

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

pwd

people with disability



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PWDA acknowledges and thanks all of our members, supporters and staff featured in the photos in this report.

Cover photo: **Jane Rosengrave**, advocate and ambassador for the PWDA Disability Support Project to the Royal Commission and **Gordon Prior**, advocate and campaigner for wage justice for people with intellectual disability.

PWDA has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which provides non-governmental organisations with access to ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, participation in the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations and special events organised by the President of the General Assembly.



PWDA is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. On behalf of the governing body of People with Disability Australia Incorporated (PWDA) we confirm that our organisation continues to be committed to full adherence to the ACFID Code of Conduct. If you believe PWDA has breached the ACFID Code of Conduct, you may lodge a complaint with the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee on complaints@acfid.asn.au, telephone (02) 6285 1816 or contact PWDA. To lodge a complaint about PWDA you may contact us on pwd@pwd.org.au or free call 1800 422 015.



ACFID
MEMBER

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PWDA acknowledges the traditional owners on whose land our offices are located. These include the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the Dharug people, the Tharawal people, the Ngunawal people, the Kalkadoon people, the Gureng Gureng people, the Badtjala people, the Gubbi Gubbi people and the Yuggera people. We also acknowledge elders past and present.



people with disability

About People with Disability Australia



A Voice of Our Own

People with Disability Australia Incorporated (PWDA) is a national disability rights and advocacy organisation of and for people with disability. We operate within the human rights framework and provide advice and information; individual, group and systemic advocacy; training and education; and a representative voice of people with disability in New South Wales, nationally and internationally.

We were founded in 1980, in the lead up to the International Year of Disabled Persons (1981), to provide people with disability with a voice of our own. We have a fundamental commitment to self-help and self-representation for people with disability, by people with disability.

Our Vision and Purpose

We have a vision of a socially just, accessible and inclusive community, in which the human rights, citizenship, contribution, potential and diversity of all people with disability are recognised, respected and celebrated.

Our purpose is to be a leading disability rights, advocacy and representative organisation of and for all people with disability, which strives for the realisation of our vision of a socially just, accessible, and inclusive community.

Our Members

We have a cross-disability focus – membership is open to people with all types of disability. Individuals with disability and organisations of people with disability are our primary voting membership. We also have a large associate membership of people and organisations

committed to the disability rights movement. Our services are not limited to members; they are available to people with all types of disability and their associates.

We are governed by a board of directors, drawn from our members across Australia, all of whom are people with disability. We employ professional staff to manage the organisation and operate our various projects. Many of our staff are also people with disability.

Our Work

Our work addresses the discrimination, marginalisation, poverty and human rights abuses that people with disability experience. We work with all people with disability, with a focus on people with disability who are in vulnerable and marginalised situations.

Our strategic aims are to:

- Educate and empower people with disability and the wider community on social justice issues.
- Advocate to promote and protect the legal, service user and human rights of individuals and groups of people with disability to ensure their needs are met.
- Promote innovation and systemic change in society that delivers accessibility, social justice and inclusion for people with disability in all aspects of community life.
- Support the disability rights and advocacy sector to be an effective force for social change locally, nationally and internationally.
- Deliver high quality projects and programs in line with our vision and values.

 www.pwd.org.au

 www.facebook.com/pwd.australia

 www.twitter.com/pwdaustralia

 www.pinterest.com/pwdaustralia



Our Values

We believe that people with disability, irrespective of age, gender, cultural or linguistic background, religious beliefs, geographic location, sexuality, or the nature, origin or degree of our disability:

- Have a right to life and to bodily integrity;
- Are entitled to a decent standard of living, an adequate income and to lead active and satisfying lives;
- Are people first, with human, legal and service user rights that must be recognised and respected;
- Are entitled to the full enjoyment of our citizenship rights and responsibilities;
- Are entitled to live free from prejudice, discrimination and vilification;
- Are entitled to social support and adjustments as a right, and not as the result of pity, charity or the exercise of social control;
- Contribute substantially to the intellectual, cultural, economic and social diversity and well-being of our community;
- Possess many skills and abilities and have enormous potential for life-long growth and development;
- Are entitled to live in and be a part of, the diversity of the community;
- Have the right to participate in the formulation of those policies and programs that affect our lives; and
- Must be empowered to exercise our rights and responsibilities, without fear of retribution.

Our Guiding Principles

- We will be passionate, innovative and fearless in the promotion and defence of the rights and interests of people with disability.
- We will be accessible and responsive to our community and inclusive of its diversity.
- We will actively facilitate and value the involvement of people with disability in our organisational governance and policy and program development.
- We will encourage, empower and support the civic participation of people with disability.
- We will be collaborative and supportive in our relationships within the disability rights movement as a whole, at the local, regional, state, national and international levels.
- We will be accountable for our activities to our members, to people with disability generally and to the public.
- We will always act with honesty and integrity.
- We will be resourceful and efficient in obtaining and managing the resources needed to undertake our work.
- We will recognise and value the contribution of our members, our Board, our staff and volunteers towards the achievement of our vision.

“We are governed by a board of directors, drawn from our members across Australia, all of whom are people with disability.”



Our Partners

PWDA has entered into a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with cross-disability Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs) that share the same rights-based values and principles as PWDA. Our MOUs seek to maximise the strengths of our individual organisations by retaining our autonomy within a collaborative framework.

- **Aboriginal Disability Network of NSW**
- **First Peoples Disability Network**
- **People With Disabilities ACT**
- **People With Disabilities WA**
- **Queenslanders with Disability Network**

PWDA is a founding member of the Australian Cross Disability Alliance of national cross-disability DPOs established in 2015. The other members are First Peoples Disability Network Australia, Women With Disabilities Australia, and National Ethnic Disability Alliance.

