



PWdWA

Newsletter

February 2022

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Message from PWdWA

Individual Advocacy Face-to-Face Meeting Changes

PWdWA is committed to keeping our people and community as safe as possible.

To do this, we will not conduct any face-to-face meetings unless required from Thursday 3 March 2022 until further notice.

We will continue to offer virtual services to all people with disabilities through telephone calls, SMS, email, video call, and social media.

To remain safe and accessible, we may conduct face-to-face appointments under the following circumstances:

Alternative models of communication are not available or accessible to the person with disability.

There is no other appropriate support person available in that individual's life that can work with the advocate to progress the advocacy issue.

Face-to-face contact is the only option available to the person with disability to access advocacy services.

Every person attending the meeting must adhere to the requirement of the meeting venue, including but not limited to vaccination requirements.

AND

We must follow the following safety protocols for both clients, advocates and any other people attending the meeting:

A person must not enter or remain in a **PWdWA workplace** or attend a meeting if, in the previous seven (7) days:

- The person has returned from overseas; or
- The person has returned from interstate travel; or
- The person has been **informed** that they are a **close contact**; or
- The person has returned a positive result; or
- The person is still awaiting their test result; or
- The person is under current direction to quarantine.

The team member's line manager must give written confirmation before going ahead with the meeting.

PWdWA reserves the right to cancel any face-to-face meetings if we have reasonable grounds to believe these guidelines have been breached or circumstances change.

PWdWA's Individual Advocacy Provision

The COVID-19 environment is constantly changing as more people become exposed to the virus.

Our team of Advocates will continue working hard to provide you with timely information and advocacy support.

There is also the chance that our Advocates may have to take leave if they fall ill or must isolate or quarantine for some time.

This means that you may experience some delays or changes from our service.

We will contact you and tell you if your Advocate is no longer available.

If your Advocate is a confirmed case, or is suspected to be a confirmed case, or is under a direction to quarantine/isolate:

- Any future meeting should be conducted online if the Advocate has no symptoms.
- Any future meeting may be postponed, if possible, by the Advocate's line manager if the Advocate has symptoms and is on sick leave.
- You will be advised about the expected timeline of the Advocate's absence by their line manager.

Depending on future actions and deadlines, the line manager may organise a backup Advocate to temporarily continue with your case.

The backup Advocate will contact you and introduce themselves.

You can tell the backup Advocate what you would like to do.

This remains in place until the Advocate's status is confirmed or they have completed quarantine.

In some situations, we may not have another Advocate available to help you straight away. We will tell you if this happens.

A manager will contact you at an agreed time and check in about your issue. If there is any new information, like you have an appointment or conference, you must tell us straight away. This gives the manager enough time to find a backup Advocate.

AAT, SAT and DRC Cases

The preference is to not delay the case any further by vacating any conferences and hearings.

For AAT, SAT and DRC-related issues, these steps must be followed instead:

- The Advocate's line manager organises a backup Advocate.
- The backup Advocate contacts you and lets you know about the temporary change.
- The backup Advocate confirms their availability and capacity with you.
- You can tell the backup Advocate what you would like to do.

This remains in place until the Advocate's status is confirmed or they have completed quarantine.

What We Need from You

PWdWA understands that any change to your advocacy case can be difficult and may cause additional stress.

Please let the Advocate know if you are feeling stressed. We will try to find ways to reduce stress where possible. This could mean that you schedule weekly phone appointments with the Advocate to check on the progress of your issue.

Our Advocates have other people and cases to help with. We kindly ask that you give the backup Advocate enough time to catch up and understand your issue.

Our Advocates have different ways of working. Your backup Advocate will check with you to make sure that you experience minimal disruption, but the Advocate must consider all the other work they are still expected to do as well.

Current Issues



Disability Royal Commission Important Dates 2022

March 2022

10 March: Public hearing 19, Virtual – Measures taken by employers and regulators to respond to the systemic barriers to open employment for people with disability – Oral submissions

28 March – 1 April: Public hearing 17.2, Hobart – The experiences of women and girls with disability with a particular focus on family, domestic and sexual violence (Part 2)

April 2022

11 – 13 April: Public hearing 22, TBC – The experience of people with disability working in Australian Disability Enterprises

28 April: Public hearing 20, Virtual – Preventing and responding to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in disability services (two case studies) – Oral submissions

May 2022

16 – 20 May: Public hearing 23, Sydney – Preventing and responding to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in disability services

June 2022

6 – 10 June: Public hearing 24, TBC – The experience of children and young people with disability of segregated education settings and the ‘polished pathway’

30 June: Registrations for Private Sessions close.

December 2022

31 December: Deadline for submissions to inform final report and recommendations

PWdWA Profile

The PWdWA team

PWdWA is happy to announce we have been selected as a finalist for the Richard (Dick) Fletcher Award in the 2022 Consumer Protection Awards.

