your own development

*Note: You can keep your leadership level up to date by updating your personal information in the member portal. [This video](#) shows you how.*



## Monthly Member Groups

Be part of a small group of leaders who are at a similar stage of their career and leadership development to you. Meet virtually, online, each month to connect, share, troubleshoot and support.

All Premium Members can participate in DLI Monthly Member Groups. When you sign up for membership, you let us know your leadership level. We use this information to match you with your peers so that your group works for you.

Member Groups are small with a consistent membership. They become your “home group.” All conversations are strictly confidential and facilitated. Your Monthly Member Group is a regular dose of intensive leadership development. We use a group coaching model to facilitate Member Groups.

Monthly Member Groups are conducted via Zoom.  
Please wear earbuds or headphones to all groups (if your disability allows for it).

## The DLI Members Community

The DLI Members Community is an email group and one of the major benefits of your Premium Membership.

It is a safe place to discuss leadership, share what you have been reading, help solve problems, and talk about your own leadership work. DLI members raise a variety of interests and issues in the Members Community knowing that it will generate a respectful and thoughtful conversation.

*Note: See page 13 for practical information on using the Members Community*

## National Register of Disability Leaders

The National Register of Disability Leaders is Australia's first, and only, national register of disability leaders seeking appointments to various positions, including boards, committees and paid employment.

All DLI members are automatically added to the Register. You will be notified of opportunities as they arise, based on your location.

A growing number of organisations, right across all fields of government, non-government and business use the National Register to find high quality disabled talent.

Many DLI members sign up for membership to receive the National Register bulletins.

*'I was a bit unsure heading into the process, but thought it was worth a try to advertise the position through DLI. We have always found it tough to attract great Board members, particularly those with the right combination of business and lived experience.*

*'Well! We have ended up with a tough choice given there are so many wonderful candidates have come through from you. What a great problem to have!'*

- Advertiser - National Register of Disability Leaders

## Online Courses

Online learning at a time that suits you.

The DLI provides a suite of courses and webinars open to anyone who wishes to view them. You can access all of our [online content](#) via our website.

*Note: For information on how to access our online courses, see page 15. DLI Premium Members have free anytime access to select courses and webinars.*

## Promotion – Members in the News

The DLI promotes the success of our Premium Members at every chance. This is why we ask you to opt into Members in the News in the Member Portal. Not everyone is open about their disability in public, so this is optional. If you select “no” then we will not share any news about you.

Also provide your social media handles in your member portal profile so we can share your successes. We set up an alert for each member who opts in to keep track of the great work you are doing.

Our monthly Members in the News posts are listed under “news” on our website. We also share them within our monthly bulletin to all DLI stakeholders.

## The Disability Business Directory

The Disability Business Directory lists businesses owned and run by disabled people and is located on the DLI website.

The DLI is often contacted for information on where to find disability led businesses. We refer these people to the Disability Business Directory on our website (listed under resources).

All DLI premium members are welcome to list their business in the Disability Business Directory. Listing is free for premium members. Your business does not need to have a disability focus, it can be about anything.

To list in the Disability Business Directory, go to the Directory on the DLI website:

- You will be asked to create a user account – this is what we use to recognise you as a DLI member.
- Provide details about your business.
- Identify one or more categories that your business can be listed under. If you need more categories contact us and ask.
- Tag your business so that it shows up in search engines.
- You can upload 2 photos to your listing. If you have a logo this can be one of your photos.

When people are looking for a disability led business they can contact you directly via your Disability Business Directory listing. We also receive a notification so we can make sure you have received the inquiry.



# How to Engage with Us

*‘Can’t thank you enough for your valuable resources and remarkable support for Disability Leaders!’*

- DLI Member

## DLI Members Community

The Member's Community is open to all DLI Premium members. When you join, you will be added to the Members Community, and email discussion group – the Google Group 'Disability Leadership Institute members community'.

### How to Participate

To ask a question or start a discussion, simply send an email to:

[disabilityleaders@googlegroups.com](mailto:disabilityleaders@googlegroups.com)

To comment on an existing conversation, just hit reply to an email. All replies go to all group members.

### Who are you talking to?

All Premium members of the DLI have access to the community. This means when you start a conversation or reply in an existing conversation, all Premium members can see what you have sent.

### Why Email?

The DLI uses an email discussion group for reasons of accessibility. We asked members what would work, and this is their platform of choice as it is the most widely accessible to all.

### Email Options

You will receive emails routinely – these are ongoing discussions. If you would like to receive a single daily summary email, just ask us. Contact us at [engage@disabilityleaders.com.au](mailto:engage@disabilityleaders.com.au) to request this.