We are also part of an international network of DPOs through Disabled Peoples International and Disabled Peoples International Asia Pacific.

In 2014-15 PWDA provided endorsement, or technical and/or secretariat support to the following organisations and campaigns:

- **Aboriginal Disability Justice Campaign**
- **Australian Network for Universal Housing Design**
- **Centre for Disability Research and Policy, University of Sydney**

- **Disability Rights Now**
- **NSW Disability Advocacy Network**
- **NSW Disability Network Forum**
- **Stop The Violence Project**
- **White Ribbon**

PWDA staff or board members are on the board or management committees of the following organisations:

- **Address Housing**
- **Australian Centre for Disability Law**
- **Australian Disability and Development Consortium**
- **Asia Pacific DPO United**
- **Council of Social Services of New South Wales**
- **Pacific Disability Forum**
- **Newtown Neighbourhood Centre**
- **Touching Base**

Our Funding

In the 2014 – 2015 financial year, our activities were supported by peak disability funding from the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments, funding received under the National Disability Advocacy Programme, a variety of specific project grants won through competitive government tendering processes, and from individual, corporate and philanthropic donors including the Reichstein Foundation.

This financial assistance is acknowledged with great appreciation.

Message from the President



It is a pleasure to introduce the People with Disability Australia (PWDA) Annual Report 2014-15.

2015 has been an important year: In 2015, over a decade after becoming a national organisation, we became a national peak body recognised by the Australian Government as part of the Australian Cross Disability Alliance (ACDA).

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Citizens' Jury Scorecard project was conducted between September 2014 and May 2015. The project was recognised internationally by the International Association for Public Participation, winning their 2015 Core Values Awards in 3 categories: International Project of the Year Award, the Australasia Project of the Year Award and an Australasian Health Project Award. The NDIA has agreed to hold ongoing Citizens' Juries.

Our individual and group advocacy supported nearly 2000 people around Australia over the last 12 months, and I thank our hard working individual advocates throughout Australia.

PWDA systemic advocates continued our work to support people with disability and others affected by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and disability issues continued to get traction in the media. We were active in commentary on abuse, media portrayals of disability, restrictive practices in educational settings, employment and welfare reform. This year we welcomed a very different 2015 Federal Budget which included commitments for a modest package to address employment.

I was pleased at the decision to call a Senate Inquiry into Abuse and Neglect and note the ongoing campaign to raise awareness and encourage submissions to the Inquiry. 2015 will also mark the first White Flower Memorial mourning those who have lost

their lives in institutional settings, and those who have experienced violence, abuse and neglect.

It is impossible to reflect on the last 12 months without acknowledging the life and contributions of Stella Young who passed away in December 2014. Vastly talented, deeply passionate about human rights and gender equity she is sadly missed; as is fellow distinguished advocate Madeleine Sobb who passed away in May 2015. Our thoughts go out to the family, advocacy colleagues and friends of these bright voices for disability rights lost at a ridiculously young age.

This year the board has developed a new Constitution with an Exposure Draft scheduled to be released for Member consultation early in the New Year. We also made some important decisions to address structural issues in the budget and operations, and worked hard to develop our Strategic Directions for 2016 – 2019. The new plan better reflects the work program for PWDA as a national peak and the changes in the disability rights movement which have occurred over the last five years.

As 2015 draws to a close I thank all the staff including Co-CEO's Therese Sands and Matthew Bowden for their leadership of the organisation, their work on individual and systemic advocacy and our many other projects. I thank our Board and Executive for their extensive work on governance, policy and finance issues during 2014. I thank our funders in the Australian and New South Wales Governments as well as our grant providers.

We can be proud of our movement and I acknowledge all the disability rights advocates and community organisers inside and outside of PWDA who take a stand for disability rights.

Those interested in a fuller account of the work of the Board can view my report on the PWDA website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Wallace'.

Craig Wallace

The PWDA Board



As PWDA moves from a NSW Incorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee, it has been a busy year for the Governance Advisory Group and for me as Vice President.

Stuart Mawbey

Vice President
(NSW)



The Finance Audit and Advisory Group has focussed its attention on the achievement of a level of stability for the organisation. Much has been achieved in eliminating some structural liabilities that will now allow the organisation to forge ahead. As treasurer, I very much appreciate the work of this Advisory Group.

Suresh Rajan

Treasurer
(WA)



As Secretary I'd like to acknowledge the hard work provided by both our Board and PWDA staff in 2015, particularly the broad advocacy work as well as the NDIS Citizen's Jury Scorecard Project and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It's been a fantastic year!

Bonnie Millen

Secretary
(SA)

Joel Wilson (WA)

Mark Tonga (NSW)

Alex Jones (NSW)

Faye Druett (NSW)

Justin Ray (ACT)

Sam Connor (WA)

co-opted

Kristy Trajcevski

Kevin Boyce (VIC)

Thomas Banks (VIC)

Suzy Keene (ACT)

(NSW) co-opted

co-opted

The current board would also like to thank board members whose term ended in 2014 including Irene McMinn, Nigel Webb (co-opted), and Fiona Given as Vice President.

Message from the Co-Chief Executive Officers

People with Disability Australia (PWDA) saw some exciting projects develop and requests for our advocacy support grow during 2014-2015.

