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## **Mission**

Empowering the voices of people with disabilities in WA

## **Vision**

A community where all people have a full and valued life with the freedom to make their own choices

## **Values**

People with Disabilities (WA) Inc value

- Inclusion
- Respect
- Participation
- Privacy
- Equity/Equality
- Opportunity
- Understanding
- Consideration
- Courtesy
- Diversity
- Choice
- Dignity

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



## President's Report

This year it has indeed been one of change and development. You may remember in my last report I told you of the resignation of one of our Executive Officers. I am pleased to inform members of the appointment of Louise Durack to the position of Executive Director. After a brief handover, the Committee and staff sadly farewelled Kaye Regan who had been Executive Officer and Joint Executive Officer at PWD(WA) for 12 years. Kaye chose to retire and hand over the reins to Louise to take PWD(WA) forward with her own enthusiasm and fresh eyes. Kaye's wealth of knowledge and great commitment to PWD(WA) and the disability sector will be greatly missed.



With the appointment of a new Executive Director, PWD(WA) has been able to complete its Strategic Plan. The completion of the plan was put on hold to allow the person appointed to the top position to have an input into the process. PWD(WA) was successful in gaining a grant from the Western Australian Women's Advisory Network to undertake research into health issues for women with a disability. This research has been completed by Samantha Jenkinson and will be released in the near future.

Following successful negotiations with DSC, PWD(WA) secured a one off grant to supplement our funds and give PWD(WA) the opportunity to appoint a Senior Individual Advocate. PWD(WA) has been able to welcome Andrew Jefferson to this position. Andrew has already made a great contribution to the organisation and is committed to people with disabilities having worked in the sector for many years.

PWD(WA) has been promoting inter-agency cooperation with PWD Australia. The Executive Director has spent some time speaking with staff at PWD Australia and reviewing some of their procedures. PWD Australia extended an invitation to PWD(WA) for a member of the Committee of Management to be co-opted to their Board. The Committee of Management agreed that the President of PWD(WA) would be the representative to serve on the Board of PWD Australia. It has been my pleasure to attend two meetings to date and gain valuable insight into the commitment of a similar advocacy agency.

Other events, closer to home, saw staff and the Committee of Management undertake a Values Workshop, facilitated by Lois Gatley. This generated valuable discussion and will be followed up by a further workshop in November. PWD(WA) was also successful in gaining a grant to appoint a project officer to review policies and procedures. Members will be aware that PWD(WA) has a new look after undertaking one of the objectives in the Strategic Plan. We hope members are pleased with the rebranding of PWD(WA). Finally members will be aware that due to the refurbishment of Oasis Lotteries House, staff have moved into temporary accommodation in Thelma Street, West Perth.

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Staff achieved this very difficult and stressful task with the minimum of fuss and no complaint about duties above and beyond the call of duty.

I take this opportunity to thank all staff for their commitment, hard work and dedication during a time of change, first in leadership, and later, accommodation. All staff have worked all year, above and beyond the call of duty and they are to be commended for their untiring effort. As always, my work as President would not have been possible without the support of the rest of the Committee of Management. My thanks also goes to them for their support.

PWD(WA) has at all times worked in the best interests of its members and clients. It makes effort to continually improve its service and I am sure we will continue to move forward in the future.



**Mary-Anne Bath**  
**President**

## **Treasurer's Report**

This has been a very busy year with PWD(WA) Inc. undertaking an increased number of projects as well as an increased load in the individual advocacy area.

With careful management and efficient budgeting from the Executive staff and Committee, PWDWA has completed this year with a surplus of \$9,178 for the financial year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Graham Holman, Heather Blyth and staff at Independent Administration who have continued to provide invaluable support and advice. Sincere thanks also to Louise, Rewa, Mary Anne and PWD(WA)'s committee members for their assistance throughout the year.

