

PWd
WA

people with
disabilities
western
australia

annual
report



2020 • 2021



List of

Acronyms

AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
AFDO	Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AWA	Advocacy WA
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COVID-19	Corona Virus 2019
DFO	Diversity Field Officer
DoC	Department of Communities
DRC	Disability Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability
DSP	Disability Support Pension
DSS	Department of Social Services
ILC	Information, Linkages, and Capacity Building
IT	Information Technology
NDS	National Disability Services
NDIA	National Disability Insurance Agency
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
PWdWA	People With Disabilities (WA) Inc.
SDA	Specialist Disability Accommodation
SECCA	Sexuality Education Counselling and Consultancy Agency
SSCLS	Sussex St Community Law Service
Strategy	Western Australian State Government's Disability Strategy 2020-2030
WA	Western Australia
WAiS	Western Australia's Individualised Services
YDAN	Youth Disability Advocacy Network

Table of Contents

About Our Organisation	-----	page 4
Chair Report	-----	page 6
Chief Executive Officer Report	-----	page 8
Our Board	-----	page 10
Our Staff	-----	page 11
Our Achievements	-----	page 12
Our Submissions	-----	page 13
Individual Advocacy	-----	page 14
Systemic Advocacy	-----	page 18
Projects	-----	page 20
Key Relationships	-----	page 24
Financial Summary 2020-2021	-----	page 26





About Our **Organisation**

Our **Vision**

People with disabilities are empowered in an inclusive society that values human rights.

Our **Mission**

Individual and systemic advocacy led by people with disabilities in Western Australia

Our **Values**

Inclusive

We recognise the right to equal access and opportunity with dignity and empathy.

Integrity

We do what is right.

Courage

We are unafraid to show strength and unity in advocating for the rights of people with disabilities, creativity, and perseverance in pursuing our goals.



Chair Report



Lisa Burnette

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2021.

This is the last report I will submit as Chair of People With disabilities WA Inc. (PWdWA), as my time elected as Chair of the Board has reached its conclusion. One thing that has remained very important to me, as we have grown as an organisation, is ensuring the voice of people with disabilities is never lost. We are all part of an organisation that ensures we are truly representative and that the disabled voice is the strongest voice.

This was enabled through a revision of our Rules of Association in March. We are now one of the few not-for-profit organisations that can provide a small sitting fee to Board members in recognition of their time and lived experience. We also made some key changes to the annual general meeting process, including how we recruit to key positions on the Board. You will note that our Annual General Meeting (AGM) this year does not include election to specific positions, as this work will be undertaken internally at the Board's first meeting.

This year, the PWdWA Board have refreshed our strategic plan in collaboration with the staff and through an experienced facilitator. The new plan will set our direction for the next five years and continues our focus on individual and systematic advocacy. We continue to strive to increase our visibility and membership growth where possible.

PWdWA have continued our core work of providing high quality individual advocacy to the Western Australian community and remained active with systemic advocacy submissions.

The highlight of the year was our first PWdWA Self-Advocacy Conference, run for and by people with disabilities. I would like to thank Katrina Bercov from Evolve Events and Training, Samantha Jenkinson for her oversight of the conference committee, and the members of the conference organising committee, Simon Chong, Jackie Green, Adam Hewber, Kirsten Whent, and Jamin Dix. On the day, the work of Vanessa Jessett (Organisational Development and Communications Officer), and Brendan Cullinan (Chief Executive Officer, CEO) was critical to its success.

We continue to have a highly engaged Board, maintaining responsible and strong governance. Since the last AGM, we have said goodbye and thank you to Adam Hewber, for his reliable commitment for five years, and Bob Johnson. We thank them sincerely for their time and engagement. I would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Erika Webb for her support and guidance as she concluded her role as secretariat to the Board after eight years of great service.

We have welcomed Georgina Hook, Nihal Iscel and Simon Glossop onto our Board. We are appreciative to our committed, approachable, and diverse group of volunteers living with disability on our Board – thank you all for your comradery and diligence. Without you, and our members, we would not all be here, so we appreciate all you do.

I would like to thank our CEO, Brendan Cullinan, who has navigated the challenges of the current climate with grace and empathy. I want to acknowledge the amazing team at PWdWA who undertake difficult work in an ever- changing environment, so thank you very much for your work.