We have continued to deliver high quality individual advocacy supports to people with disability across New South Wales (NSW) and in the five regions of Queensland that we have offices. This year saw an overall 10% increase of issues handled by our Advocates. The further rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in the Hunter region of NSW brought some challenges and significant opportunities for people with disability residing in boarding houses in that area. Responding to homelessness and housing crises, access to services and assisting people subjected to all forms of violence remained significant areas of our individual advocacy work.

PWDA's project supporting people with disability affected by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has gone from strength to strength involving work across the whole organisation. Advocates have been supporting people with disability to tell their stories of institutional child sexual abuse in private sessions. Our training staff have been delivering high quality sessions to people with disability and service providers across the entire country. The project developed a website and resources to provide information to people with disability and we have conducted information sessions and engaged with fellow Disabled Peoples Organisations, advocacy groups, service providers and government departments in each state and territory. We have also provided advice and support to the Royal Commission and made a number of submissions on key topics of their inquiry.

This year saw us develop a new program area with the commencement of our Disability Support Organisation (DSO) in NSW. This has provided an exciting opportunity to engage at the grassroots level and build the capacity of people with disability. Our DSO promotes self-advocacy and capacity building of peer support groups to assist a positive transition to the NDIS. Our DSO peer connectors facilitate and support a wide range of groups, including groups of people who are Deafblind, Blind and vision impaired, people living in Hunter region boarding houses, people living with HIV/AIDS and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex people with disability.

This Annual Report showcases the broad range of legislative and policy reform work at the NSW, national and international levels, as we fulfil our role as a NSW peak, a national peak (since February 2015) and a highly regarded expert within the international human rights arena.

Our high quality training products have seen a jump in requests and we trained nearly 800 people with disability, disability service providers, students and mainstream service providers this year. This means that on average we've had a positive impact on 65 people a month who have been educated and up-skilled in disability inclusion and human rights implementation across Australia.

As always, we cannot thank the Board enough for their strategic direction and vision for the future of PWDA; and the staff, interns and volunteers for their consistent commitment to implementing this vision in order to progress human rights of people with disability.



Matthew Bowden & Therese Sands



PWDA Staff, Interns and Volunteers

Individual Advocates

Our individual advocates are based in Redfern, Sutherland, Bowral and Queanbeyan in NSW, and Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Sunshine Coast, Logan and Mount Isa in Queensland. Current full and part time staff include Sue Barnes, David Costin, Gareth Elliott, Paulina Gutierrez, Stephin Hargreave, Leonie Hazelton, Freya Higgins, Tanya Jovovic, Cath Posniak, Lindy Rodrigues, Lynette Russell and David Skidmore in NSW; and Joanne Argyle, Valerie Brown, Luke Gale, Tracey Moffatt, Rhonda Perkins, Denise Robertson and Grace Stevenson in Queensland. Many thanks also to Lynette Russell who moved on in 2015, and to Naomi Knight for her contribution to the work of the team.

Systemic Advocates

Our systemic advocacy team is based in Redfern and includes staff working on policy and law reform, government relations, communications, training, community engagement, capacity building and project coordination. Current team members include Craig Andrews, Ngila Bevan, Jessica Cadwallader, Pete Darby, Kate Finch, Samantha French, Mel Harrison, Meredith Lea, Nathan Mikhael, Ann Penhallurick, Greg Robertson and Ryan Young. Many thanks also to Craig Andrews who moved on in December 2014 and to Sonya Price-Kelly for her consultancy work.

Interns

PWDA supervises experiential learning based intern placements of students from the University of Sydney Masters programs in human rights and/or international development, and the Masters program at University of NSW law school. This year's intake included Law and Policy interns Teneisha Bhalla, Ariun Chinbat, Nicola Edwards, Sharon Lee, and Michael Tong; and Policy and Advocacy Interns Jenny Trigg and Nicolas Balzer.

Volunteers

PWDA is fortunate to have many people willing to contribute their time and skills to build the capacity of our organisation. Volunteers support the work of the communications and membership development team and in 2014 – 15 included Phillida Bartik, Susan Baxter, Terry Davis, Mohammed Ibrahim, Megan Smith and Shiny Suhanth.

Corporate Services team

The corporate services team keeps the PWDA engine running from the Redfern office. With Chief Asare, Peter McGill, Moon Rea, Sue Strasser, Rita Zhang all playing a central role in 2014 – 15.

Membership Engagement and Outreach

Membership Engagement and Outreach

The total membership of PWDA increased by more than 40% in 2014-15, fuelled by our improved social media presence, national community outreach, and increased media engagement advocating for the rights of people with disability.

Online Membership Engagement

The Social Media Forum we held to discuss the NDIS Citizens' Jury Scorecard reached over 1,000 people on Facebook and Twitter. Almost 100 people shared their views on the NDIS and these views helped inform the findings of the Citizens' Jury in their final Scorecard.

During 2014-15 we created a series of online surveys that gave people with disability the chance to have their say on issues such as: mutual responsibility and disability; the cost of disability; NSW Election priorities; episodic disability; employment barriers; and proposed changes to the Disability Support Pension. 443 people took part in these surveys and their direct feedback provided invaluable insights that informed our advocacy campaigns and government relations work.

Social Media

Our disability rights community has continued to grow on social media. More than 1400 new fans liked our Facebook page and more than 1,000 new followers joined us on Twitter in 2014-15.

Local disability advocacy organisations from across Australia, media outlets, journalists and community organisations all shared our Facebook posts and retweeted our tweets. This made thousands more people aware of who we are, what we do and why our work is important.

Publications

We put out **11 Alerts** to Members and subscribers that informed them of significant news events, key PWDA activities, and opportunities to take part in campaigns.

We issued **8 E-Bulletins** that informed Members and subscribers of the positive difference our individual advocacy service has made to the lives of people it supports, and updated stakeholders on our systemic advocacy work.

We published **23 Media Releases** on subjects relevant to our NSW and national systemic advocacy work, an increase from 17 Media Releases published last year.

We sent out more than **250 Daily Media Round-Up emails** that summarised key disability news and views from Australia and abroad. More people than ever have now subscribed to receive this service.

In the Media

PWDA was quoted in more than 100 media stories featured in outlets such as The Australian newspaper, ABC News, The Sydney Morning Herald, The New Daily, Pro Bono News, 9 News, Daily Mail Australia, the Canberra Times and the Herald Sun. International media outlets that featured contributions from our spokespeople included BBC Ouch, The Independent newspaper, and Scoop.

Issues we were at the forefront of commenting on in the media included:

- The NDIS Citizens' Jury Scorecard Project
- Lobbying for a National Inquiry into Violence, Abuse and Neglect against people with disability in institutional and residential settings
- Formation of the new Australian Cross Disability Alliance
- The need to boost job opportunities for people with disability
- Fair wages and working conditions for people with disability working in Australian Disability Enterprises



Events

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade

Our Passion 4 Disability themed presence at the 2015 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras was named Most Fabulous Parade Entry and received the Ron Austin Memorial Award at the Mardi Gras Awards!

We marched in the 2015 Parade alongside the Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Northcott, and Touching Base. More than 150 people with disability, their staff and friends took part and helped us form a dynamic display of disability, gender and sexuality.

2014 Annual General Meeting and Members Event

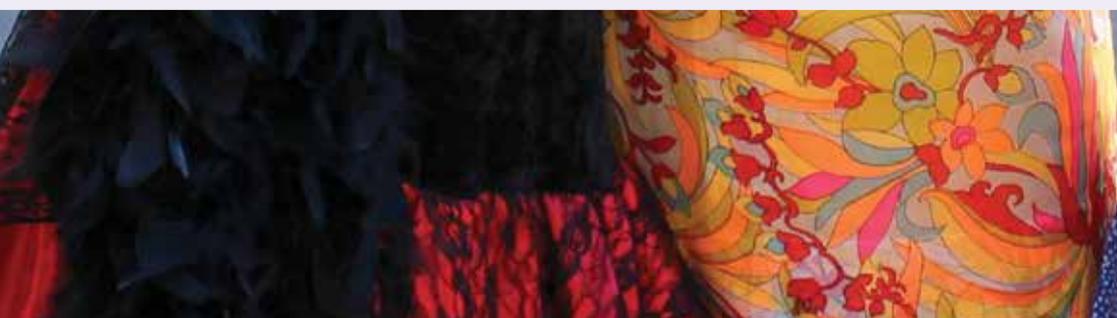
Former Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner and PWDA Life Member Graeme Innes joined us for our 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM). He took part in a discussion with our members about his experiences growing up as a person with vision impairment, overcoming negative attitudes towards disability, his commitment to disability advocacy, and his ongoing work to protect and promote the rights of people with disability.

PWDA staff from across Australia also joined us for the AGM, which was a fantastic opportunity for us to connect with Members and hear their feedback.



“For me, the highlight of the AGM was listening to Graeme Innes AO ‘Unplugged’. His comments on employment discrimination and how negative attitudes towards people with disability result in poverty really resonated with me”.

Susan Baxter, PWDA full member



Individual Advocacy



Top 4 advocacy issues



Accommodation



Disability Services

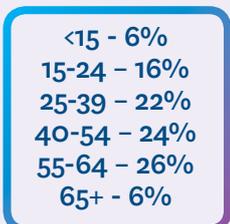


Legal Issues



Violence, Abuse and Neglect

Age percentages



People with disability remain among the most disadvantaged and marginalised members of our community. We are frequently subject to discrimination, abuse and neglect. Our individual advocacy team promotes and protects the rights of individuals and groups of people with disability and works to ensure that their needs are met.

In 2014-15 PWDA Individual Advocates assisted over 1900 people with disability and their associates, an increase of over 10% compared to last year, and including over 1600 new clients. This means that on average PWDA Advocates assist in the resolution of over one issue for a person with disability, every working hour (9am-5pm), every business day (Monday-Friday), of the entire year!!!

Our Clients

This assistance was intensive short term, issue-based advocacy to residents of New South Wales and Queensland in regions where we are funded through the Department of Social Services, National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) and through a brokerage agreement with IDEAS.

We also provided disability rights-related information, advice and referral services to over 200 people with disability and their associates who reside interstate or otherwise outside of our funded service areas. Outside of NSW and QLD, the majority of interstate calls were from Victoria followed by South Australia and Western Australia.

As in previous years, accommodation, disability services, legal issues, violence abuse and neglect are the areas where people with disability request assistance most frequently. Subsequently, we have a strong focus on housing and living in the community, disability support and the NDIS, and rights protection and justice in our systemic law reform and policy work.

We provided advocacy services to a roughly equal proportion of male and female clients, representing people with disability of all ages. Compared to last year the number of clients over 40 dropped while the number between 15-24 years old increased.

Community Outreach

In 2014-15 PWDA Individual Advocates delivered information sessions on disability rights and advocacy to over 2300 people across NSW and QLD, almost double that of last year. This was in response to requests from groups of people with disability, community organisations, universities, TAFE colleges and disability service providers for presentations on disability rights and advocacy. PWDA also continued to provide mentoring support to many individuals and groups of people with disability and their associates with rights-related problems in order to build their self-advocacy skills and personal capacity to resolve complaints themselves.