Further I wish to acknowledge the following organisations for their financial support and contributions towards PWD(WA)'s work: Disability Services Commission (Five year contract), Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs (Annual Contract) and Lotterywest

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

**Sharon Van der Laan**  
**Treasurer**



### 2009 Committee of Management

We would like to thank:



Mary-Anne Bath  
President



Monica McGhie  
Vice President



Sharon Vanderlaan  
Treasurer



Carme Elliot  
Secretary



Trish Anderson



Greg Madson

and

Lori Hackney (retired)

Richard Hill (retired)

Leah Tomlinson-Clemens

For their commitment and service to People With Disabilities (WA) Inc

## Executive Director's Report

PWD(WA) continues to provide outstanding advocacy services to the people of Western Australia who have a disability. This is in no small part thanks to the commitment and dedication of the staff and volunteers, particularly the Committee of Management. PWD(WA) has benefited from the distinguished, stable leadership of Kaye Regan for a period of more than 12 years. With Kaye's direction, the organisation has built up a formidable reputation for excellent advocacy service delivery in WA.



The 2008/09 year was one of much change. With Kaye's retirement, the reins were passed on to me to maintain this focus of the organisation and to ensure the best outcomes for people with disabilities in WA. Together with the Committee of Management, the organisation has finalised the Strategic Plan for 2009 – 2011 outlining an ambitious agenda for consolidation, growth and exceeding expectations. In addition, both staff and Committee members came together in the first of a series of discussions about the values that underpin the organisation and how we can best ensure that all interactions with PWD(WA) live up to this important list of values. Our thanks go to Lois Gatley for assisting us with these conversations.

PWD(WA) has farewelled Kaye Regan and Rewa Ward from the staff group this year and welcomed Toni Holgate, Carmen Hincks, Andrew Jefferson and Stephanie Thompson to the team. The renovations have begun on Oasis Lotteries House and the office has moved to West Perth for 6 months. We hope to be back in the renovated offices by February 2010.

You will note we have a new logo for the organisation. This is in line with the respect we wish to show to our members and those who use our services. A new look and a new era for PWD(WA). In particular we made the deliberate decision to use a lower case 'd' in the logo as disability is all about attitude, both personal and societal. We want to honour the abilities, skills, gifts and talents that we all have without focussing on our impairments.

We continue to enjoy the support of our funders, the Disability Services Commission (DSC) and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). DSC have provided additional funding to assist with the recruitment and retention of the Executive Director, the position of Senior Individual Advocate and the review of organisational policies and procedures to ensure the organisation's governance is of the highest standard.

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PWD(WA) is an active member of the Disability Coalition in WA, a collaborative group of agencies committed to ensuring systemic change for people with disabilities, their families and carers. Through this partnership, PWD(WA) has met regularly with DSC's Director General, Ron Chalmers as well as state and federal politicians to ensure that the impact on consumers of decisions being made are understood by these decision makers. PWD(WA) has also formed strategic alliances with People With Disabilities Australia and maintains close links with the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations. Blake Dawson continue to provide legal support to the organisation and are commended for their continued commitment to people with disabilities in the community. In particular, thanks to Blake Dawson staff for their considered advice and guidance during the review of the PWD(WA) constitution and governance.

PWD(WA) continues to be focused on improving our service delivery systems. A recent FaHCSIA audit deemed the organisation in good health and offered some key recommendations for service improvement. The Quality Systems Improvement project being undertaken by management and the Committee will ensure that the foundations of the organisation are sound and of a high standard, ensuring a strong springboard for future growth.

Finally I wish to extend my thanks to some important groups of people. Firstly to our members. With you, we have a legitimate voice to offer representing those of us with a disability in WA. Thank you.

Thank you also to the Committee of Management members. We have farewelled Richard Hill and Lori Hackney from the Committee during the year and thank our outgoing member, Carme Elliot for her dedicated efforts to ensure the voices of people with disabilities are heard. I would also like to thank our coopted members, Samantha Neylon, Alfred Quay, Bill Toon and Rob Anderson for their input during this year.

Thank you also to our Vice Patrons, broadcaster Geraldine Mellet and Chief Magistrate, Steven Heath.

An enormous thank you to President, Mary-Anne Bath for her ongoing strategic leadership and support for Committee members and staff. She is a very dedicated advocate for the people of Western Australia and has extended her capacity for advocacy as a member of the People With Disabilities Board in NSW, necessitating an increase in travel.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to achieve a Western Australia free of discrimination and where people with disabilities can live the life they wish without restraint.