The Richard (Dick) Fletcher Award recognises a local government, non-government organisation or group of individuals in Western Australia that have made a significant contribution to the advancement of consumer protection in their community. They effectively deliver services, projects or initiatives that raise community understanding and awareness of consumer protection issues.

Winners will be announced on Friday 18 March 2022.

PWdWA in Action

Our Annual Member Survey

Our [Annual Member survey](#) has been sent to you a few weeks ago.

By completing the survey before Sunday 6 March 2022, you will go in the draw for one of two \$100.00 gift vouchers of your choice. This will be drawn on **Monday 7 March 2022**. You will also go in the draw for our International Day of People with Disability lunch that will be held on Saturday 3 December 2022; this will be drawn on **Monday 7 November 2022**.

The survey will take you about 15 minutes, you do not have to complete it all at once, you can leave and come back to it at any time. If you would prefer for Vanessa to read the questions and scribe your answers you can contact her on 9420 7279 ext 717.

If you have any questions about the survey, you can contact Vanessa at vanessa@pwdwa.org or on 9420 7279 ext 717.

Building Tenancy Skills

PWdWA in partnership with Shelter WA has commenced a project to build resources that help tenants with disability feel more confident about their rights and responsibilities.

This co-designed project will bring together people with disability and relevant advocacy, financial counselling, disability, consumer protection, community legal, housing and housing support providers to develop skills and resources to help prevent evictions and reduce the risk of homelessness for people with disability.

You can find more information about the project on the [Building Tenancy Skills](#) website.



Upcoming

Your Rights, Your Voice Your Choice

A free two-day self-advocacy training course for people with disabilities. Co-designed by PWdWA and delivered in partnership with the Empower project.

18 & 21 March 2022 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Friday 18th and Monday 21st of March from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm AWST, located at Evolve WA office, 20 Southport Street, West Leederville WA. This is a free face-to-face workshop that is fully catered and offers a certificate of completion at the end of

both days. Register at [Your Rights, Your Voice, Your Choice - Self Advocacy Course - EVOLVE, 18th of March | Humanitix](#)

3 – 4 May 2022 - 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th of May from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm AWST. Located at Lakelands Library, 49 Banksiadale Gate, Lakelands WA. This is a free face-to-face workshop that is fully catered and offers a certificate of completion at the end of both days. Register at [Your Rights, Your Voice, Your Choice - Self Advocacy Course - SOR, 3rd of May | Humanitix](#)

27 & 30 May 2022 – 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Friday 27th and Monday 30th of May from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm AWST. This is a free **ONLINE** workshop that offers a certificate of completion at the end of both days. Register at [Your Rights, Your Voice, Your Choice - Self Advocacy Course - ONLINE, Hosted online, 27th of May | Humanitix](#)

The Aware Project

Paid Speaker Opportunity – People who have used Individual Advocacy Services

The AWARE project is seeking **individuals who have accessed Individual Advocacy** to be guest speakers for their Individual Advocate Training program. Specifically, they are looking for:

- Four people who have accessed Individual Advocacy
- Who represent a diversity of experience with different types of advocacy.
- Are available to present **any Friday between 1 April and 17 June inclusive**.
- People who are willing to share their personal experiences with the individual advocacy process.

If selected, you will be asked to present for 15-20 minutes plus additional time for questions.

For more information about the project, please visit the [Evolve Website](#) or [Facebook page](#)

If you are interested or would like specific information about the role, contact aware@evolvewa.com.au or phone Gilda at Evolve Events on (08) 6117 5520

PWdWA

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

Free membership

Being a member of People With disabilities WA (PWdWA) gives you the opportunity to be involved in shaping our organisation through our planning and evaluation processes. As a member, you can make sure the issues that matter to you are heard, by being involved with our submissions and advocacy campaigns. Voting is restricted to full members aged 15 years and above.

Full Membership is available to persons living in Western Australia, with a disability, over the age of 15 years who are Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia.