



# PWdWA

## Newsletter

### November 2023

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#### **Message from our CEO – Brendan Cullinan**

Welcome to the November edition of our newsletter. Following the release of the Disability Royal Commission Report in September, the much-anticipated NDIS Review is due for release in the first week of December. The NDIS Review has looked at the design, operations and sustainability of the NDIS. It has also reviewed ways to make the market and workforce more responsive, supportive and sustainable. Professor Bruce Bonyhady AM and Ms Lisa Paul AO PSM are co-chairs of the Independent Review Panel. PWdWA will provide a summary of key recommendations to our members when the report is released.

PWdWA will be participating in consultation on the Advocacy Standards Project with the Disability Advocacy Network Australia and Older Persons Advocacy Network. The Advocacy Standards Project aims to develop an Australian standard that has formal recognition and standing, that is auditable and capable of being deployed across the funded Advocacy sector in Australia as the key benchmark of quality and the driver of continuous improvement and development to ensure consistent and quality services to people we serve.

PWdWA members were consulted to prepare a submission on the Aviation Green Paper- Toward 2050. The submission completed by consultant Danielle Loizou-Lake highlighted a range of concerns from booking flights, checking in, communication, airport and aircraft environments, and the transporting of equipment. The full report will be available soon on our website.

## **PWdWA in Action**

### **International Day for People with Disability – Pinjarra and Ravenswood**

We're excited to announce a special lunch event in honour of the International Day for People with Disability. This is a great opportunity for individuals with disabilities, along with their families, friends, and caregivers in Pinjarra and Ravenswood to come together and celebrate.

We're also introducing our individual advocate, Lisa, who be available every other Thursday at the Murray Community Resource Center to provide individual advocacy support, and we believe her presence will significantly empower people with disabilities to have their voices heard.

The event details are as follows:

- **Date: Friday, December 1, 2023**
- **Time: 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm**
- **Location: Ravenswood Community Center, Lot 1055 Wilghi Way, Ravenswood.**

### **PWdWA in Kalgoorlie**

Empowered and Connected Project Officer, Grace, and Communications Officer, Vanessa, along with Abby from Connect Groups visited Kalgoorlie on 22 and 23 November.

Grace and Vanessa hosted a morning tea to hear from people with disabilities, their supports and service providers about important issues in Kalgoorlie and then provided free information sessions on applying for an NDIS Review and Appeal, and

making a strong Disability Support Pension application. Additionally, Abby held a workshop specifically designed for those who are thinking of starting a Support Group.

## **Annual General Meeting**

PWdWA wants to extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all the members who attended the Annual General Meeting of PWdWA for their presence and active participation. Your dedication and commitment to our organisation have been instrumental in making us the leading voice for people with disability in Western Australia.

The meeting was a huge success, and we are thrilled to see the enthusiasm and passion of our members. The discussions and debates that took place reflected the strength of our membership and the diversity of views and experiences that make us a truly representative organisation.

We are proud to have presented our annual report, highlighting the progress we have made in the past year, and the initiatives we have taken to improve the lives of people with disability in Western Australia. We also discussed important matters, including the budget, new initiatives, and membership growth, all of which were informed by your valuable feedback and input.

We want to thank everyone who participated in person and online, and we appreciate the effort of those who contributed to the meeting. We believe that the success of PWdWA is a result of the collective effort of our members, staff, and partners. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to working with you in the future to achieve our shared vision of a more inclusive and accessible Western Australia.

## Current Issues

### Armadale Thornlie Train Line Shut Down Taxi Vouchers

Hon. Rita Saffioti, the Minister for Transport, has agreed to provide additional support to people with disabilities who require assistance due to the Armadale Thornlie Train Line Shutdown. The support will be provided in the form of fully subsidised taxi vouchers. These vouchers will be available to individuals with disability who are unable to drive and have been adversely impacted by the train line closure.

To access the taxi vouchers, you need to contact the Transperth information line at **13 62 13**. If they are unable to assist you, please reach out to the Public Transport Authority at **9326 2000**.

It is important to note that these vouchers are only available to those who meet the eligibility criteria. Therefore, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your eligibility, please contact the Transperth information line or the Public Transport Authority for further assistance.

### Have Your Say on Authorisation of Restrictive Practices in Funded Disability Services Resources

Restrictive practices are defined as any practice or intervention that has the effect of restricting the rights or freedom of movement of a person with disability.

A restrictive practice can only be used as a last resort to protect that person or others from harm. If authorised, it should be the least restrictive practice in the circumstances and used for the shortest time possible.

Providers use positive behaviour support to help them:

- use less restrictive practices and
- to stop using restrictive practices.

Positive behaviour support is about supporting a person with disability to live a good life.

Presently, the authorisation of restrictive practices in Western Australia is under the Authorisation of Restrictive Practices in Funded Disability Services Policy (the Policy).

The Behaviour Support Consultancy Team (BSC Team) at the Department of Communities provides information to the community about the Policy.

The BSC Team is seeking your input to understand what people with disability in Western Australia want to know about the authorisation of restrictive practices. Your answers will help design resources and education sessions.

It is written in easy read and non-easy read. You can complete the [survey through Office forms](#) or in [Easy Read](#).

If you would like the survey in a different format for your accessibility or prefer to have the questions read out to you and scribed, you can contact Vanessa, our Communications Officer at [vanessa@pwdwa.org](mailto:vanessa@pwdwa.org) or phone 9420 7279 Ext 717

## **PWdWA in Focus**

### **Election of new Board Members**

During the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the board of directors underwent a transition, as returning members were re-elected and new members were appointed. PWdWA is excited to welcome Mark Blowers and Emma-Jane Beck to the team, joining Yhana Lucas, Nihal Iscel, Eric Casey, Grace Barnes, Kat Johns, Shazzy Tharby, and Tom Oliver. We look forward to their valuable contributions and fresh perspectives as we continue to work towards our goals.

## **Upcoming**

### **Christmas Office Closure**

Please note that our office will be closed for the holiday period from 12:30 pm on December 22nd, 2023 until 9:30 a.m. on January 2nd, 2024. In case of a crisis during this time, please contact the following organizations:

- For life-threatening emergencies, please call the Police, Ambulance or Fire brigade on 000.

- For counselling and support services, you can call Lifeline on 13 11 14, Crisis Care on 08 9223 1111, or Country free call on 1800 199 008.

If you would like to leave us a message, we will return your call after the holiday period.

The board and staff at PWdWA hope you have a safe and happy holiday season.

## **PWdWA**

**Would you like your newsletters emailed rather than posted? Just let Vanessa know at [vanessa@pwdwa.org](mailto:vanessa@pwdwa.org).**

- **Head Office:** 23/2 Dehli Street West Perth
- **Mandurah Office:** 22 Ormsby Terrace Mandurah – By Appointment Only
- **Pilbara:** 1800 193 331. Online appointments by arrangement at Pilbara Community Legal Services Karratha, Port Hedland, Roebourne and Newman.
- **Waroona and Pinjarra:** 1800 193 331. By appointment only

PWdWA is funded by the Western Australian Department of Communities and the Australian Department of Social Services.

PWdWA is run BY and FOR people with disabilities and aims to be the voice for all people with disabilities in Western Australia.