**Louise Durack**  
**Executive Director**

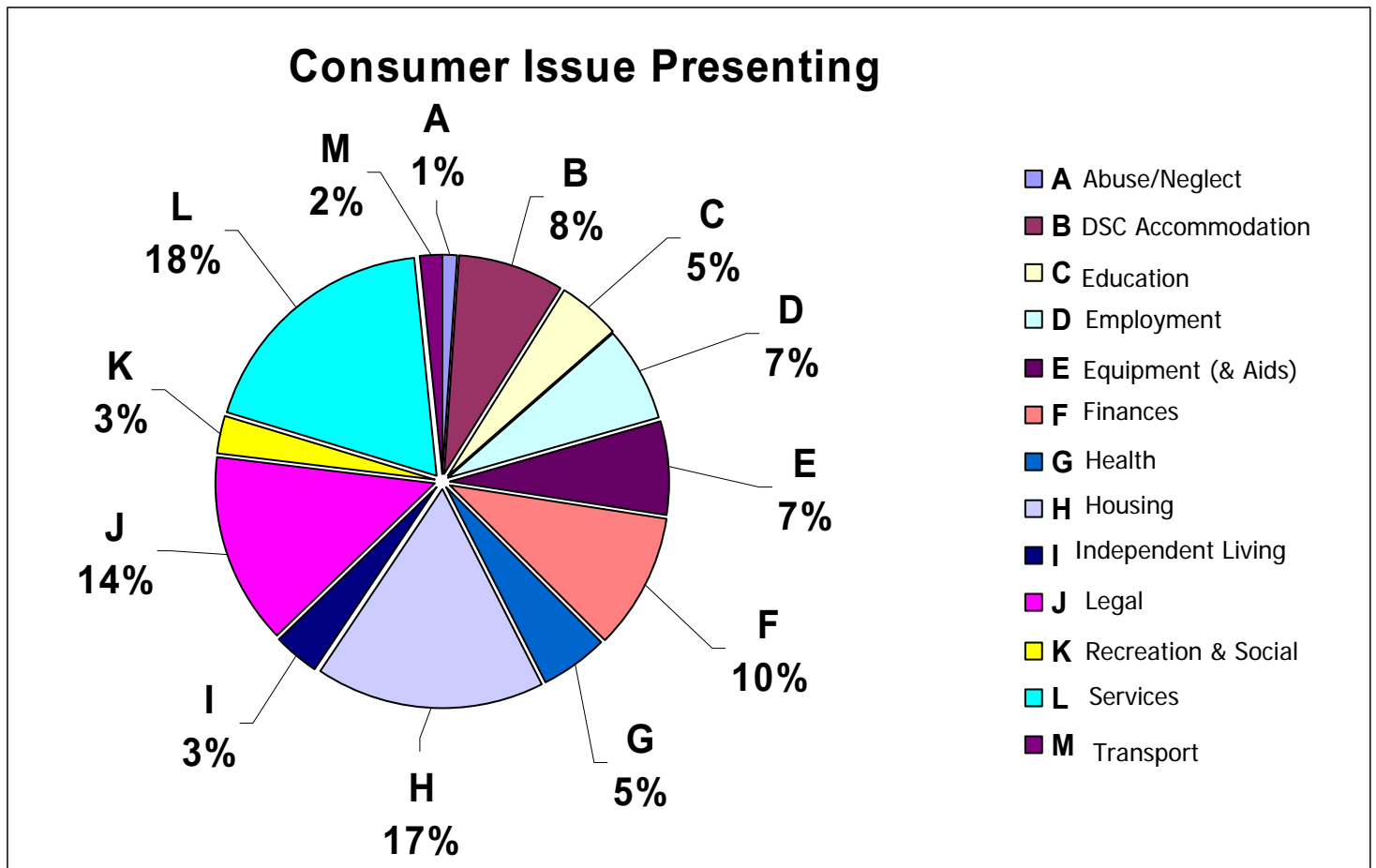


### Individual Advocacy

During 2008/9 PWD(WA) provided individual advocacy support through a range of programs funded by both the Disability Services Commission and the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

During a period that included significant economic uncertainty the matters addressed by the Individual Advocates were various; many were complex, multi-issued and challenging.