“Again, thanks for all of your efforts! You are amazing!”

Jill, young woman with psychosocial disability, supported by PWDA NSW Advocate

The Boarding House Project

PWDA provides individual and group advocacy to residents of Assisted Residential Centres in NSW, also called boarding houses. Our role is to promote and protect residents’ legal, consumer and human rights; to ensure their access to health, allied health and community services; to support resident participation and decision-making in transition to new living arrangements; and to provide an independent source of information in their interactions with government agencies and service providers. This service is funded by the NSW Family and Community Services (FACS), Department of Ageing Disability and Homecare (ADHC).



This year PWDA provided intensive advocacy support to nearly 164 residents of Assisted Residential Centres, and 327 instances of information and/or advice were provided to residents during outreach and closure visits. In addition, group advocacy was provided to over 300 residents through our input at interagency meetings and through our participation in case conferences. **Following the closure of a large Residential Centre in the Hunter region, a key area of work in 2014-15 was supporting 63 clients into new accommodation with services funded through the NDIS planning process.**

Advocates in Action

Assisting a vulnerable client in crisis

Following a referral by a concerned friend of the client, a QLD advocate conducted a client home visit. She met with Suzie,* a young woman with intellectual disability, whose mother and carer had died four months previously. Consequently, Suzie had been abandoned by her immediate family and told that if she was trouble they would put her in an aged care facility.

Suzie was extremely vulnerable to the street gangs active in her area and kept a machete close to her at all times. She had not had electricity in the house for several weeks.

The PWDA advocate approached several services and the client was moved to a safe QLD Housing flat within a week. The advocate is now helping Suzie sort out her finances and obtain appropriate services to support her daily life in the community.

**not her real name*

Disability Advocacy Standards

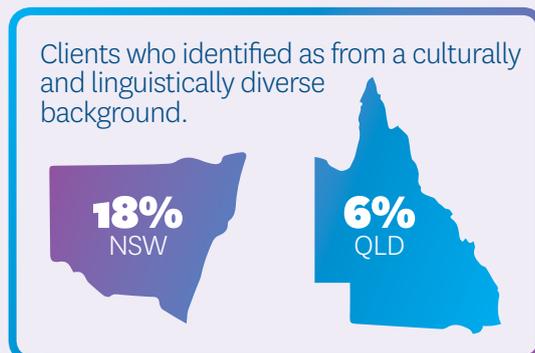
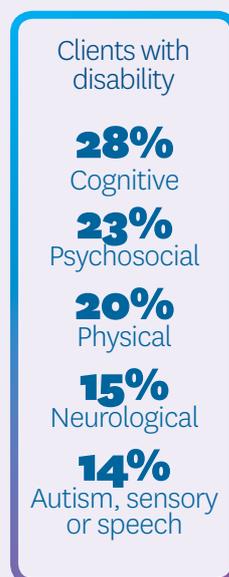
Following the development of the new Disability Advocacy Standards (DAS) all advocacy organisations funded under the NDAP are required to undertake an external certification process of compliance against the Standards. PWDA has begun this 3 years process and thus far has been assessed as being fully compliant to the DAS and successfully gained the Certificate of Compliance and Accreditation.

"I just want to hug you, thank you so much for helping me out!"

Alex, mum of 9 year old son with autism experiencing discrimination at a QLD school

Our clients

Approximately 50% of our clients are people with cognitive disability and/or psychosocial disability.



Training, Education and Capacity Building

Disability Rights Education and Training

Our high quality training products saw a jump in requests this year and we trained nearly 800 people with disability, disability service providers, students, and mainstream service providers across Australia. This means that on average we've had a positive impact on 65 people a month who have been educated and up-skilled in disability inclusion and human rights implementation!

241 People with disability **384** Professionals
170 TAFE students completing their Diploma, Certificate 3 or 4 in Community Service

Disability Awareness training is primarily provided to mainstream service providers such as local councils, government departments, domestic and family violence services, homelessness services, legal centres, schools, colleges and businesses to raise their disability competence and confidence.

Disability Awareness training



Sexuality and Respectful Relationships training equips people with disability with an in-depth understanding of their human and sexual rights.

“Something that surprised me, which I wasn’t aware of before the training, were the high statistics regarding sexual assault on people with disabilities”

(Responding to Sexual Assault Training, Mount Isa)

Responding to Sexual Assault training is usually provided to disability service providers or mainstream organisations who work with people with disability such as domestic and family violence services, health centres or through input into academic discussion panels. 113 people across NSW and QLD.

PWDA training is provided on a fee for service basis, or free for organisations engaged in the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

A Disability Support Organisation of and for people with disability

This year PWDA developed a new program area with the commencement of our Disability Support Organisation (DSO) in NSW. Funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), this project is an exciting opportunity to engage at the grassroots level, provide information and resources, and build the capacity of people with disability.

Our DSO promotes self-advocacy and capacity building of peer support groups to assist a positive transition to the NDIS. **Our Peer Connectors facilitate and support a wide range of groups, including groups of people who are Deafblind, Blind and vision impaired, people living in Hunter region boarding houses, people living with HIV/AIDS and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex people with disability.**

We thank the Association of Blind Citizens NSW, Positive Life and the Intellectual Disability Rights Service for supporting the project by hosting PWDA Peer Connectors at their offices and including them in the activities of their organisations.



Systemic Advocacy



Our systemic advocacy team aims to achieve fundamental positive change to social structures and processes that result in the marginalisation and disadvantage, discrimination, exclusion, violence and abuse of people with disability. We work within a human rights framework to advocate for the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in Australia. The direction of our systemic advocacy is guided by the concerns of our members and the policy and law reform opportunities of the day.

2014-15 was as busy as ever for our systemic advocates with key activities including the Citizens Jury Scorecard, the launch of the Australian Cross Disability Alliance, the call for a Senate Inquiry into Violence against People with Disability, and the NSW State Election in March 2015. We spent the rest of the year advocating firmly on our key priority issues including **26 written submissions** to government, multiple stakeholder consultations, appearing at Senate Inquiries, and by providing advice to Ministers and MPs directly as well as through advisory groups.

PWDA continued to be called upon for comment on issues, events and stories relating to the disability sector and people with disability throughout 2014-15. Spokespeople for PWDA appeared in a variety of media, including television, radio, print and online on over 100 occasions throughout the year. Please see www.pwd.org.au for a full list of our submissions, publications and

media impact. PWDA provided advice to government through the following reference committees and advisory groups:

State

- Boarding House Expert Advisory Group, NSW Department of Family and Community Services
- City of Sydney Council Way Finding Committee
- Coalition for Appropriate Supported Accommodation
- Combined Advocacy Group Queensland
- NSW Apprehended Violence Legislation Coordinating Committee
- NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal Stakeholder Reference Group
- NSW Community Living Consultation Group
- NSW Disability Network Forum
- NSW Electoral Commission Equal Access to Democracy Disability Reference Group
- NSW Guardianship Tribunal Stakeholder Reference Group
- NSW Government Social and Affordable Housing Fund Expert Advisory Panel
- NSW Health Care Complaints Commission Consumer Consultative Committee
- NSW NGO Housing Partners Reference Group
- NSW Ombudsman Disability Roundtable
- NSW Public Housing Repairs Coalition
- NSW Transport Access Advisory Group
- NSW Transport Way Finding Project Consultative Committee
- NSW Women's Alliance



National

- Australian Electoral Commission Disability Advisory Committee
- Australian Disability and Development Consortium Executive Committee
- Australian Network on Disability
- Australian Tax Office Individual Taxpayer Liaison Group
- Disability Housing Futures Working Group
- National Accessible Public Transport Advisory Committee
- National Disability Strategy Implementation Reference Group
- National Disability Strategy Implementation Reference Group Indigenous Working Group
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Taskforce
- “Willing to Work” Inquiry National Advisory Panel

Disability Support and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

People with disability are experts in our own lives, and throughout 2014 – 15 PWDA remained committed to ensuring that we continue to co-design the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) scheme as it develops and improves over time; that people with disability receive the information, advice and planning assistance they need to maximise the benefits of the scheme as it rolls out; and that the market for supports develops in a way

which meets the needs and human rights of people with disability. **This work included submissions on the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Framework, and appearing at the Senate NDIS Committee Inquiry Hearing into the Role of Advocacy in the NDIS.**

Citizens Jury Scorecard

The NDIS Citizens’ Jury Scorecard project was an innovative project led by PWDA in collaboration with Max Hardy Consulting, and with the support of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) between September 2014 and May 2015. The project used deliberative democracy to involve Australian citizens who have helped fund the NDIS and those who have direct knowledge of the scheme as a participant, to evaluate the staged roll out of the NDIS in six trial sites.

The Scorecard presents the findings of the jury including a series of recommendations aimed at enhancing the future roll out of the NDIS. It was compiled by the twelve member jury, with the assistance of the citizens’ jury facilitators Max Hardy Consulting following a three and a half day ‘trial’ held in Sydney.

One of the key aims of Project was to ensure the ongoing educative value of this unique project and its methodology. To enhance transparency Think Films was contracted to film the Citizens’ Jury process. The result is a film that ‘tells the story’ of the Citizens’ Jury and its interactions with participants of the NDIS, adding deeply personal and qualitative elements to understanding the process and how the scorecard was finalised by the jurors. The Scorecard and film was launched in Geelong in May 2015 and both are available on

“They’ve captured a lot of people’s perspective. You could just tell when you walked in they wanted to hear about how you found it [the NDIS],”

Advocate Witness, VIC

“I think the positive that really stood out from hearing from the participants was those people who felt for the first time their voice had really been heard.”

Jury Member, ACT



our website. The project has since won the International Association for Public Participation 2015 Core Values Awards in 3 categories: International Project of the Year Award, the Australasia Project of the Year Award and an Australasian Health Project Award.

Researching the impacts of individualised funding

Through 2014 - 15 PWDA collaborated with the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) University of NSW, in a participatory action research project, 'Social Action Partners: Peer Support with Children, Young People and Families in Victoria'. The project established peer support and research groups in Victoria for children and young people with intellectual disability and their families which discussed the barriers and opportunities participants encountered in their own transitions towards individual funding. PWDA thanks Belonging Matters, Inclusion Melbourne and the Youth Disability Advocacy Service for partnering with us in this project.

Preventing Violence and Abuse

Striving to achieve systemic changes to address violence, abuse and neglect against people with disability has been a cornerstone of our advocacy since the establishment of PWDA over 30 years ago. 2014-15 saw these decades of advocacy culminate in the call for a national inquiry into violence and abuse against people with disability, a call which was answered in February 2015 by the establishment of a Community Affairs

CRPD Article 16: "States parties shall put in place effective legislation and policies, including women and child focused legislation and policies, to ensure that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are identified, investigated and where appropriate prosecuted".

