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Mission

As a consumer managed organisation People With Disabilities(WA) Inc— PWD(WA) Inc represents and advocates for the rights and equity of all Western Australians with disabilities.

Vision

- A community that is committed to inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life.
- A belief that people with disabilities should have equal status with all other Australians and equal access to all activities.
- A commitment to the perception of people with disabilities as valued members of society.
- Encourage and assist people with disabilities to self advocate.

PWD(WA) is funded by the Disability Services Commission and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.



President's Report

As always the staff and Committee of Management of PWD(WA) have had a busy year representing individuals and being the voice of people with a disability in a number of issues of importance. PWD(WA) has worked hard to achieve positive outcomes and continues to be a voice in issues which we all know will take longer to resolve. There have been changes in the organisation of staff and members staff as well as changes in the Committee of Management. These changes have seen PWD(WA) continue to grow in strength and resolution of commitment. Some of the main issues PWD(WA) has been involved in over the past year includes:

- Supporting more than 400 people through the individual advocacy services, including the establishment of the Peel Region Individual Advocacy Programme
- Resolution of a number of long standing accommodation cases including assisting a number of people move into the community from nursing home accommodation
- Undertaking a number of successful strategies to raise the profile of people with a disability during the Federal election campaign
- Effective advocacy around a number of systemic issues including taxi service issues
- Increased focus on building the capacity of people with a disability to participate in decision making in their own lives and in the community through support for Self Advocacy WA and the development of two new citizenship programmes
- A strengthened Committee of Management and improved connection to a wider cross section of the community including the support for the WA Network of Disability Advocates (WANDA)
- Representing people with a disability at the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women round table discussions in Canberra (funded by FaHCSIA)
- Representing women with a disability on the Ministerial Women's Advisory Network of WA (WANWA).

It has been my pleasure to be president of PWD(WA) for another year which has seen such achievements and continued effort to achieve the highest possible outcomes for people with a disability. I take this opportunity to thank the staff and Committee of Management for their tireless efforts and all members for their continued support. I also take this opportunity to thank Luke Garswood, Joint Executive Officer and Charmaine Coleman, Senior Individual Advocate who have been with PWD(WA) for a number of years. Both Luke and Charmaine have given PWD(WA) their loyalty, dedication and passionate commitment to PWD(WA). They have chosen to move on with their careers and will be greatly missed. However both the staff and the Committee of Management wish them well in all their future endeavours.



Treasurer's Report

I would like to open my report this year with thanks to Graham Holman, Heather and staff at Independent Administration who has continued to provide invaluable support and advice throughout the year, as have Kaye, Luke, our staff and committee members.

We have worked hard throughout the year, carefully managing our finances. As you will see from our Financial Reports pages, we have finished the year with a small surplus indicative of this carefully managed approach.

Funding for the year came from our five year contract with the Disability Services Commission and our annual contract with the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs. We have also undertaken several projects including establishing the Peel Region Individual Advocacy Program.

This year the management of Disability First Stop has continued on a revised scale, happily the staff are all back in our offices at Lotteries House Nedlands.

Our thanks go to all those who have assisted in so many ways.

Raima Flanagan—Treasurer

Committee of Management

The Committee of Management welcomed Trish Anderson, Lori Hackney and Richard Hill as new members at our last AGM. These individuals have strengthened the Committee and made a significant contribution to its work. It is particularly pleasing that two of the new members (Trish and Richard) are graduates from the Developing Active Citizens program. Lori Hackney will be known to many members from her time working for PWD(WA) and in a number of other welfare/community services.

Raima Flanagan, Treasurer of PWD(WA) for nearly six years, will not be seeking re-election at the AGM as the PWD(WA) Constitution limits membership of the Committee of Management to three two year terms. Raima's commitment to the success of the organisation and her appropriate and considered scrutiny of our finances will be sorely missed.

Membership of the 2008 Committee of Management:

President:	Mary-Anne Bath	Vice President:	Monica McGhie
Treasurer:	Raima Flanagan (outgoing)	Secretary:	Carme Elliot

Ordinary Members:	Trish Anderson	Lori Hackney	Richard Hill
	Greg Madson	Leah Tomlinson-Clemens	



Organisational Development

Snapshot

During 2007/08 PWD(WA) has developed a fresh approach to empowering people with a disability through our citizenship/capacity building programs and increased our effectiveness within our traditional areas of work. A strengthened Committee of Management, the development of a new database for membership and client management, a staffing restructure, and the expansion of our services have been well received by staff and enhanced the sustainability of the organisation.