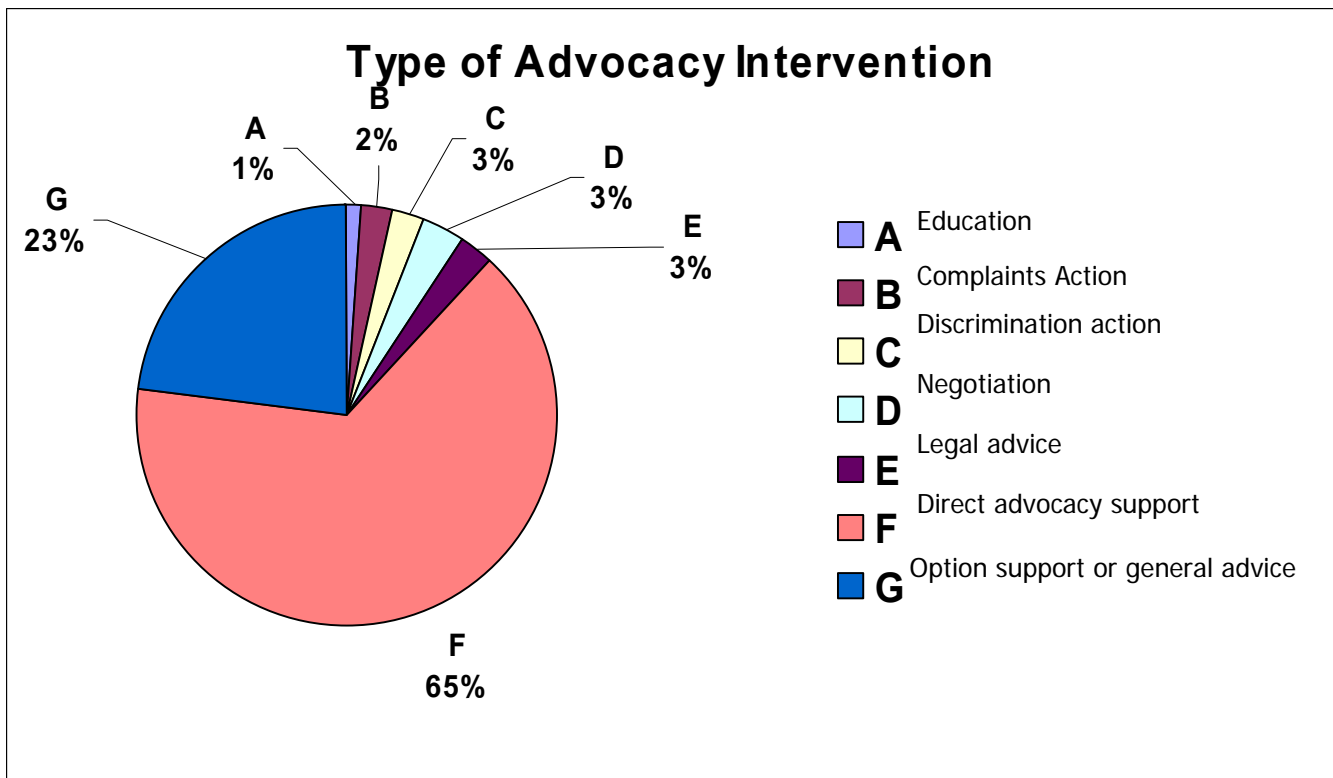
Issues addressed during the year included:



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Achieving positive outcomes for the people who request assistance remains the priority of each Individual Advocate. These are achieved in several ways and often through a combination of strategies and support. Every person who contacts PWD(WA) needs to be heard and listening is a fundamental part of an Individual Advocate's role. Helping people to access and comprehend information is essential. Linking people in with specialist services is equally important. Individual Advocates assist people to consider options and make their own informed decisions. Advocates work to encourage people to have their own voice. They are prepared to support in various ways. They will stand alongside someone who is speaking for themselves or communicate on another person's behalf. Individual Advocate's encourage consumers to participate in the process as much as they are able to at the time.

The work of the Individual Advocates this year has assisted people to achieve in many areas. A young person was assisted to attain an after school option and helped to successfully change service provider. A PWD(WA) Individual Advocate was able to link a consumer in with a Disability Services Commission Local Area Coordinator and advocated to achieve a reassessment of the person's eligibility for services. Through advocacy support, Transperth were encouraged to regularly use accessible buses on particular routes and to publish the times of the buses' availability. A parent with hearing impairment was supported to access Auslan interpreters to assist with communication at medical appointments.



