



PWdWA Newsletter March 2023

- [Message from our CEO](#)
- [PWdWA in Action](#)
- [Current Issues](#)
- [PWdWA in Focus](#)
- [Upcoming](#)

Message from our CEO Brendan Cullinan

NDIS Review

The Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, announced a review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) on Tuesday, 18 October 2022.

There will be two parts to the Review:

Part 1 will examine the design, operations and sustainability of the NDIS, covering issues outlined in the full-Scheme bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and jurisdictions.

Part 2 will examine ways to build a more responsive, supportive and sustainable market and workforce.

The NDIS Review is led by panel co-chairs Professor Bruce Bonyhady AM and Ms Lisa Paul AO PSM.

An overarching objective for both parts of the Review will be to put people with disability back at the centre of the NDIS, restoring trust, confidence and pride in the NDIS amongst them and their families and carers as well as the broader Australian community, while ensuring the sustainability of the scheme so that future generations receive the benefit of the NDIS.

PWdWA will be providing opportunities for our Members to have their say in this review. Further information will follow on this issue.

Conference 2022 – Keynote Listeners meet the Minister.

Brendan Cullinan, PWdWA CEO and State Disability Conference Key Listeners Simon Chong and Michelle Sedgmen met with Hon. Don Punch, Minister of Disability Services, to review and discuss the themes and issues that emerged from the State Disability Conference held in December 2022.

The Minister was keen to hear about issues around accessible housing, transport and the Taxi User Subsidy Scheme, accessible infrastructure, and understanding the intersectionality between health, disability and mental health.

PWdWA In Action

New Office opens in Mandurah

PWdWA has opened a trial office in Mandurah to allow for greater access for people in the Peel region.

Our new office is located in the WOTSO building on Ormsby Terrace.

We are still contactable at 9420 7279 or 1800 193 331 (Country Callers) or through dutyadvocate@pwdwa.org or info@pwdwa.org.

Advisory Board Members

PWdWA is seeking Advisory Board members to support its Board of Directors in overseeing and guiding the organisation.

This is a unique opportunity to make an immediate real-world impact on the lives of people with disabilities and to further the vision of PWdWA - that people with disabilities are empowered in an inclusive society that values human rights.

The role

Advisory Board members must be prepared to:

- Commit approximately three hours per month to their role;
- Review relevant Board papers;
- Brief directors - verbally or in writing;
- Attend relevant Board and sub-committee meetings, or parts thereof;
- Commit to a minimum three-month period - longer tenure preferred.

Applicants must possess the following:

- Knowledge of good governance principles;
- A strong understanding of finance;
- Good communication skills;
- Genuine passion for inclusivity and diversity;
- Patience and empathy.

Applicants with formal qualifications in accounting or similar would be particularly highly regarded, as would those with data analytics and visualisation skills.

This is a volunteer / pro bono opportunity.

Get in touch

To find out more or to express your interest, please contact Yhana Lucas, Chair of the Board – at hello@yhana.au or phone 0439 972 947.

Current Issues

Changes to the Disability Support Pension Tables for Assessment

The Department of Social Services reviewed the Social Security Tables for the Assessment of Work-related Impairment for Disability Support Pension Determination.

The new table has been registered and is available on the Federal Register of Legislation. The Determination will take effect from 1 April 2023.

The link is here: [*Social Security \(Tables for the Assessment of Work-related Impairment for Disability Support Pension\) Determination 2023.*](#)

The Determination is the result of an extensive consultation and review process, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of a broad range of stakeholders to inform changes to the Impairment Tables.

PWdWA In Focus

Andrea Surman – Operations Manager

Andrea has joined the PWdWA team as our Operations Manager after working in leadership positions in the not-for-profit sector for over twenty years and recently as an Assistant Director with the National Disability Insurance Agency. Andrea's career has predominantly been developing projects that create greater equity for society's most vulnerable.

She has been married for over thirty-five years to her childhood sweetheart and has two adult children and two grandchildren.

Upcoming



PWdWA's Eventbrite Home Page

Do you want to know what events PWdWA has coming up? Hold your phone camera over the QR code, then click the link. This will take you to our Eventbrite home page.

PWdWA's Disability Support Pension Online Information Session

Friday, 24 March 2023: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

This session will inform people about how to apply for the Disability Support Pension (DSP). It will help you prepare and submit a robust application for the DSP by understanding the following:

- If you are eligible to apply.
- The Centrelink DSP process.
- What information does Centrelink need to assess in your application?
- What is good medical evidence, and how to get it from your health professionals?
- Things you need to know about the program of Support, Job Capacity Assessment and Disability Medical Assessment.

At the end of the session, you will have a good idea of how Centrelink will assess your application. We will also provide tools and links to additional resources to help you.

[Register for this session](#) or call Vanessa at 9420 7279 ext. 717 or email vanessa@pwdwa.org.

If you cannot attend the March session, we also have the information session on [Friday, 14 April 2023](#).

PWdWA NDIS Reviews and Appeals Online Information Session

Friday, 21 April 2023: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

- Do you want to know more about NDIS reviews and appeals?
- Do you want to understand when and how you can ask the NDIS to change their decisions?

We have produced this information session in response to requests from our membership.

This session is for Western Australians living with disability, their families, friends and carers assisting them.

[Register for this event](#) or call Vanessa at 9420 7279 ext. 717 or email vanessa@pwdwa.org.

PWdWA

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.