Staffing

2007/08 was a year of remarkable stability with no changes to staffing in any areas of our work.

The introduction of the Senior Individual Advocate and Senior Policy Advocate positions in June 2007 has proved successful. The creation of the Senior Individual Advocate position (Charmaine Coleman) has ensured much of the day-to-day supervision of casework being removed from the responsibility of the Executive Officer. This allows the Executive Officer to focus on systemic and management issues and ensures advocates needing direction on urgent cases are able to access immediate supervision. The Senior Policy Advocate (Kerrie Duff) position is also beneficial in ensuring an additional senior voice is available to represent the organisation on systemic issues.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report the appointment of the Individual Advocate – Peel Region has been a positive development and a worthwhile experiment in delivery of advocacy into regional areas.

The relocation of the individual advocacy team back to the main office and the investment in the new terminal server and database have improved staff morale and lifted productivity. A proposed substantial redevelopment of the building will ensure PWD(WA) will have an office environment that maximizes our ability to work in program teams and have ready access to fully accessible training facilities that will accommodate our new capacity building/training focus.

Vale

Much of PWD(WA) efforts were informed by the tireless work of PWD(WA) member Frankie Bav who sadly passed away in December 2007.

A founding committee member of PWD(WA), Paul Naomis, also sadly passed away.

Condolences go to the families.



Organisational Development (cont)



From L-R Kerrie Duff, Christina Wright, Paul Armishaw, Lisa Hook, Rewa Ward, Luke Garswood, Stuart Jenkinson, Charmaine Coleman. Absent: Belinda Hewitson and Kaye Regan

The financial position of the organisation has been enhanced by successful applications for funding of a series of projects and an improved budgeting and expenditure monitoring framework. This improved management of resources, largely the result of budgets and monitoring processes established by our Administration Officer, Rewa Ward, has enabled the organisation to make a number of important investments including in the purchase of a new terminal server and database.

Strategic Planning exercise

PWD(WA) received funding from Lotterywest to develop a strategic plan which is nearing completion by Mitch Messer, from Thinking Beyond. Members, Committee of Management and staff were all encouraged to have input. Thank you to those who have contributed to the strategic planning exercise. We are now awaiting the final plan. This will be available for further feedback and comments shortly.

Refurbishment

The Lotterywest has undertaken to refurbish Oasis Lotteries House and it is hoped work will commence towards the end of the year. The modernised building will be better able to cope with the demands of the busy organisations currently housed within.



Capacity Building

Snapshot

In the last financial year PWD(WA) substantially increased our focus on building the capacity of people with disability to have a say in their own lives and as members of the community. Existing programs and the addition of some new project funding from the Disability Services Commission has resulted in the organisation delivering more than forty (40) training sessions and workshops to more than 150 people with disability and family members.

Self Advocacy WA



Self Advocacy WA (SAWA) has approximately twenty members and meets monthly on a Saturday morning. SAWA supports adults with disability in understanding their rights and responsibilities, making their own choices and having a voice and being heard.

With the assistance of a small non-recurrent increase in the funding for Self Advocacy WA we have been able to invest additional time in the development of this group. During the year we have supported SAWA to develop a strategic plan for the next two years, developed a promotional brochure and poster and workshopped and devised a new Member Rights and Responsibilities policy.

In January 2008 Ross Boaden from Curtin University attended the SAWA meeting and consulted with members for his research into person centred planning and community living options. During August the DSC has been invited to consult with the group for the Long term disability plan.

The office bearers for 2007-2008 are: Chairperson – Ian Grose, Deputy Chairperson – Karen Smith, Secretary – Joyce Airey, Assistant Secretary – Wendy Jaggard, Treasurer – Karen Smith.



Self Advocacy WA (cont)

Due to the focus of SAWA on personal development the group determined that office bearers are limited to a two year term in each role. An election for the positions of Secretary and Assistant Secretary will be held on 16 August 2008.

During the remainder of 2008 and 2009 the group has determined that they will seek guest speakers and training opportunities around the issues of women's health and men's health, personal safety, communication skills, decision-making and choice, managing our money and individual goal setting/planning for the future.

SAWA is ably supported by Stuart Jenkinson and Bobby Smith.

"I have been a member of Self Advocacy WA (SAWA) for many years. Attending SAWA meetings has helped me improve my self-confidence, better understand my rights and responsibilities and learn about meeting procedures. I have held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Deputy Chairperson. I am currently the Chairperson of the group and am enjoying the leadership role and being able to help other members of the group, many of which have become good friends. With the skills gained by being a member of SAWA and with the assistance of PWD(WA) my wife and I were able sort out a problem that had been affecting our lives for a long time. By being a member of SAWA and with the support of PWD(WA) I have been able to travel interstate and represent the group at Having A Say conferences. Attending these conferences has helped me learn about the issues facing other people with disabilities from around Australia. Many of these issues are the same for people no matter where they live." Ian Grose.

Developing Active Citizens

As reported in last year's Annual Report PWD(WA) received funding through the Disability Services Commission's Strategic Plan Implementation Grant to provide a training program to increase the capacity of people with disability to take up leadership roles within their community.

The program, known as Developing Active Citizens, ran over twelve months and concluded with a Graduation Ceremony in May 2008. The program included regular sessions with guest speakers who shared their personal and professional expertise on such topics as the history of disability in WA, legislation supporting the rights of people with disability, working with government, advocacy, and public speaking. Luke Garswood and Stuart Jenkinson from PWD(WA) and Leanda Syme and Brenda Williamson from E-QUAL developed and implemented this program.



Developing Active Citizens (cont)

Participants also received one-on-one support to achieve personal goals or take up additional learning opportunities. A number of participants took up elective opportunities to visit Parliament House for the Budget Estimates, Attend afternoon tea at Parliament House with the Shadow Minister for Disability Services and engage in a mock debate in the Legislative Assembly chamber, and undertake media training with Broadcaster Geraldine Mellet.

Graduates of the program have reported they found the program very productive and Dr Ron Chalmers, Director General of the Disability Services Commission, congratulated PWD(WA) and E-QUAL for our collaboration on this very 'purposeful' program. One of the very positive outcomes of the program is the creation of a new group known as WANDA (Western Australian Network of Disability Advocates). This group is now meeting bi-monthly at PWD(WA) and is hoping to expand its role to connect and support the development of disability advocates.

Graduates of the inaugural Developing Active Citizens Program are:

Patricia Anderson	Carme Elliot	Ronald Fisher	Sue Hartshorn	Richard Hill
Rosalie Leaney	Monica McGhie	Robert Nelson	Amanda Olsen	Tony Santoro
Lee Ugle	Lynette-Kay Wood	Lyn Young		

"It is clear that the outcomes from the program have been significant. The confidence and leadership capacity of participants has grown as they built their knowledge and skills in key areas of citizenship. Congratulations to PWD and E-QUAL for collaborating on this very purposeful program. " Dr Ron Chalmers.

Enhancing Citizenship

Enhancing Citizenship is a joint PWD(WA)/Senses Foundation Inc project funded by the Disability Services Commission.

The aim of the project is to enhance the opportunities for up to 10 people who are living in Senses Foundation supported accommodation to become active citizens in their local community.

Participants undertook a Citizenship training program developed and presented by PWD(WA). Merylyn McKie, the project worker from Senses Foundation, is working closely with individuals to source opportunities for people to express their citizenship. The project has been a great success, empowering people with disability to develop an understanding of the valued role they have within the community.



Standard 9 Training

Paul Armishaw and Charmaine Coleman developed and delivered training on Standard 9 of the Disability Services Standards to around eighty employees of ACTIV Industries Embleton over a full day. Standard 9 addresses the protection of Human Rights and Freedom from Neglect and Abuse.

Family Leadership

Disability Services Commission and Carers WA funded PWD(WA) to conduct a series of workshops for parents and carers both in the metropolitan area and rural and remote areas. Workshops have been well attended and covered areas such as how to use the media, the political system, how to care for yourself and your family, the most effective ways to advocate for yourself and your family member with a disability and how to understand the system.

Excellent presentations were provided by Geraldine Mellet, Vice Patron of PWD(WA) and a wonderful supporter, Kerry Allan Zinner, Dr Carmen Lawrence, Sharryn Jackson Federal Member for Hasluck, Dee Margetts, Ann O'Neill, Karen Brown (media consultant), parents Carol Franklin, Jean O'Hart and Gaye Matthews who provided wonderful insights into their own experiences and strategies to deal with the 'system', Jo Warburton from Kalparrin and Carmen Dougall, a Carers WA counsellor. Presentations were provided on the Carers Recognition Act (Lois Gatley), the Equal Opportunity Act (Mark Newhouse), Disability Discrimination Act (Cheryl Collier) and Office of Health Review (Anne Donaldson). The Minister for Disability Services, the Hon Sheila McHale also attended one of the workshops.

We thank everyone who took the time to be involved in this project. Very positive feedback was received. The workshops were video linked to rural areas and it has been an experience to hear of some of the issues, concerns and extreme difficulties directly from family members in remote parts of WA.

Media Awards Review

An internal review of the PWDWA Media Awards is underway to clarify the purpose of the awards, and find ways for it to be a more effective tool for engaging the media.

Some of the options currently being explored are:

- Having one major award only, with more specific criteria on what constitutes community awareness or positive community attitudes to disability
- Providing awareness training to journalists on how to positively report on people with disabilities and disability issues
- Joining with another organisation in their awards to the media.



Media Awards Review (cont)

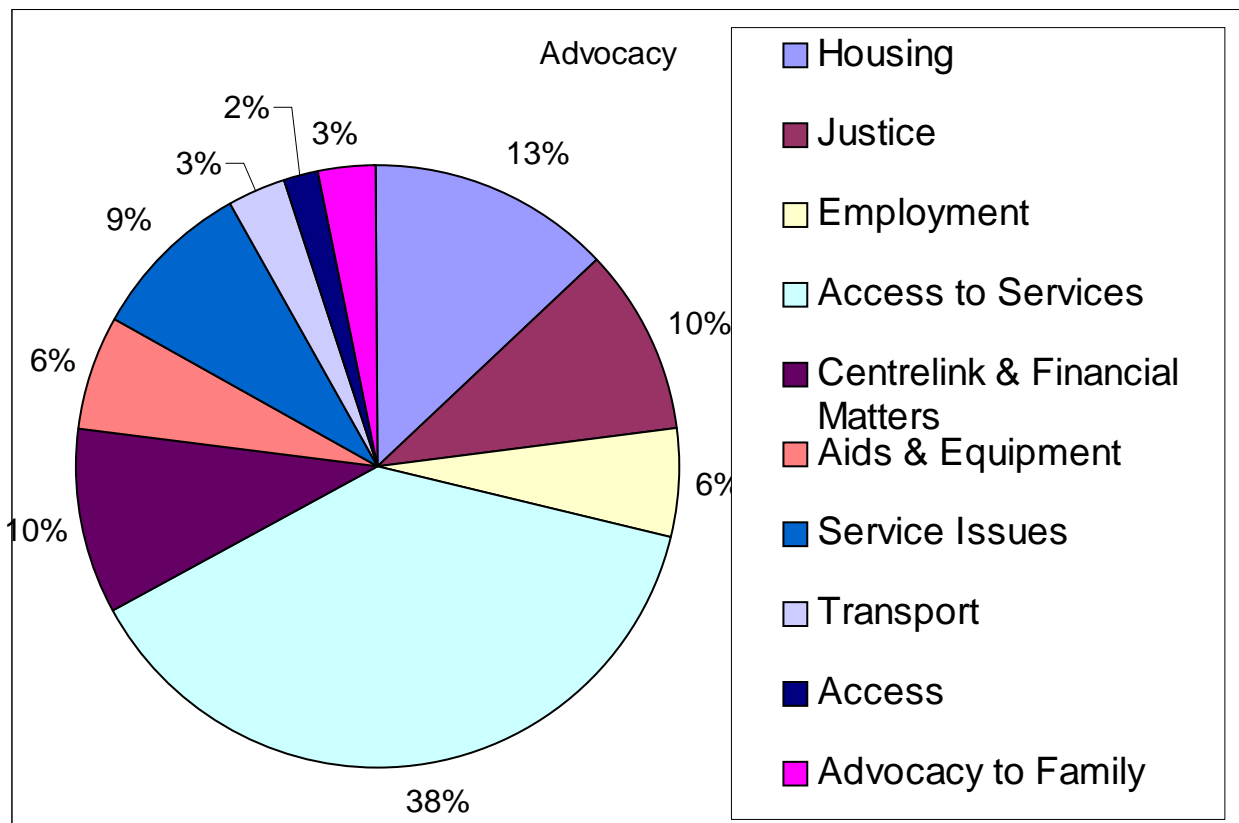
- Involving media representatives in nominating and judging for the award.