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An Individual Advocate was able to assist a person in dealings with the Department of Child Protection and help that person access legal representation. An individual was assisted to access medical services and 'Home and Community Care' services. Assistance was provided to enable a service user and his family to negotiate changes in the timetabling of support to better meet his individual needs. Advocacy support services were provided for several people in relation to State Administration Tribunal matters. Advocacy support was provided for people who had issues with debt management. Individual Advocates supported people in a variety of ways in matters that concerned the Office of the Public Advocate, and the Public Trustee.

### **Accommodation Advocacy**

The Disability Services Commission funds PWD(WA)'s Accommodation Advocacy Service. This service focuses on the advocacy needs of people who receive, or are seeking to receive, 'Housing and Support' services and are usually recipients of Accommodation Support Funding. These individuals may have complex support needs and often do not have access to Local Area Coordinator support.

Individual Advocacy support helped people through a variety of strategies. People were assisted with applications for priority housing. More than one consumer was provided with advocacy to assist them to remain in their 'Housing and Support' service of choice. Individual advocacy was provided to address inappropriate housing and co-morbidity issues.

Advocacy was provided to assist a consumer through stages of her transition from parental care in her family home to shared living with a 'Housing and Support' service provider. Assistance was required to enable a family to complain about aspects of the service their relative was receiving.

PWD(WA) liaises with People With Disabilities Australia's advocacy services which facilitate conference calls for the Australian Network for Universal Housing Design. Issues canvassed during the year included universal housing design and possible national initiatives, the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS), Housing Affordability Fund (HAF) and the Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) announcements specific to social housing and of course the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards.

Our sincere thanks to individual advocates: Lisa Hook, Carmen Hincks, Toni Holgate and Andrew Jefferson for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

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#### Redress WA

PWD(WA) provided assistance to consumers with disabilities submitting applications to the Redress WA Scheme this year. The scheme was established to provide compensation to those Western Australians who were abused as children while living in state care.

#### **Individual Advocacy-Peel Region**

The 2008-2009 year ended on a positive note with notification from FAHCSIA in late May, 2009, that funding for the Peel Individual Advocacy Service would be increased. This announcement is a welcome acknowledgment of the positive work being undertaken by both the Peel Individual Advocacy Service since its inception in July 2007 and PWD(WA) as a whole. This funding boost will see the service in Peel increase from the existing 10 hours per week to 3 full days. As part of this expanded service PWD(WA) is investigating an option to lease an office in Mandurah for the Peel Individual Advocate.

On November 5, 2008 Keith Read commenced employment as the Individual Advocate for the Peel Region. Keith has lived and worked in the Region for over 35 years and brings significant experience and local knowledge to the position. He is very excited about the capacity for expansion of the Peel service that the increased funding will allow and is looking forward to the challenges this will present.

PWD(WA) has continued to provide a quality individual advocacy service in the Peel Region during 2008-2009, with clients being assisted from the Local Government Authorities of Boddington, Waroona, Murray, and Mandurah.

Issues that were addressed include:

- Access to education services
- Harassment from neighbours
- Bullying at school
- Guardianship issues
- Disputes with accommodation service provider
- Access to accommodation
- Obstruction of walkways by vehicles.

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The form of assistance provided in these cases involved either direct advocacy support, negotiation, provision of information or general support.

The Peel Individual Advocacy Service continued to maintain contact with relevant local agencies and groups to promote the aims and objectives of PWD(WA), with discussions held with the Department of Housing, the State Member for Mandurah, the Mayor of Mandurah, Peel Community Living, Midway Community Care, Relationships Australia, Peel Community and Legal Service, People Who Care, and the Mandurah Rangers Department. It is hoped that the establishment of an office for the Peel Individual Advocacy Service, will further raise the awareness of PWD(WA) in the Peel Region.

While we at PWD(WA) are pleased with the progress of the Peel Individual Advocacy Service, we acknowledge the responsibility and expectations that come with the increased funding to the service. Therefore, we are determined to work even harder in the coming year to provide the best possible advocacy service to the people of the Peel Region.