In conclusion, while I do expect to continue behind the scenes supporting the incoming Board, I am sad to be completing my time as Chair. It has been a truly rewarding experience. I am excited for the next five years with a strong group of staff and Board, to continue to pave the way in true co-design and self-advocacy in our spirit. I encourage our members to go into the community with strength and promote PWdWA and remain united as people with disabilities. This is your organisation.

Lisa Burnette

Chair

PWdWA State Conference



PWdWA AGM 2020



Chief Executive Officer Report

The 2020-2021 year has seen many great challenges and achievements for PWdWA.

COVID-19 continues to throw up many challenges which as a sector we have been pro-active in addressing, with PWdWA continuing to be an active member of the State government's COVID-19 Disability Task Force. The ongoing threat of COVID-19 has meant that as an organisation we need to continue to be flexible and adaptable to ensure that we are able to provide support during periods of lock down which occurred during the year. The funding support from Lotterywest greatly boosted our remote working capability enabling the purchase of laptops for all team members.

Individual advocacy continued to be the core focus of our work with nearly 750 individuals seeking access to this service during the year. Workforce capacity to meet demand continues to be a challenge in this area. The source of this work continues to be self-referrals with the main issues for support being National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) access/planning, government payments, and abuse, neglect, and violence.

PWdWA continued to play a key role locally and nationally in systemic advocacy by producing or co-producing numerous submissions on a broad range of issues during the year which are detailed later in this report.

We continue to be an organisation that is led by and for people with disability and as a member-based organisation, it was pleasing to see PWdWA's membership grow by nearly 20% in the past financial year. Continued growth and engagement with our members will be a strong focus of PWdWA.

PWdWA welcomed the announcement in May for the extension of the Disability Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC) until August 2023. While there have been no public hearings held in Western Australia (WA), PWdWA has supported 66 individuals to engage with the Commission in the past financial year.

In November last year, PWdWA held its inaugural and very successful state conference. Exploring the theme "Celebrating Self-Advocacy", the conference was hosted as a partnership between PWdWA and Evolve Events and Training. Over the two days, 182 distinct delegates registered attending sessions based on the themes of collaboration, challenges, choice, and celebrations.

PWdWA was vocal in expressing its concerns along with the disability sector and the disability community about the proposed NDIS reforms that included independent assessments. Later in this report we outline the systemic action we implemented to voice these concerns. It was pleasing to see that these concerns were acknowledged with the plans for independent assessments scrapped. I acknowledge the support of the Hon. Don Punch MLA, Minister for Disability Services, and the work of Senator Jordan Steele-John in supporting this campaign.

The ongoing high level of governance of PWdWA was further enhanced during the year with the approval by members of a revised constitution, and the development of a revised Strategic Plan to guide the organisation over the next five years. PWdWA's focus will remain on the delivery of professional and timely advocacy support, build community capacity particularly around self-advocacy, and to grow and engage with our members.

PWdWA continued to deliver or contribute to a range of projects and work collaboratively across the sector. We thank our consortium partners, Advocacy Western Australia (AWA) and Sussex Street Community Law Services Inc. (SSCLS), who we work with in delivering individual advocacy services. On broader sector issues, PWdWA continues to be an active member of the Disability Advocacy Coalition of Western Australia. We play an active role with the WA State Disability Strategy delivering community awareness forums across the state and have been a member of the State government's Plastic Straws Working Group where with input from our members we have assisted in the drafting of regulation exemptions for people with disabilities.

PWdWA is fortunate to have very close and supportive relationships with our funding providers and I would like to acknowledge and thank the Department of Social Services (DSS), and in WA, the Department of Communities (DoC), and Lotterywest for their ongoing support and guidance.

The PWdWA staff has continued to provide exceptional support in a very busy environment throughout the year, whether that be for individual or systemic advocacy, or our community project work. I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the staff for their significant contribution, professionalism, and support not only for the people who contact us, but also for each other.

The Board continues to provide strong leadership under the Chair of Lisa Burnette, and I acknowledge and thank all Board members for their commitment and support in advocating for the rights and empowering people with disability. Unfortunately, Lisa will be standing down as Chair and as a Board member at this year's AGM. On behalf of the PWdWA Board, our members and staff, I sincerely thank Lisa for the tireless hours of commitment and passion over the past six years and look forward to her ongoing involvement in a different capacity.