Committee Senate Inquiry into Violence and Abuse of People with Disability in Institutions and Residential Settings. Our policy work and national community engagement in support of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse also continued to develop and achieve successful outcomes. When it comes to national initiatives to address violence against people with disability, PWDA remains the go-to disabled person's organisation equipped to engage people with disability, government stakeholders, academia and the community on some of the most confronting of issues.

#Endtheviolence

It is well documented that people with disability, especially girls and women with disability, are over-represented as victims of crime. People with disability are more likely to be victims of violence, fraud and sexual assault. They are also more likely to experience multiple episodes of all forms of abuse and neglect. In November 2014 PWDA joined a multitude of voices calling for a national inquiry after an ABC documentary exposed significant levels of violence experienced by people with disability living in supported accommodation in Victoria. After a long campaign for action, the Australian Senate passed a motion launching an Inquiry in February 2015. PWDA, as part of the Australian Cross Disability Alliance, made a comprehensive submission to the Inquiry; appeared at the Public Hearing; and initiated a campaign **#endtheviolence** encouraging people to write to their MP to support a Royal Commission into violence against people with disability, reform of the criminal justice system to remove barriers to accessing justice, and an independent national watchdog to investigate and enforce findings against people and organisations that violate the rights of people with disability.

Submissions

Senate Inquiry into People with Disability in Nursing Homes
(February 2015)

Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children
(May 2015)

Media release

Urgent Call for National Inquiry: End violence against people with disability in institutions
(November 2014)



Submissions

Letter to the National Children Commissioner regarding Domestic Violence and Children with Disability
(June 2015)

Supporting the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse (www.rcsupport.pwd.org.au)

PWDA's project supporting people with disability affected by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has gone from strength to strength this year involving work across the whole organisation. Individual Advocates have been supporting people with disability to tell their stories of institutional child sexual abuse in private sessions; an Advocates Toolkit has been developed to assist advocates from other organisations to do the same; our training staff have been delivering high quality sessions to people with disability and service providers across the entire country; and our community engagement and policy work has been gathering momentum.

We have conducted information sessions and engaged with fellow DPOs, advocacy groups, service providers and government departments in each state and territory and initiated an Ambassador Program for supporters of our work who wish to disseminate information about the project to their own communities. **We have also provided key advice and support to the Royal Commission and made a number of submissions on key topics of their inquiry including out of home care, child safe institutions, police and prosecution responses, and redress.** We are collaborating with Southern Cross University in a research project, Feeling Safe, Being Safe which will be published next year.

Domestic Violence

PWDA engaged in a significant amount of highly successful reform advocacy in NSW this year including presenting at the "Its Time to Talk" DV conference about the experiences of violence from the point of

view of people with disability; appearing at the Finance and Public Administration Reference Committee Public Hearing into Domestic Violence; participating in consultations about the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme; and launching a Policy and Practice Tool to support domestic and family violence services to become more accessible to people with disability in partnership with Domestic Violence NSW. These resource materials are available for download on our website.

Economic Security and Employment

CRPD Article 27: "People with disability have a right to work in an environment which is open, inclusive and accessible"

This year we continued to call on federal, state and local government and employers in the business and community sectors to "Get Real on Jobs" including within our NSW Election Platform in March 2015. The Federal Government responded with modest measures to stimulate disability employment in the 2015 Budget; by launching a major national Inquiry "Willing to Work: Employment Discrimination against Older Australians and Australians with Disability" being conducted by the Australian Human Rights Commission; and establishing a new Taskforce to review the entire disability employment system and develop a National Disability Employment Framework to boost employment rates for people with disability.

However, with the Federal government also making changes to social security and the Disability Support Pension (DSP) this year, advocacy concerned about the impact of welfare reform on people with disability remained top of our agenda.

Media release

International Women's Day: DVNSW and PWDA launch project creating disability inclusive domestic and family violence services
(March 2015)



Opposing Changes to Social Security Legislation

PWDA remained at the forefront of national debate around changes to social security laws introduced in the 2014 Federal Budget. Many of these proposals, including reassessment of DSP recipients under 35 years old, stricter compliance rules, and changes to the way that the DSP rate increases in line with the cost of living, are having a substantially negative impact on many thousands of people with disability. **PWDA has been tirelessly lobbying MPs, Senators and Ministers in Canberra to make sure the voice of people with disability is heard at the highest level, including a pre-budget submission to Treasury; putting forward questions for Senate Estimates regarding the implications of DSP changes; and engaging with the Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry process to oppose sections of the Social Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.** The fight for a fair and just social security safety net for people with disability will continue into 2015 - 2016.

The Wage Justice Campaign

In partnership with AED legal, the Wage Justice Campaign advocates to end wage discrimination in Australian Disability Enterprises (formerly sheltered workshops), and to achieve equal pay for work of equal value. Thousands of people with disability, particularly intellectual disability, continue to be paid less than \$2 per hour as a result of the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT). Use of this tool continues despite a

“Thanks so much for the opportunity to work at PWDA. I’ve had a great time and have learnt a lot about disability advocacy!”

Michael Tong, Law and Policy Intern: Wage Justice Campaign

2012 High Court ruling that it is discriminatory. In 2013 the Australian Human Rights Commission granted the Federal Government an Exemption from the Disability Discrimination Act so the BSWAT could be used for 1 more year. When the Exemption expired in April 2015 the government applied for more time and were granted an Interim Exemption pending a decision on their primary application. **PWDA challenged this decision in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal because people with disability had not been consulted as part of the decision making process and we won!!**

Meanwhile PWDA is a party to an application to the Fair Work Commission by the Health Services Union and United Voice seeking to remove the BSWAT from the modern employment award and this conciliation process continued throughout the year. We thank the Australian Centre for Disability Law and Ben Fogarty of Denman Chambers for their legal representation.