PWD(WA) Staff L-R Louise Durack, Lisa Hook, Stuart Jenkinson  
Rewa Ward, Christina Wright, Kerrie Duff, Carmen Hincks  
Absent: Toni Holgate, Andrew Jefferson, Keith Read, Bobby Smith

## Disability First Stop

Disability First Stop at People With Disabilities (WA) Inc assists adults who have been newly diagnosed with a disability to get the help they need by providing information, supported referral to relevant services and professional advocacy support.

The Disability Services Commission funds this program and this role is held by Christina Wright, who also works closely with the other Disability First Stop agencies.

Headwest: Disability First Stop at Headwest provides an information, referral and individual advocacy service to people with an acquired brain injury, their families and/or carers.

The Kalparrin Centre: Disability First Stop at Kalparrin provides practical and emotional support to families and carers of children of any age, with any disability or special need.

Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (EDAC): Disability First Stop at the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (EDAC) assists people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who have been newly diagnosed with a disability or are newly arrived migrants with an existing disability.

### Outcomes

- Information given on issues such as Independent Living; rights of a person to direct their own care; services, education support groups including details where no clear diagnosis yet exists; groups for parents with a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder; resources and self-help opportunities; volunteer advocacy; Building Regulations; ACAT assessments and accommodation options for older persons; and for a person on a 457 Visa looking for speech pathology services for child with neurological condition.
- Assistance to clients in regional areas including advocacy to a Physiotherapist in country WA for access to an individualised program so that the client could utilise the local gym at the leisure centre
- Combined Application Process applications submitted on behalf of a number of clients
- Provision of advocacy support regarding access to medical and HACC services resulting in a GP accepting the client as a new patient.
- Advocacy to Royal Perth Hospital, Shenton Park regarding equipment needs with the outcome that the client was offered an early appointment to assess their needs which they were most happy with
- Advocacy support to married consumers who have both recently acquired new disabilities because of recent neurological conditions and who are wanting an ACAT assessment
- Researched information on client's neurological condition and sought out support groups - fed back information via client's Social Worker.

## Information Advocacy

PWD(WA) provides information to individuals with disabilities, their families, service providers and other members of the community. The information is provided according to the needs of the person seeking information including via the telephone, email, newsletters and other printed material, forums as well as internet based information. During 2008 – 2009 information was sought from PWD(WA) on a wide range of issues including:



- Legal Support/Services
- Respite Services
- Housing and Accommodation
- Independent Living and Home Support Services
- Aids and Equipment Suppliers and Funding

As a result of members' feedback, the newsletter, The PWD(WA) Advocate has been expanded allowing more information to be provided to members in a better format. PWD(WA) continues to develop electronic distribution lists which facilitate more timely dissemination of information to members in a resource effective manner. The PWD (WA) Advocate is available in alternative formats as well as online at [www.pwdwa.org](http://www.pwdwa.org)

The PWD(WA) website [www.pwdwa.org](http://www.pwdwa.org) continues to be a popular source for people seeking information about disability and disability issues. From July 1 2008 until 30 June 2009 nearly 26 000 people visited the website, highlighting the effectiveness and popularity of internet based information. With this in mind, PWD(WA) will be commencing a comprehensive redevelopment of the website towards the end of 2009. The new website will be more accessible and incorporate the new PWD(WA) branding. Additionally it will incorporate use of technologies and tools such as social networking sites for timely and targeted distribution of information.

**Stuart Jenkinson**  
**Information Advocate**



## Self Advocacy WA

"Members of the group are my friends and I am lucky to have them"



Understanding our Rights and Responsibilities...  
Making our own Choices...  
Having a Voice and Being Heard!

"I like hearing what other members say"

With funding from the Disability Services Commission, PWD(WA) provide practical and administrative support to Self Advocacy WA (SAWA) a group of adults with disabilities who meet once a month to share experiences with each other and develop their self advocacy skills. Members of the group elect office bearers each year who run the meetings and carry out their duties with the support of PWD(WA) staff.

The group continues to meet every month at the Citiplace Community Centre adjacent to the City Railway Station. Office bearers for the year were: Chair Person: Fraser Macdonald, Vice Chair Person: Wayne Read, Secretary: Rita Grose, Vice Secretary: Erica Wise, Treasurer: Karen Evans, Vice Treasurer: Margaret Munro, Email Secretary: Erica Wise, Birthday Person: Wendy Jaggard

2008-2009 was a productive year for the group and members have further developed their self advocacy skills and self confidence as well as sharing lots of information with each other. Topics of discussion during the year facilitated by both PWD(WA) staff and invited guests included: health issues for men and women, Centrelink changes to both payments and compliance requirements, changes being experienced within the members' various workplaces and increases in the cost of living – particularly how this impacts on people with disabilities on fixed incomes.

The newly elected office bearers for 2009-2010 are: Chair Person: Karen Evans, Vice Chair Person: Joyce Airey, Secretary: Rita Grose, Vice Secretary: Ian Grose, Treasurer: Ian Grose, Vice Treasurer: Karen Smith, Email Secretary: Erica Wise, Birthday Person: Karen Smith.

"I like getting lots of information from other members and guest speakers"

"I look forward to coming to the meeting every month"



### **Systemic Advocacy and Representation**

The past year has been another exciting one for systemic advocacy. Consumer involvement in PWD(WA)'s systemic work continues to help inform and direct our work. Forums around issues such as the Economic Audit Committee Submission provided opportunities to hear first hand what some of the major concerns were for consumers so we could feed this directly back to the government.



State and Territory Disability Ministers have met regularly in Canberra over the past year with a key focus, amongst other issues, on the progress of the National Disability Agreement.

PWD(WA) regularly updates our website to help members keep abreast of the issue, along with other significant concerns like the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We take this opportunity to thank the PWD(WA) members who have been instrumental in supporting UWA's Catastrophic Injury project.

We are pleased to report Australia signed on to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Optional Protocol. This means that, once all avenues of redress have been taken in the home country, complaints against the UNCRPD can now be raised with the UN Committee. This will hopefully result in better rights for Australians living with disability.

In December 2008, People With Disabilities Australia (PWDA) and a number of other key organisations endorsed the Position Statement 'Our campaign for a robust National Disability Strategy: Improving the lives of Australians with disability' which was prepared by People With Disabilities Australia on behalf of a number of key organisations. PWD(WA) believes it is important to provide a collective voice to government about these concerns. We also presented our own submission on the National Disability Strategy (NDS). Both position statements highlight the importance of a strategic and robust NDS based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to significantly improve the lives of people with disability. We also signed on to a sector-wide statement regarding the 'Access All Areas' report into the draft Access to Premises Standards with a letter sent to the Attorney General and the Minister for Industry, Innovation, Science and Research in August 2009.

PWD(WA) has continued to liaise with the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations and one of the individual advocates presented at the inaugural conference held in Melbourne in June.

Membership for WA Network of Disabled Advocates (WANDA) has increased to 11 regular members who meet bi-monthly. Regular attendees at the meeting range from 5-15.

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We congratulate Richard Hill, former Committee of Management member, and facilitator of WA Network of Disabled Advocates who received a Community Award at the annual DSC/PWD(WA) Count Us In Awards. Kerrie Duff (Senior Systemic Advocate) has worked with Executive Director Louise Durack to conduct PWD(WA)'s systemic advocacy efforts in the second half of the year. Prior to this Luke Garswood and Kaye Regan (Joint Executive Officers) also conducted systemic work on behalf of PWD(WA).

A warm thank you to all who were involved in the Family Leadership series. We received a lot of positive feedback from the sessions with participants gaining and enhancing a mix of effective ways to advocate for themselves and their family member with a disability, through gaining a better understanding of the system.

#### Submissions to government presented since the last Annual Report

Pension Review

Submission to the National Disability Strategy review

3% efficiency dividend

Inquiry into the draft Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards

Disability Services Commission: 2025 Future Directions

Australian Disability Parking Scheme

Economic Audit Committee Submission

#### Consultations

Accessible Bus Stops

National Women's Health Policy

Women and Domestic Violence

Acts Amendment (Consent to Medical Treatment) Act 2008

Disability Services Commission: 2025 Future Directions

#### Other Key Areas of Concern for the Year

- Physical Access: A significant win/ win was achieved regarding improving access to a café in Hampden Road thanks to the support of law firm, Blake Dawson. Extensive advocacy has also occurred regarding access to theatres and cinemas. PWD(WA) responded to a request from AFDO when they were seeking to give Bill Shorten examples of large venues which don't do accessible toilets very well. A list of the worst offenders will appear on AFDO's website.