Looking forward to 2021-2022, there are some significant challenges for the disability advocacy sector. Demand for advocacy support continues

to exceed the sector capacity with people seeking support unfortunately, in some instances having to wait to access services. The ever-increasing demand for advocacy, and how PWdWA in collaboration with sector partners builds and maintains capacity and capability to meet this demand, will be the focus of our discussions on our future funding from both the Federal government (DSS) and the State government (DoC) with our existing funding agreements concluding at end of June 2022.

PWdWA looks forward to the challenges ahead as we strive to achieve our vision where people with disabilities are empowered in an inclusive society that values human rights.

Brendan Cullinan

CEO

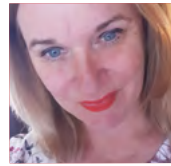
Brendan Cullinan (CEO) and Lisa Hook
(Individual Advocacy Service Manager)



Our Board



Lisa Burnette
Chair



Tara LeFlohic
Board Member



Janine Neu
Deputy Chair



Samantha Connor
Board Member



Adam Hewber
Treasurer - resigned
May 2021



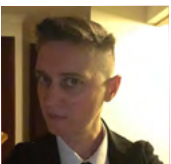
Bob Johnson
Resigned January 2021



Simon Chong
Secretary



Simon Glossop
Treasurer - May 2021



Kat Johns
Board Member



Georgina Hook
Board Member



Lara Moore
Board Member



Erika Webb
Secretariat - resigned
June 2021

Our Staff

Samantha Jenkinson
Executive Director (resigned
July 2020)

Brendan Cullinan
Chief Executive Officer
(from August 2020)

Brianna Lee
Systemic Advocacy Projects
Manager

Lisa Hook
Individual Advocacy Service
Manager

Michele Frost
Senior Individual Advocate

Catherine Everett
Individual Advocate

Chris Chambers
Individual Advocate

Dr Amber Arazi
Member Engagement Project
Officer

Claire McCormick
Individual Advocate

Elisha Johnson
Individual Advocate

Glenda Bye
Individual Advocate

James Cresswell
Individual Advocate

Jessica Eastaugh
Diversity Field Officer
(resigned September 2020)

Kerry Kessner
Individual Advocate

Leia Robinson
Individual Advocate

Mark Hutson
Regional Outreach Advocate

Neisha Walker
Individual Advocate (resigned
October 2020)

Oliver Offer
Disability Royal Commission
Advocate

Rachael Cox
Individual Advocate NDIS
Appeals (resigned February
2021)

Renata Krollig
Administration Officer

Suresh Rajan
State Disability Strategy
Project Officer

Tahnee Gilmour
Self Advocacy and Peer
Support Project Officer

Tania Stefanoska
Diversity Field Officer (from
September 2020 - January
2021)

Vanessa Jessett
Organisational Development
and Communications Officer

PWdWA Staff Training Day



Our Achievements

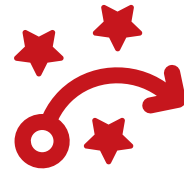
Provided **15 submissions** into a range of topics including NDIS, DSP, Justice, and Violence Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation.



Increased our **membership** by 20%



Developed a new five-year **Strategic Plan**



Increased our **social media reach** on Facebook by 75%



Delivered inaugural People With disabilities **WA Conference** – Celebrating Self-Advocacy



Provided **education and mentoring** to small and medium sized businesses to build their confidence about disability inclusion in their workplace



Provided high quality individual **advocacy support** for people across Western Australia

Delivered **online and face-to-face sessions** on NDIS Planning, Discrimination Complaints, Disability Support Pensions, and Self-Advocacy



Provided individual **advocacy support** for people to **make submissions** to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability

Our Submissions

- NDIS Discussion Paper: Support Coordination
- Disability Royal Commission: Restrictive Practices Issues Paper
- Review of the Disability Standard for Education 2005
- National Disability Strategy Position Paper
- Public consultation for the National Disability Services (NDS) and NDIS outcomes Frameworks
- Future conduct of elections operating during times of emergency
- 2020 Review of the Disability (Access to Premises – Building) Standards 2010
- Disability Royal Commission: Quality and Safeguards Issues Paper
- NDIS Access and Eligibility Policy with Independent Assessments
- NDIS Planning Policy for Personalised Budget and Plan Flexibility
- Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS: Inquiry into Independent Assessments
- Disability Royal Commission: Promoting Inclusion Issues Paper
- Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs: Purpose, Intent and Adequacy of the Disability Support Pension
- Revised Code of Inspection Standards for Adult Custodial Services
- National Employment Strategy

