



# PWdWA Newsletter August 2023

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## **Message from our Advisory Board Chair – Jim Preketes**

Welcome to the August edition of the People With disabilities WA Newsletter. My name is Jim Preketes, and I am the Chair of the PWdWA Advisory Board; you can find out a little more about me further in this newsletter. As a member of the Advisory Board, my colleagues and I aim to offer valuable guidance and advice along with our expertise.

This month, we bid farewell to Lisa Hook, our Individual Advocate Manager, who has been with us for 17 years. Lisa started as one of our individual advocates, and we are sad to see her go. However, we wish her all the best in her future endeavours, which include climbing Machu Picchu.

Although we have not yet found a replacement for Lisa, we want to assure our members that the PWdWA team will continue to provide the same high level of advocacy. Together, we will promote the rights and needs of individuals with disabilities, ensure equal access to opportunities, and empower people with disabilities to advocate for themselves and take control of their own lives.

## **PWdWA in Action**

### **Building Tenancy Skills Project**

The Building Tenancy Skills Project by PWdWA and Shelter WA received the Tenant Led Initiative 2023 Australian Housing Institute Bight Future Award on Thursday, August 3rd. Georgie, a PWdWA member and part of the Building Tenancy Skills Co-Design team, gave a great speech for the team. This award is a fantastic acknowledgment of the valuable expertise and insights that tenants with disabilities possess.

### **SAWA**

Self Advocacy WA (SAWA) is a peer support group run by and for people with disability in Western Australia. During the bi-monthly SAWA meeting on July 12th, a guest speaker named Kelly Campbell gave an informative presentation about the Renting with Confidence Workshop. The members of SAWA expressed their gratitude to Kelly for sharing a wealth of information. There is a webpage available for those who want to learn more about the [Renting with Confidence Workshops](#), which Shelter WA provides.

If you are interested in joining SAWA, the next peer support group meeting is scheduled for September 13th, 2023. The meeting will start at 10:30 am and end at 12:00 pm at City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth. The cost of attending is free, and tea and coffee will be provided.

To learn more about or join the Self Advocacy WA (SAWA) peer support group at our next meeting, you can email [sawa@pwdwa.org](mailto:sawa@pwdwa.org) or call 0492 823 636.

## **Current Issues**

### **Subiaco Station Lift and Escalator Replacement**

The lifts and escalators at Subiaco Station are set to be replaced due to their condition and age. These lifts and escalators have been in service for more than 20 years and have reached their end-of-life, with components now obsolete and unable

to be sourced for future maintenance work. Replacing the lifts and escalators will provide a more reliable service for passengers.

The replacement program begins in August and is expected to be completed by mid-2024.

### **Accessibility**

Passengers with accessibility requirements are strongly encouraged to use Daglish or West Leederville stations during the work as lifts and escalators will be out of service.

If passengers are unable to use an alternative station and require additional help they can call 1800 800 022 at least one hour before travelling.

### **Station access impacts**

From August 3, there will be changes to the way passengers access the station to enable work to begin.

The concourse will be closed, and passengers travelling to Perth will only be able to access the station from the northern entrance, while passengers travelling to Fremantle will need to access the station from the southern entrance.

### **Lift Closures**

Lift replacement will be staggered to always maintain lift access on one platform. Each lift will take approximately three months to replace. For passengers travelling to Fremantle, the lift will be out of service from 6 September.

Once this lift is back in service, the lift for passengers travelling to Perth will close, which is expected in early 2024.

### **Escalator closures**

Both escalators will be taken out of service in September. Each escalator will take approximately five months to replace. Both escalators are planned to be back in service in mid-2024.

Some out-of-hours work will be required when installing the new escalators to minimise disruptions to passengers.

Further details on the project can be found on the [Public Transport Authority's website](#) or you can [email](#) them, or call 13 62 13.

## **PWdWA in Focus**

### **Lisa Hook – Individual Advocacy Manager**

After seventeen years of working for People With disabilities WA, Lisa has decided to make a change and will finish working with PWdWA in August. Lisa started her career with us as an individual advocate becoming our Individual Advocate Manager in 2020.

During her time at PWdWA has taken on many challenges and roles, including SAWA, social media and, Lisa's passion for social justice, human rights and ensuring people's voices are heard has been integral to PWdWA growing into the organisation it is today.

### **Jim Preketes – PWdWA Advisory Board Chair**

PWdWA has welcomed a group of experts willing to offer their time to provide tailored guidance and extra assistance to our Board and management team. One of these volunteers is Jim Preketes, who has taken on the role of Chair of the Advisory Board.

Jim has an extensive background in technology and operational leadership, spanning over three decades. He has advised various technology start-ups and not-for-profits, helping them achieve strategic alignment in complex and dynamic environments. Jim has worked collaboratively with boards and CEOs to improve strategic alignment, compliance, and growth agendas, leading organisations to success.

Jim holds a Bachelor of Business degree in Accounting & Economics and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. However, it is Jim's personal journey of living with a physical disability that has sparked his passion and

commitment as an advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities. Jim stands as a staunch advocate within PWdWA, drawing from his own experiences to champion inclusivity and empower those with disabilities to thrive.

## Upcoming

### Empowered and Connected

PWdWA will begin training our lived experience facilitators in the coming few weeks and we look forward to offering our Disability Support Pension and NDIS Reviews and Appeals sessions from September.

### Annual General Meeting

PWdWA's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8 November 2023, at City West Lotteries House. Registrations will open in September.

## PWdWA

**Head Office:** 23/2 Dehli Street West Perth

**Mandurah Office:** 22 Ormsby Terrace Mandurah – By Appointment Only

**Pilbara:** 1800 193 331. Online appointments by arrangement at Pilbara Community Legal Services Karratha, Port Hedland, Roeburn and Newman.

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.