As someone with a physical disability, I find I am constantly coming up against access difficulties in the community. It is an exhausting process to constantly be self advocating on such issues, so I have found the advocacy assistance provided by PWD(WA) this year to be a great relief. In a couple of specific cases, they are undertaking to follow up and monitor the agreements made by non-compliant parties in the Equal Opportunity Commission to provide ramp/lift access as well as wheelchair accessible toilets.

Hilary



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PWD(WA) has also been liaising with the group "The People's Beach" which aims to achieve major improvement in beach access for wheelchair users, people with disabilities, as well as seniors or others not as mobile.

- Access to services and accommodation for people with psychiatric disabilities: PWD (WA) worked with the Social Housing Taskforce to ensure the voices of people with psychiatric disabilities were heard by government. In particular, identifying the needs of people with disabilities generally for affordable, accessible housing going hand in hand with the ability to access appropriate support services in order to live a good and full life. This year saw an unprecedented increase in both funding for housing infrastructure and disability services and this has provided an important opportunity for many neglected needs to be met and one that we must ensure is capitalised on. This is an ongoing issue for PWD(WA) and one we will continue to pursue.
- Equitable Access to travel: Dialogue with Qantas regarding dignified and equitable travel is ongoing.

I lost the ability to walk four years ago when I was 11, and have used a power wheelchair since then. Being in a wheelchair raises many access issues and I am grateful to PWD for helping me to lobby for better access to train and plane travel.

I travel to and from school on the Midland to Fremantle train. When this track was being re-laid in early 2009 I needed to make sure my access to this train service was not reduced. Some train station platforms provide full access to trains, while at other stations the gap between the platform and the train is so wide I need a wheelchair ramp. PWD lobbied the WA rail service to make sure access to trains was not reduced for wheelchair users.

Another issue PWD took up on my behalf was access to airlines. Travelling by aeroplanes is a nightmare for power wheelchair users because all independence, comfort and security is taken away. Wheelchair users are removed from their chairs before boarding, placed in a narrow manual airlines chair, and on boarding, are hoisted or lifted into an uncomfortable airline seat. I wanted to be able to retain my independence by driving my power chair into the cabin and having my chair locked in place just like a standard aircraft chair. But this is not allowed, and I am treated in a undignified way. PWD wrote to the Federal airline agencies and to QANTAS to determine if power wheelchairs could be allowed inside an aircraft. Sadly there has been no change and wheelchairs are still excluded from airline cabins.



Jakob and sister Aneka in Barcelona in October 2008

**Jakob, 15 years old.**

### **Family Leadership**

The final workshop in the series funded by the Disability Services Commission and Carers WA ran successfully with a half day seminar at Technology Park in Bentley. Informative presentations were well received by a mix of parents, carers and service providers with lots of discussions and networking conducted during the break and over lunch. Clare Masolin from the Carers Advisory Council spoke about the Carers Recognition Act and shared some personal insights as a parent advocating for her child. Janet McLean, the mother of a young boy diagnosed with autism has successfully lobbied governments and spoke about how she navigated her way through the system. Both speakers shared strategies to empower parents to advocate for the best outcomes for their child/adult. Other speakers were Kerry Allen Zinner, (past) Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability and disability consultant with personal life experience of disability herself, and Maxine Drake, the Senior Advocate at Health Consumers Council WA

**Kerrie Duff**  
**Senior Systemic Advocate**

**Apologies**

Charmaine Coleman  
Cliff Rickards  
Dr Penny Flett  
Eddie Bartnik  
George Smith  
Gordon Trewern  
Graham Holman  
Greg Madson  
Heather Blyth  
Heather Henderson  
Jackie Softly  
Joyce Airey  
Kareena Sherrif  
Kaye Neylon  
Keith Hayes  
Keith Read  
Ken Travers MLC  
Kerrie Duff  
Margaret Richards  
Michelle Griffin  
Michelle Sully  
Peter Harris  
Phil Brown  
Phyllis Alessandri  
Rewa Ward  
Rob & Kaye Fullwood  
Robyn Driver  
Ron Chalmers  
Sue Harris  
Toni Holgate  
Wendy Cox  
Wendy Jaggard