Brianna Lee (Systemic Advocacy and Projects Manager)



Individual Advocacy

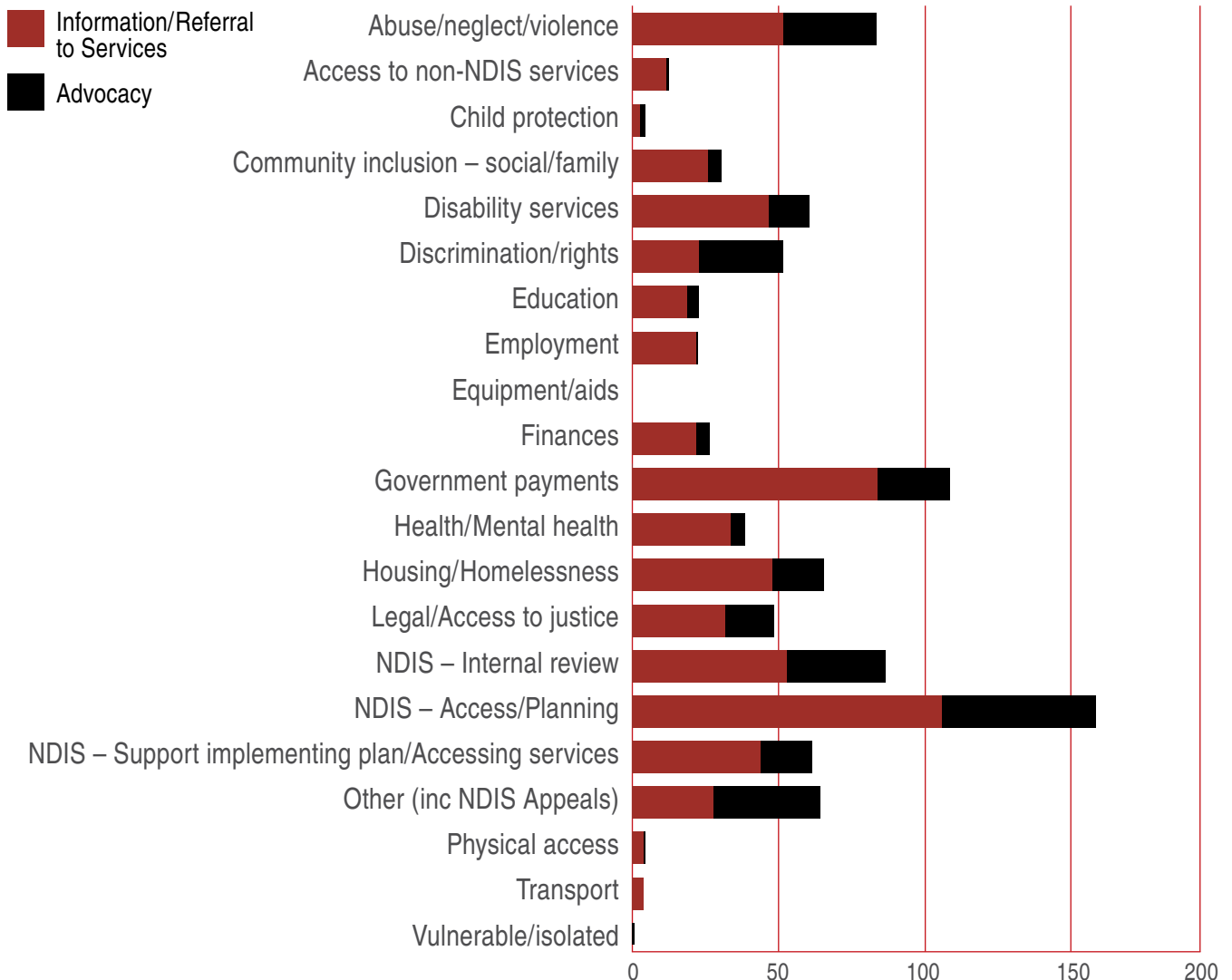
PWdWA provides independent non-legal advocacy that is issues based and client directed to people with a disability in WA.

PWdWA works as part of a consortium with Advocacy WA (AWA) and Sussex Street Community Law Services (SSCLS) in delivering individual advocacy services.