Further information on the media awards and result of the review will be made available in the newsletter throughout the year.

Individual Advocacy

Snapshot

During 2007/08 PWD(WA) has provided individual advocacy support to more than 400 individuals through a range of programs funded by the Disability Services Commission and the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs. PWD(WA) has also ensured an effective voice for Western Australians with a disability through systemic advocacy on issues such as response times for multi purpose taxis, the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with a Disability and the policies of political parties in the Federal Election. Approximately 1000 calls requesting information on various disability matters have been responded to and we have recorded just over 35,000 website visits.





Accommodation Advocacy

The Accommodation Advocate is funded for four days a week by the Disability Services Commission to provide individual advocacy support to people with disability who receive funding for accommodation support services. This is a particularly critical service as individuals in receipt of accommodation services often have very complex needs and are ineligible for Local Area Coordination services. Paul Armishaw is our Accommodation Advocate.

Seventy seven individuals received assistance during the year. Issues addressed include:

- Twenty six people required advocacy to address operational and relationship matters with their accommodation service provider with five of these pursuing formal complaints and eight choosing to exercise their right to find a new service provider under the Portable Funding arrangement
- Thirteen individuals have been assisted to access additional services including six people supported to seek additional support through the Combined Applications Process
- Seven people received advocacy relating to housing issues
- Five required advocacy to family members
- Three required advocacy to address Guardianship and/or Administration matters.

The timeframe between accessing funding and a suitable accommodation option is increasing as the interlinking issues of available housing, service provider capacity and the shortage of paid carers continue. The lack of available vacancies or alternative accommodation options often results in people having to remain in situations where they are unhappy or to take up options that are less than ideal.

On a positive note the number of people who are now receiving accommodation support funding through the Combined Applications Process and the Young People in Residential Aged Program (YPRAC) provides considerable reason for optimism into the future.

"I contacted PWD(WA) while I was still living at the Quad Centre in Shenton Park. I'd been trying to organise funding and accommodation so I could move into the community. The process had been terribly frustrating and I felt no one was listening. Paul worked with me to advocate for my right to have control over my life and to have choices in relation to my care. PWD(WA) has been a great support during the last twelve months." Mr S Webber





Disability First Stop

Disability First Stop at People With Disabilities (WA) Inc is an information, support and advocacy service for adults who are newly diagnosed with a disability. The Disability Services Commission funds an advocacy officer for four days per week with an expectation that 80 individuals are provided with direct assistance and a further 80 individuals are provided with information assistance. Christina Wright took up the challenge of running Disability First Stop in July 2007.

During 2007-2008 163 people were provided with direct assistance and seventy six received information through a one-off contact. 116 people were 'exited' during the year with a number of these referred to the Kalparrin Centre as a result of program changes determined by the Disability Services Commission.

Outcomes for cases included:

- Eight individuals were supported with justice issues including access to legal advice and services
- Seventeen individuals were provided with information or supported to access disability aids and equipment
- Seven individuals were supported with Centrelink matters
- Five individuals were supported with employment matters including Job Capacity Assessments to access specialist employment services
- Thirty nine individuals were supported to access HACC and other community based support services
- Twenty three individuals were provided with information or supported to access other appropriate advocacy services
- Sixteen people were linked with their Local Area Coordinator or other DSC funded and provided services
- Five individuals were assisted with housing issues.

"Disability First Stop at People With Disabilities (WA) Inc assisted my family with Information and support over the past twelve months. Whenever I call the staff are extremely helpful. I would recommend this service to all families. The great thing is Disability First Stop is based at People With Disabilities (WA) Inc. I have peace of mind knowing that, even when our period of eligibility for Disability First Stop services expires, I will still have access to PWD (WA) advocates' expertise." Pam Carter

"I found out about Disability First Stop at People With Disabilities (WA) Inc from Centrelink in March of this year. Without the support, encouragement and assistance provided to me by Disability First Stop I would still be going round in circles in my attempts to find help. Thanks to Disability First Stop I am now finally getting linked into the services I need in order to get back into the workforce." James Mario



Individual Advocacy (General)

PWD(WA) receives joint State and Federal funding for two advocacy officers to provide independent consumer-directed individual advocacy across the State. 220 people have been assisted during the year in areas as diverse as Housing, Justice, Employment, Centrelink matters and Transport. Charmaine Coleman (Senior Individual Advocate) and Lisa Hook provide this service on behalf of PWD(WA).

As reported in last year's report housing issues represent a large proportion of individual advocacy cases with many individuals experiencing difficulty in accessing Homeswest housing. While PWD(WA) has been able to assist a number of individuals to receive 'priority' status the period of time between the successful application and the offer of suitable accommodation is growing. A number of individuals we have been assisting have had to spend extended periods living in temporary arrangements often exceeding the goodwill of friends and extended family.

People with disability requiring support with justice and legal matters remains a significant issue for individual advocacy. Issues include supporting individuals to access Legal Aid and pro bono legal services for criminal and family law matters, supporting individuals through the State Administrative Tribunal on Guardianship and Administration matters, and seeking Violence Restraining Orders through the courts.

Outcomes for individual advocacy cases include:

- Five individuals required advocacy around financial issues
- Fourteen individuals needed support on legal or justice matters
- Five people required advocacy on education issues
- Twenty one people required advocacy on issues around housing
- Five people were assisted with advocacy around employment
- Thirteen people were assisted with advocacy on Centrelink matters
- Sixteen individuals were supported to access increased disability support services
- Ten people were supported to address access issues.

"My son, who is deaf, was involved in a Family Court matter. He was not granted Legal Aid and couldn't secure assistance from anyone else until his sister contacted PWD(WA) on his behalf. One of the PWD(WA) advocates met with my son and myself. PWD(WA) assisted my son with his appeal to Legal Aid. The Advocate attended court several times with my son and was a great support during the Trial. The Advocate also secured the services of a pro-bono lawyer, who was an immense help. My son could not have prepared affidavits and attended the Family Court without the assistance of PWD(WA) and we are very thankful for their support and assistance." Gloria Macdonald



PWD (WA) Inc advocated on my behalf to get a licence from the City of Swan to start a home business. I have MS and am confined to a wheelchair. It has taken over a year to complete the licence process and PWD has been overseeing the case from the beginning. PWD have done research, written letters, supervised the Motor Dealers exam, made phone calls and kept me informed throughout the process. I thank PWD and their staff for all their effort, energy and support. I would recommend them for anyone in need of advocacy services. Glen Davey

Individual Advocacy – Peel Region

People With Disabilities (WA) Inc received funding from FaHCSIA to employ a mobile Individual Advocate in the Peel Region in late June 2007. In mid July 2007 PWD(WA) interviewed and employed Belinda Hewitson, a local woman with significant disability-related work experience, for approximately 10 hours a week. Mentoring by the Senior Individual Advocate at our Perth office and attendance at some meetings in the Peel Region has assisted in ensuring a quality advocacy service is being provided. The Peel Advocate has at least once weekly telephone contact with the Senior Individual Advocate and attends a monthly staff meeting at the Perth office.

The Peel Region Individual Advocacy Service is a mobile service and as such there is no office and very few overheads involved. PWD(WA) meets limited mobile phone, mileage and internet connection costs for the Advocate. The Peel Advocate has remote access to PWD(WA)'s files server and client database.

In the first two months of the new service it was important that substantial promotion be undertaken. The Peel Advocate met with thirteen local agencies and groups during this period, including DSC Local Area Coordination, Mandurah Citizens Advice Bureau, Peel Personnel, Peel Community Living and Peel Community Legal Centre.

Two newspaper advertisements were placed in local newspapers, a brochure was produced and circulated and two local newspapers included small articles promoting the service to the local community.

The Peel service has been operating for nearly one year and has assisted twenty five consumers with a total of thirty seven cases. Five of whom are still being assisted.

Issues addressed include:

- Advocated for removal of barriers to physical access for a ninety year old veteran who relies on his gopher for mobility
- Supported two people to access Carers' Payment



Individual Advocacy – Peel Region

- Supported two people to access the Disability Support Pension
- Advocated to Disability Services Commission Local Area Coordinators to support families
- Advocated for equitable access to transport for school excursions for a child with a disability
- Referred details of fraud against a woman with a disability to police for investigation
- Assisted three individuals with information and advocacy regarding the DSC Combined Applications Process
- Supported a man to access local legal services.

PWD(WA) has valued the opportunity to provide expanded advocacy services in the Peel Region. The availability of a local person based within the region has saved valuable time in travel and has also ensured we are able to provide a more personalised and direct support to people living out of the metropolitan area. PWD (WA) has received funding for a further year for this project and welcomes this development.

Information

Approximately 1000 people with disabilities and family members have received personalised telephone-based information from our Information Advocate, Stuart Jenkinson, and other PWD(WA) staff during this year.

The PWD(WA) website www.pwdwa.org has received an average of 3136 visits per month or over 35,000 visits during the year. In-house updating of our web content and ensured information is made available to consumers in a more timely manner. The 'Current Issues' section of our website informs visitors of our main activities and any developments that may be of interest while the 'Be Involved' page provides an avenue to promote opportunities for participation in campaign activities, consultations, Local Government and other advisory mechanisms and university research projects. PWD (WA) publications, position papers and policies are routinely updated on the website.

The brief format of the newsletter, the PWD(WA) Advocate, has reduced the production time involved and ensured the information contained in the newsletter is up to date. Feedback from consumers who miss the more detailed newsletter will be considered in the strategic planning process.

The main areas individuals seek information about are:

- Aids and Equipment
- Transport
- Legal services
- Housing/Accommodation
- Accessible Holiday Accommodation.



SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

The Federal Election

The Federal Election in November 2007 presented an important opportunity to ensure the needs and aspirations of people with disability gained a profile in what was considered to be a very close contest between the major parties.

PWD(WA)'s decision to join the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) earlier in the year meant we were part of a strong collective effort in attempting to raise the profile of disability issues and ensured the voices of people with disability were raised alongside the usually high profile voices from carers and families.

A well researched and designed campaign had been developed by AFDO under the banner 'Campaign Enable'. Black and lime green T shirts with the slogans 'I have a Disability and I Vote' or 'Do you want to win an Election?' on the front and a list of the fifteen most marginal electorates across the country, the margin and number of disability pension recipients in each electorate printed on the back, sent a very visible and clear message.

I have a disability and I vote

I have a disability and I vote in ...		
Dobell	held by 3671	voters on a disability pension 4943
Bonnelong	held by 3426	voters on a disability pension 2473
Eden-Monaro	held by 2596	voters on a disability pension 5450
Lindsay	held by 2248	voters on a disability pension 3862
Solomon	held by 1347	voters on a disability pension 2627
Moreton	held by 2161	voters on a disability pension 3061
Bass	held by 1643	voters on a disability pension 4481
Wentworth	held by 2107	voters on a disability pension 1548
Stirling	held by 1552	voters on a disability pension 4657
Haskuck	held by 1303	voters on a disability pension 4055
Braddon	held by 733	voters on a disability pension 5501
Parramatta	held by 663	voters on a disability pension 4624
Makin	held by 790	voters on a disability pension 4952
Wakefield	held by 541	voters on a disability pension 7595
Bonner	held by 398	voters on a disability pension 3568
Kingston	held by 60	voters on a disability pension 6383

PWD(WA) organised two of the six marginal seat forums held across Australia and invited the local candidates to attend and speak and answer any questions. The opportunity to speak to almost all the candidates in Stirling and Swan and hear their views on disability issues was a great demonstration of grass roots democracy. Approximately 50 people attended the two forums.



The Federal Election (cont)

PWD(WA) also produced a special edition of our newsletter summarising the policies of the major parties and providing a link to the websites of political parties and relevant disability/carer election commitments.

As part of the Disability Coalition of WA, PWD(WA) participated in two meetings in the last weeks of the campaign in an effort to maximise the disability policy and funding outcomes for Western Australians with disability. The meetings with Senator Chris Ellison, then Federal Minister for Human Services and a number of Liberal Candidates, and Senator Jan McLucas, then Shadow Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, were followed by a half page advertisement in the West Australian newspaper

Access to Transport

In September 2007 a number of petitions addressing the inadequacy of the current multi purpose taxi service and the need for universally accessible taxis were tabled in the Western Australian Parliament. 849 people petitioned the Legislative Assembly including six individual petitions outlining specific concerns expressed by individuals to illustrate the problem in practical and personal terms. Eighty four people petitioned the Legislative Council to conduct an Inquiry into the benefits of a universally accessible taxi fleet. As a result of this petition a submission was provided to the Legislative Council. While a full public inquiry was not conducted we are confident this action has raised the profile of this issue.

PWD(WA) collaborated with the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability and the Disability Services Commission in conducting consultations around the Disability Discrimination Act Transport Standards. Following these consultations a joint submission was provided to the review consultants. PWD(WA) also provided follow up comments to Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) on the draft report.

PWD(WA) also presented a submission to HREOC opposing an application for exemption from the Disability Discrimination Act Transport Standards from the WA and Queensland Taxi Councils.

Luke Garswood represented PWD(WA) on the Minister's Taxi Users Advisory Forum, PWD(WA) member Frankie Bav attended meeting of the Swan Taxi Customer Forum, Kerrie Duff and Monica McGhie inspected the new Tarago MPT before the trial commenced and two meetings of the PWD(WA) Universal Taxi Reference Group were convened.

These initiatives have combined to ensure a strong voice for people with a disability around transport issues and have played a significant part in recent multi-million dollar initiatives that are designed to improve taxi services for people with disability.



Other Submissions to Government

- Carers Payment submission
- Special Disability Trust Inquiry
- Submission on the Commissioner for Children and Young People's Internal Participation Policy
- Submission to the Department of Premier Cabinet Review of State Concessions
- Participation in consultations on the National Disability Advocacy Program.

Other Consultations

- Attendance at State and National consultations on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
- Consultations for the State Disability Plan
- Roundtable on Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability
- Member meetings of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Participated in forums on the new DSC Quality Management Framework
- Interviews regarding DSC Health Resource Consultancy Team
- Attendance at FaHCSIA National consultations on Women and Violence
- Attendance at the local 2020 summit forums regarding Housing, Health and Strengthening the Community
- Participated in Women's Advisory Network of Western Australia (WANWA) workshop on Social Inclusion and Gender Based Analysis.

Other Systemic Activities

- Presentation at the Disability and Justice Conference 2008
- Presentation at the National Disability Advocacy Conference 2007
- Participated in writing workshops for the Community Living Plan
- Appointment of Luke Garswood to the CEO – Director General Disability Round Table
- Participated in National Consumer Congress
- Visit to Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service
- Women's Advisory Network of Western Australia
- Synergy Customer Advocacy Committee;
- International Women's Day – Women with Disabilities and Technology Seminar with Women With Disabilities WA (WWDWA)
- Accessible Communities Awards including judging
- You're Welcome Strategy
- Accessible Parking Working Party
- Regular meetings with the Disability Coalition and Dr Ron Chalmers, Director General, Disability Services Commission.

Kerrie Duff (Senior Policy Advocate) and Joint Executive Officers Kaye Regan and Luke Garswood conduct PWD(WA)'s Systemic Advocacy efforts.



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Mr HOWARD

YOU HAVE BROKEN YOUR PROMISE TO PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

You have failed to provide the money you promised to Western Australians with a disability, and their families, for desperately needed support.

You promised to MATCH, dollar for dollar, funding put forward by the WA Government for critically needed accommodation and respite support for people with a disability in Western Australia.

WA put forward \$156 million. You have offered \$55 million.

Where is the other \$101 million?

This money is needed urgently.

Western Australians are asking – WHY HAVE YOU BROKEN YOUR PROMISE?

DO THE RIGHT THING, MR HOWARD.

HONOUR YOUR PROMISE.

Mr RUDD

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

The Disability Coalition of Western Australia

C/O Developmental Disability Council of WA

Tel: (08) 9420 7203 • Fax: (08) 9420 7204 • Email: ddcwa@ddc.org.au

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