**PWdWA**

**Newsletter**

 **July 2023**

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## Message from our Chair – Yhana Lucus

Welcome to our July newsletter. As we head into the second half of the year, I am pleased to share some of the great work that our team have been accomplishing as we work hard to advocate for the rights and needs of people with disabilities in our state. Over the past month, we have been involved in various activities that have helped us promote awareness and advance our cause.

Firstly, we have been actively lobbying for better policies and initiatives that cater to the needs of the disabled community through our systemic advocacy submissions. These submissions are available on our [website](https://www.pwdwa.org/our_campaigns/our_submissions.html).

While our projects team have been organising various training sessions and workshops to empower people with disabilities, you can find out more about what our Youth Advocates have been up to after their recent training session in this newsletter.

## **PWdWA in Action**

### PWdWA Website Redesign Co-design Expression of Interest

At PWdWA, we're embarking on an exciting journey to revamp our website, with the aim of making it more user-friendly than ever before. We're kicking off this process by seeking to understand what our users truly need from our website, and how we can improve their experience. To this end, our partner agency will be conducting a workshop in the coming weeks, to chart the journey that individuals, businesses, and government stakeholders take when using our website. We're currently accepting expressions of interest from anyone keen on participating in this workshop.

**What to expect**:

The workshop will be held in West Perth in the coming weeks and will run for two hours. During the workshop, participants will work together to map out the various steps involved in completing a specific task, while also noting down any points of frustration or confusion they encounter along the way. Ultimately, the outcome of the workshop will be a comprehensive journey map that will help us to enhance the overall user experience of our website. Participants will receive a $50 gift voucher for their time.

You can register your interest through [Survey Monkey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RH7RQ6R) or email Vanessa at vanessa@pwdwa.org or call 9420 7279 (ext 717).

### Pilbara Regional Visit

At the end of June, Andrea, Lisa, Grace, and Vanessa visited Karratha and Port Hedland to meet people with disability, their supports and government and community agencies to learn firsthand the challenges they face living in the Pilbara. It was a privilege to hear their stories and understand the obstacles people face on a daily basis, including social isolation, lack of accessible and affordable housing, limited access to healthcare and the soaring cost of living.  It was also a great opportunity to share how PWdWA supports people through our advocacy, workshops and phone services.

PWdWA currently offers a free phone service to Pilbara residents and is partnering with Pilbara Community Legal service to assist individuals without means of communication access to an online phone service at their Karratha, Port Hedland, Newman, and Roebourne offices.

PWdWA has also been lobbying for further funding to establish place-based advocacy services in the Pilbara, and we will keep you posted on the outcome.

Since returning, the team have set about designing workshops and community networks to tackle some of the issues raised.

National Youth Consultations

Emily Sullivan, a PWdWA youth consultant, represented PWDWA at the Federal Government’s launch of their national consultations for their upcoming Youth Engagement Framework. Supported by the Office for Youth and the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, Minister for Youth Dr Anne Aly facilitated an engaging discussion with 80 young people. At this forum, Emily and others had the opportunity to provide valuable insight, lived experience, feedback and suggestions on how the Australian government can better engage with young people.

### Business Accessibility Empowerment Program

On 23 June, seven young people with disability undertook training at our Mandurah Office to become Youth Consultants. Our Youth Consultants are conducting accessibility audits on small and medium businesses.

These audits provide businesses with premises checks, feedback and recommendations for improving accessibility for their clients and information on how to support and retain employees with disability.

### Autism Camp Australia

Last week our Communications Officer, Vanessa, presented the first of six workshops that will be held over the coming months for parents attending Autism Camp Australia’s Perth camps.

Vanessa shared, with parents, her lived experience providing them with tools and resources to advocate for their children and empower them to be confident to self-advocate as they become adults.

## Current Issues

### A Summary of Our Disability Standards for Transport Submission

PWdWA recently made a submission to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts for the Disability Standards for transport review. As a result of the survey we asked members to complete, PWdWA submission concluded that accessible public transport is a crucial component in enabling people with disabilities to lead independent lives, meaning that they should have access to transport services available at their convenience and can be easily used. They should also be informed about the services, how to use them, and have the means to access and pay for them.

The survey results demonstrate that public transport accessibility involves more than boarding and disembarking. It requires a comprehensive understanding of all the elements that make up the travel chain.

Although public transport accessibility has improved over the years, people with disabilities still experience significant disadvantages due to the lack of accessibility. This exclusion from public transport restricts their ability to participate in their communities, work, study, shop, socialise with family and friends, engage in recreational activities, and access vital government services. It also strips them of their independence and denies them the right to participate in society equally with others.

People with disabilities can also not undertake spontaneous and unscheduled journeys due to the inaccessibility and unreliability of public transport. Thus, public transport accessibility remains a critical human rights issue for them.

Hopefully, the recommendations proposed by people with disabilities in our submission will result in real and lasting changes to the Transport Standards. The full submission is available on our website.

### Public Forum on the WA Disability Legislation Reform

The Office of Disability, Strategy and Partnerships would like to invite people with disabilities and community members interested in WA disability legislation reform to join them for a public forum.

The forum aims to allow participants to discuss important issues related to future WA disability legislation.

The forum will be held on Friday, **July 28, 2023, from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** at the Boulevard Hall, 99 The Boulevard, Floreat. Participants can join in person or online for an interactive discussion about the reforms.

Furthermore, members from the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability will also be present to discuss the council's role and recent work. They will also take questions on issues important to people with disabilities and their networks.

To register for this event and for more information, please visit [Public Forum: Future WA disability legislation Tickets, Fri, Jul 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/public-forum-future-wa-disability-legislation-tickets-668592246407?aff=oddtdtcreator).

## **PWdWA in Focus**

### **Vicki Bailey - Individual Advocate**

Over the past thirty years, Vicki has accumulated experience working in various government and not-for-profit organisations and volunteering at animal shelters. Through her diverse background, she has grown a passion and comprehension for human and animal rights.

Vicki firmly believes in giving people a voice and the ability to make choices that impact their lives. Having lived and worked in Outback Australia for over a decade, Vicki has developed an unwavering resolve to ensure that individuals are treated with respect and **that** their cultural and spiritual values are acknowledged and appreciated.

Vicki is proud to be a parent of two adult children and has recently welcomed a new furry member to her family. She holds a Master of Human Rights, a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and International Studies, and a Cert IV in Disability and **Cert IV in** Training and Assessment.

### Our Etiquette Posts

If you follow us on Facebook, you may have noticed that we have started to run posts discussing etiquette for people interacting with people with disability. These posts are generating many shares, which is fantastic. We always ask our members with lived experience to help us write these posts. If you are a person with Tourette’s, have a service animal or are a member of the Deaf community using Auslan and lip reading and would like to assist us in our upcoming posts, please email Vanessa at vanessa@pwdwa.org or call on 9420 7279 ext 717.

## Thank you

PWdWA would like to thank all our members who applied to be Community Facilitators. PWdWA acknowledges how lucky we are to have many enthusiastic members willing to share their knowledge to empower others.

**PWdWA**

PWdWA is funded by the Western Australian Department of Communities and the Australian Department of Social Services.

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