In the past financial year, PWdWA Advocates have provided advocacy to 746 individuals with 979 issues.

The PWdWA advocacy service includes providing rigorous information and toolkits to empower individuals to self-advocate, making supported referrals, or providing individual advocacy support to ensure people’s voices are heard and their rights are upheld.

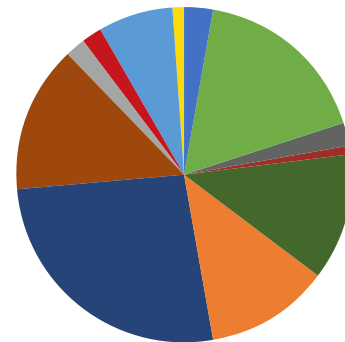
Issue Type



Due to the ongoing high level of demand for advocacy support, PWdWA, like other disability advocacy organisations, operates with a waitlist to manage its services. PWdWA with its consortium partners, has received funding from DoC until the end of 2021 to identify and implement strategies to effectively manage this waitlist. Therefore, PWdWA has at times prioritised advocacy for issues that met one of the following criteria:

- Involves abuse and neglect.
- A person will be made homeless within the next month and there are no other support services suitable to assist.
- There are serious safety risks if the issues are not addressed.
- The individual or their supports will reach crisis if they do not receive advocacy quickly

Disability Type



Physical Disability	197	(26%)
Autism	130	(17%)
Psychiatric Disability	105	(14%)
Neurological Disability	92	(12%)
Intellectual Disability	86	(12%)
Not Stated/Inadequately	55	(7%)
Acquired Brain Injury	26	(3%)
Sensory and Speech	14	(2%)
Developmental Delay	12	(2%)
Specific Learning/ADHD	12	(2%)
Vision Impairment	11	(1%)
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	6	(1%)

The Disability Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC)

The DRC Advocate has continued with the ongoing responsibility of delivering individual advocacy, coordinating education sessions, and organising and providing community outreach and information sessions to ensure people are aware of the DRC and to provide support to engage with the DRC. PWdWA welcomed the extension announcement of the DRC until August 2023.

Over the last year, our DRC Advocate has:

- supported 66 individuals to engage with the DRC;
- conducted outreach support to several organisations to raise awareness and direct people to make submissions independently;
- developed a submission template and other resources to support people to make submissions independently; and
- conducted surveys of our members and developed several responses to various issues papers.

Individual Advocacy in Action

Case Studies

NDIS Access

David was diagnosed with a psychosocial disability and a terminal health condition. David's sister, Emma, initially supported him to submit an NDIS access request. NDIS declined his access on the basis that his terminal illness was not permanent as they had not ruled out transplantation surgery.

After attempting to seek further medical evidence from the appropriate specialists, David's condition worsened significantly to the point where he was at severe risk of losing his life. As a result of the complex process, David and his family were fatigued by the barriers to accessing the health system and having no supports in place.

Our advocate supported David and Emma to submit a new NDIS access request. The advocate worked with David's General Practitioner to gather medical evidence; draft, finalise and submit an NDIS access request; escalated the priority of the access request with the NDIA; and respond to further questions posed by the NDIS. After thoroughly negotiating with the NDIS, David was granted access to the NDIS and has started the planning process.

Reasonable and Necessary

An individual contacted PWdWA because they wanted to live independently away from family. The individual is 23, has a neurological disability condition characterised by global muscle weakness, breathing and swallowing problems, and requires the use of a wheelchair to mobilise. The individual requires one-to-one (1:1) physical support to complete all functional transfers, personal care tasks and community access, and has been using NDIS services for several years.

The internal review for additional funding to provide 1:1 support was rejected. The request was not considered to be reasonable and necessary due to lack of evidence, despite the clear need for supports.

Our advocate worked with the individual through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) process, and was able help the individual to apply for Legal Aid NDIS assistance and gather relevant information and evidence. Our advocate attended the AAT case conferences and supported the individual to self-advocate.

The individual, through the AAT Appeals process, was able to demonstrate that the additional core supports and Supported

*Names changed for privacy.

Disability Accommodation (SDA) housing were reasonable and necessary. They are now progressing towards living independently in the community.

Jack and Sally's story

Jack contacted PWdWA for advocacy on behalf of himself and his partner, Sally, to move their relationship to the next level; they wanted to live together. The couple have been in a relationship for a number of years and both have intellectual disability. The couple only wanted to work with one support provider to ensure they have continuity of support.

Sally's support provider believed Jack and Sally would not cope on their own without their support. The couple wanted to choose their own support provider.

Each of the couple's NDIS plans needed to go to early review so the couple could have the supports in place which they required to live together.

Our advocate listened to what Jack and Sally wanted and was directed by them. They attended meetings with community stakeholders to ensure Jack and Sally's voices were heard. Our advocate provided Jack and Sally with referrals, such as Sexuality

Education Counselling and Consultancy Agency (SECCA), to help them transition from single life to coupled life.

Jack and Sally were able to choose their own support provider, and moved in together with all the supports in place and updated NDIS plans.

Centrelink/DSP

Don has a double amputation and was at risk of homelessness. He was denied access to the Disability Support Pension (DSP) due to a lack of medical evidence. Don asked for advocacy to appeal the decision made by Centrelink.

Our advocate referred Don to the DSP Information Tool Kit developed by PWdWA and encouraged Don to review the documents while he was placed on the waitlist.

Don was supported to engage a welfare rights service to obtain legal advice about what further evidence he should collect. Our advocate was able to support Don to collect the evidence needed and submit it to Centrelink for an appeal. Don's access to the DSP was granted on appeal.

*Names changed for privacy.



Systemic Advocacy

PWdWA's systemic advocacy funding is through the National Disability Advocacy Program. Some of the key areas we have worked on over the last 12 months include:



NDIS



Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation



Access and Inclusion



Employment



Social Security



Justice

Our strong relationships with government, the disability sector, and National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) enable us to proactively raise systemic issues and influence longer term change. We continue to be invited to meetings, and sit on advisory committees and reference groups, which acknowledges our role as a lead member-based disability organisation in WA. This includes the State Disability Taskforce on COVID-19 where we work to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are recognised in the State government's response.

We have also responded to over a dozen consultations and enquiries through submissions. This includes three submissions to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC), and submissions to the Senate Inquiry into Independent Assessments. All our submissions are available to be viewed on our website.

Our systemic work is informed by the WA community, both through the trends and case studies seen in our individual advocacy work, and direct community engagement including community forums and surveys. We take a collaborative approach to all our systemic work, seeking opportunities to partner with other organisations to strengthen our responses. We wish to particularly acknowledge WA Individualised Services (WAIIS) and the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) with whom we have collaborated on several submissions over the last 12 months.

Systemic Advocacy in Action - Independent Assessments

PWdWA engaged in several activities as part of a campaign to stop the introduction of independent assessments. We hosted a community forum and an online survey to enable people with disabilities to tell us what they thought about Independent Assessments. This information was included in our joint submissions with WAIIS to the NDIA, and the Senate Inquiry into Independent Assessments. We collaborated on further submissions from a coalition of NDIS Appeals providers which also went to the NDIA and the Senate Inquiry. In response to our submissions, our CEO, Brendan Cullinan and Board Chair, Lisa Burnette, were invited to appear before the Senate Inquiry to give evidence in person.

We worked collaboratively with the Disability Coalition of WA to write to the Hon. Don Punch MLC, Minister for Disability Services, to raise our concerns about Independent Assessments. We also met with Minister Punch's office to voice our opposition to the introduction of Independent Assessments.

We were relieved at the announcement that Independent Assessments had been scrapped and will continue to advocate for a fairer NDIS that meets the needs of people with disabilities.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) 2013-14
The Social Security (Special Cases) Regulations 2013

For more about the NDIS Code of Conduct, go to
www.ndiscommission.gov.au
or call 1800 035 544



NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission



Projects

PWdWA has several projects that support our vision and mission. Project evaluations show we consistently deliver outcomes and meet our obligations within project budgets. In addition to the projects highlighted in this report, we secured funding for two new projects commencing in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Our approach to projects has been to seek out collaboration to drive greater impact. In addition to partnering on our own projects, we are part of reference and advisory groups for many other disability sector projects in the areas of housing, inclusion, co-design, and advocacy.

COVID-19 disrupted all our project activities this year. Lockdowns meant face-to-face activities were cancelled and project officers had to adapt quickly. Thanks to a grant from Lotterywest to upgrade our Information Technology (IT) systems, project officers were able to work remotely, and many face-to-face activities moved online.



Diversity Field Officer

Funder: ILC Grant

Partners: AWA and AFDO

The Diversity Field Officer (DFO) project is an education and mentoring program working with small to medium sized businesses to help them feel more confident about disability inclusion in their workplace. COVID-19 meant we had to adjust our targets for the project, but we still managed to engage 15 businesses to complete the program. Despite the challenges that COVID-19 brought, over 80% of businesses involved felt more confident about their ability to employ and support people with disabilities. A success of the project is our work with Mandurah Boat and Bike Hire who organised upgrades to the local jetty and have incorporated accessible designs into their new boat.

A new Information, Linkages, and Capacity Building (ILC) Grant in partnership with AWA and Youth Disability Advocacy Network (YDAN) to be delivered in 2021-2022 will allow us to expand on this project, upskilling young people with disabilities to work directly with businesses to build their disability confidence.



Empowered, Connected and Co-designed

Funder: ILC Grant

Partners: Health Consumers' Council

The Empowered, Connected and Co-designed project aims to increase the capacity of people with disabilities to make choices and transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Throughout the year our Project Officer and lived experience facilitators delivered 14 information sessions and workshops to over 100 people on the topics of Self-Advocacy, NDIS, DSP and the Disability Royal Commission. Across all topics people told us they had improved understanding and more confidence to take action.

Over the next 12 months we will be focusing on rolling out information sessions and workshops to targeted regional areas.

Reaching Out for Advocacy

Funder: Department of Communities

Partners: AWA and SSCLS

The Reaching Out for Advocacy project focuses on raising awareness of disability advocacy in regional areas including the Wheatbelt, Great Southern, and Southwest. We were able to secure a 12-month extension to this project extending it through to June 2022. The PWdWA Regional Outreach advocate has set up regular monthly visits to Northam, Jurien Bay, Dandaragan, Moora, and Merredin. The visits have provided face-to-face advocacy to over 100 people and networked with local communities. Our advocate has been able to connect people to services, prevented homelessness, and supported NDIS and DSP applications.



PWdWA staff Suresh Rajan (left) and Brendan Cullinan (second from the right) with Access Plus representatives Fiona Perry (Interpreter), Rebecca Adams (CEO) and Baily Fernandez (General Manager of Corporate Services) at State Disability Strategy presentation.



State Disability Strategy 2020-2030 – Community Awareness Project

Funder: DoC

PWdWA were previously involved in assisting the co-design of the State Government's Disability Strategy 2020-2030 (Strategy) around 18 months ago. However, due in no small part to COVID-19 restrictions, the roll out of the Strategy to the whole state has been hindered. PWdWA was contracted by the DoC to deliver a community awareness program across the state that will increase awareness of the Strategy and its intent. The community sessions began in June 2021.

The Strategy is comprised of four pillars as follows:

- Participate and Contribute
- Inclusive Communities
- Living Well
- Rights and Equity.

The Strategy designed to complement the Federal government's disability system, administered by the NDIA. The aim of the strategy is to make the whole of the state a very accessible and inclusive place thus ensuring that people with disability can achieve the four pillars of the strategy mentioned above.

Part of the first Action Plan that underlay the Strategy was to introduce an Office of Disability.

A copy of the Strategy is available at:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/state-disability-strategy-2020-2030>

STATE CONFERENCE – Celebrating Self Advocacy

The PWdWA State Conference 2020 was an inaugural two-day consumer-led, disability-sector event held at the Bendat Centre in Wembley on 19-20 November 2020.

Unlike typical sector conferences, which are aimed at disability professionals, this event was led exclusively by people with lived experience of disability, mental health issues and neurological difference. Although workers and the wider community were invited to attend, the program was unique in its focus on the perspectives, voices and input of people with disabilities.

Exploring the theme “Celebrating Self-Advocacy”, the conference was hosted as a partnership between PWdWA and Evolve Events and Training. The two-day conference program was designed around the following streams:

- Collaboration
- Working together and sharing
- Challenges

- Addressing challenges, seeking solutions
- Choice
- Empowerment and self-determination
- Celebrations
- Showcasing innovation and best practice

Over the two days of the conference a total of **182 distinct delegates** registered to attend (excluding staff and those presenters who were not also delegates), with most attending both days.