## Using Zoom

The DLI uses Zoom for Member Groups, our training programs and coaching. To participate you need a computer or smart device (e.g. tablet, phone) that has an internet connection, a camera, and a microphone. If you are able to use them, also headphones.

### How does it work?

Ahead of a meeting or webinar, we will send you a 'Zoom Invitation' via email. This includes:

- time and date
- a blue link to join the meeting
- a unique Meeting ID (9, 10, or 11 digit number)
- a teleconferencing number

### Connecting using Email

- Join by clicking on the zoom link in your e-mail or calendar invitation.
- You will be asked to download and run Zoom the first time you use it, allow this to happen.
- Join meeting using computer audio.

See our [Navigating Zoom](#) video for a step-by-step instruction.

### Connect via web browser

- Go to [join.zoom.us](https://join.zoom.us) in any browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc)
- Enter your meeting ID from the Zoom invitation and click 'Join'

*DLI members have a variety of access needs, so **please wear earbuds or headphones** to reduce feedback and echoes during Zoom meetings.*

*We also recognise that some DLI members have disabilities which prevent them wearing earbuds or headphones. For this reason, all participants are asked to mute when not talking.*

## DLI Online Training

The DLI uses an online platform that hosts our pre-recorded Online Courses and webinars.

### **Free Access**

When you become a premium member, we will send you a link to access several of our online courses for free. Only you can use this link, but you can go in and access the courses as often as you want while you are a premium member.

For everyone else, the online courses require payment and use a credit card checkout system.

The DLI has several online Libraries, including:

### **Entrepreneurs Library**

Contains many Entrepreneurs Co-discovery Sessions and other resources. We will send you a link to the Library and the Online Entrepreneurs space when you sign up for Premium Membership.

### **Governance Library**

Contains a growing body of resources – articles, videos, etc. We will send you a link to the Library when you sign up for Premium membership.

## Social Media

One of the ways we stay in touch with you and promote our members is on social media. Join us to hear more about funding and job opportunities, relevant articles and links, and to stay up to date with the achievements of your peers. You can also follow DLI team members on LinkedIn.



### LinkedIn

<https://au.linkedin.com/company/disability-leadership-institute>

Where we promote our premium and premium+ members, share news and share interesting articles and career opportunities.



### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/disabilityleadershipinstitute/>

Where we promote our premium members, share our latest news and share links to interesting articles.



### Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/disabilitylead/>

Where we share our latest news and services.



## Video Instructions

To see a full list of our Membership Instruction Videos, go to the Member Guide Playlist on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDOaNO7IOhyymA6gqiOJggg>

Here you will find step by step instructions for:

- [Logging in to the DLI Member Portal](#)
- [Updating your Information](#)
- [Joining A Zoom Meeting](#)
- [Navigating Zoom](#)



# Who We Are

*‘This is a safe place to share these things.’*

- DLI Member

## **Develop, support, promote – Disability Leaders**

The Disability Leadership Institute has been established by disability leaders for disability leaders. It is time to change the way leadership is understood.

We do things differently by looking at leadership through a disability perspective, and by acknowledging the specific attributes of disability leaders. We use this perspective to build our leadership development and coaching programs so that you have access to the latest in leadership development without encountering ableism and discrimination, while also using your disability to enhance your leadership style.

The DLI is a social enterprise, which means we operate as a business for a purpose. We use DLI members to deliver our work, to be our project consultants, to facilitate our groups and to make up our coaching panel. Everyone working at the Disability Leadership Institute is a disabled person and a DLI member, who is being paid for their time and contribution.

## Christina Ryan



In 2016 Christina Ryan took one of the most radical steps in her long career of activism and change making: she put the two words disability and leadership into the same sentence. Her next step was founding the Disability Leadership Institute.

Now governments and major corporations use the term “disability leadership” and Christina shares her experience and leadership knowledge with disability leaders all over the planet.

As a specialist leadership coach, Christina now uses her decades of expertise built through frontline disability rights activism, community sector management, systemic advocacy, working at the United Nations, and mentoring to build more disability leaders.



## Why?

Disabled people make up 15% of the global population. This is over 1.3 billion people.

Disability is often forgotten in diversity discussions.

DLI members come from a multitude of countries across an array of industries.

Disability Leaders are operating almost entirely under their own resources and within their own circles of engagement.

Many established leaders are regularly mentoring several emerging leaders to ensure some continuity and succession planning for leaders with disabilities over time.

The DLI brings disability leaders a space for their ongoing leadership development, a network and a community.