PWdWA acknowledges and thanks our funding partners:

- Department of Communities (DoC)
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Lotterywest





Key Relationships

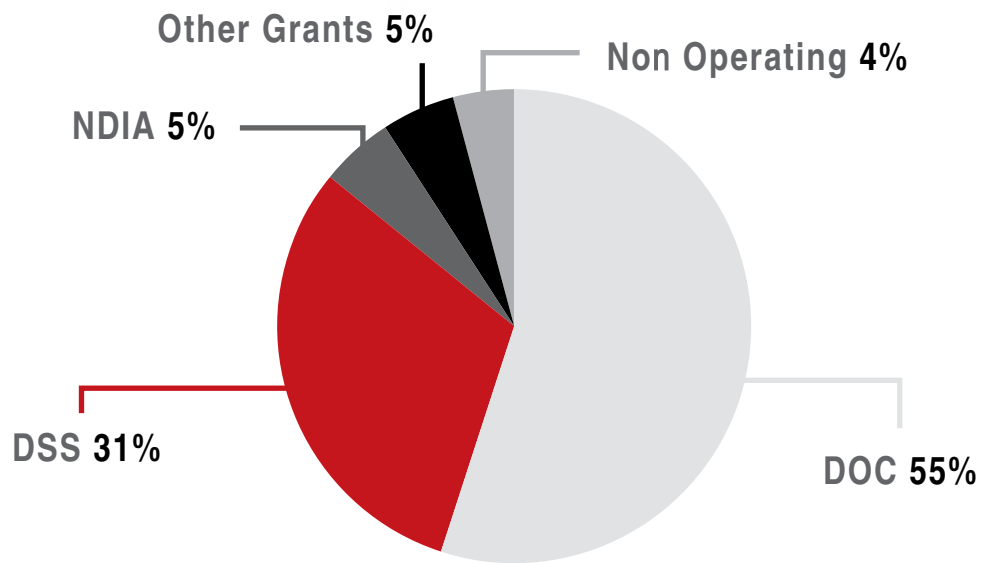
- Aboriginal Legal Service
- Advocacy WA
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Blue Knot Foundation
- Carers WA
- Community Employers WA
- Consumers of Mental Health Western Australia
- Department of Communities
- Department of Social Services
- Developmental Disability Western Australia
- Disability Advocacy Network Australia
- Disability Leadership Institute
- Disability Resource Centre
- Evolve Events & Training
- Explorability
- Health Consumers' Council WA
- Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation
- KIN
- Leadership WA
- Legal Aid WA
- Linkwest
- Lotterywest
- McCusker Centre for Citizenship
- Midlas
- National Disability Insurance Agency
- National Disability Services
- Office of the Minister for Disability Services, Hon. Don Punch MLA
- Relationships Australia
- Self-Advocacy WA
- Sexual Education Counselling and Consultancy Agency
- Shelter WA
- Summer Foundation
- Sussex Street Community Law Services
- Western Australian Council of Social Service
- Western Australia's Individualised Services
- Western Australian Association for Mental Health
- Women with Disabilities WA Inc
- Yorgum Healing Services
- Your Say Uniting Care West
- Youth Disability Advocacy Network



Financial Summary 2020-2021

Income

Total: \$3,004,535.68



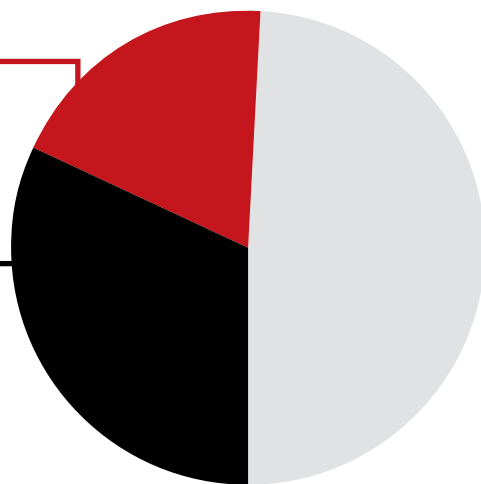
Admin &
Operation
Costs 19%

Salary and Wages 49%

Consortium
Expense 32%

Expenses

Total: \$2,854,822.40



NDIA = National Disability Insurance Agency

DSS = Department of Social Services

DOC = Department of Communities

Individual and systemic advocacy
led by people with disabilities in
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