PWDA continued to support the class action in the federal court seeking compensation for over 10,000 workers with disability who have experienced discrimination and economic loss due to the BSWAT. We fearlessly opposed the introduction of the BSWAT Payment Scheme Bill which unfortunately passed the Senate in 2015 and falls well short of providing a remedy to the human rights violations that people with disability have experienced.

However, with support from the Reichstein Foundation, we are committed to focusing our policy and law reform work on keeping the pressure on government to abolish the BSWAT, utilise fair wage assessment tools, and ensure that people with disability and their families receive accurate information and advice about changes to wages, the future of ADEs, and opportunities to work in open employment settings.

Submissions

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the Extent of Income Inequality in Australia

Media release

PWDA joins call to eject harsh budget measures
(August 2014)

Poverty: The Reality of the DSP (October 2014)

We Need More Jobs Not Doctors
(December 2014)



Peer reviewed article:

“New choices or new control? The NDIS and housing for people with disability”
(Human Rights Defender, UNSW Law)

Media release

Snapshot a wake-up call on accessible affordable housing
(April 2015)

Housing and Living in the Community

CRPD Article 19: *“People with disability have the right to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live in on equal basis as others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement”.*

At PWDA we fearlessly advocate that all people with disability have a right to live in the community. However, for many people with disability finding appropriate accommodation is a significant barrier to living in the community. As in previous years, problems relating to housing were the number one reason why people with disability sought assistance from our Individual Advocates in 2014-15. This year presented multiple opportunities to tell state and federal policy makers and housing providers that there is serious lack of public housing available for people with disability, that the private sector isn't creating enough affordable or accessible options, and that people with disability experience greater levels of homelessness, housing stress and multiple deprivation as a result.

Housing, Disability and the NDIS

With disability supports set to be taken care of through the NDIS, people with disability will be able to consider their housing choices afresh. The NDIA estimates that over 30,000 more people with disability will be seeking access to private, public and social housing for the

first time, yet the unmet need is approximately 122,000 NDIS participants. Advocating for an urgent increase in accessible affordable housing continued to be a pillar of our social justice policy work this year.

Affordable and Accessible Housing

Advocacy to educate public and private housing providers about the needs of people with disability; the human right to live in the community; and the urgent need for an increase in accessible, universally designed social and affordable housing ramped up with; submissions to the Department of Families and Community Services Discussion Paper: Social Housing in NSW; appearing at the hearing of the NSW Legislative Assembly Committee Inquiry into Tenancy Management in Social Housing; joining the NSW government's Expert Advisory Panel to their \$1 billion Social and Affordable Housing investment fund; and through the Disability Housing Futures Working Group sponsored by the National Affordable Housing Consortium.

Our joint research project with the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), ‘Accommodating the NDIS: Maximising Housing Choice in a Reformed Disability Sector’, was also published this year, including in an Easy English format.

The Shut in Campaign to Close Institutions

PWDA continued to advocate for an end to institutions and is committed to ensuring that the Stockton Centre in the Hunter region



of NSW is closed and residents provided with alternative housing options which respect their right to live in the community. We enjoyed constructive engagement with a range of stakeholders in 2014-15 including other disability advocacy and peak organisations, Ageing Disability and Home Care (ADHC) of the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, the NSW Ombudsman, the Office of the Public Guardian, the NSW Trustee and Guardian, representatives of the NSW ALP, the NSW Greens and the NSW Minister for Disability Services. Key achievements included the work of the Stockton Centre Closure Consultation Group facilitated by the NSW Ombudsman, the repeated public commitments to close Stockton from the NSW Disability Services Minister, and input into the UNSW Intellectual Disability Behavior Support Advisory Group.

Social Inclusion and Accessibility

PWDA continued to advocate for greater social inclusion for people with disability and accessibility improvements across all aspects of life including information,

transport, communication technology and infrastructure. In NSW our work in this area focused on engagement with the Government and Local Council Advisory Committees such as the NSW Electoral Commission Equal Access to Democracy Disability Reference Group and NSW Transport Way Finding Project Consultative Committee which continued to build on work from previous years. 2014 also saw the NSW Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme in the spotlight with PWDA presenting at a Parliamentary Forum discussing proposed reforms to the Scheme.

Nationally, this year saw PWDA join the National Accessible Public Transport Advisory Committee which considers the whole range of modes of public transport from ferries to buses, trains to trams. We

also made a comprehensive submission to the Review of the Disability (Access to Premises – Building) Standards which applies to all buildings which fall under the Disability Discrimination Act (1992). As part of our continuing relationship with the Centre for Disability Research and Policy at the University of Sydney we joined the Advisory Committee to a research project looking at Disaster Risk Responses for people with disability.

“This internship has been a wonderful experience and I have learned more than I could ever have imagined about public interest law, advocacy and what it takes to work in this field. None of this would have been possible without you and the fantastic team of people you have at PWDA”

Sharon Lee, Law and Policy Intern: Access to Premises Standards

International Advocacy and Capacity Building



2014-15 was an extremely active year for PWDA internationally, with systemic advocates representing people with disability at key UN forums influencing the global disability rights agenda. Our central role as a resource for regional capacity building of DPOs also continued with consultancy projects on disability inclusive development, our participation in DPO United, continued support of the Pacific Disability Forum, and strengthening relationships with DPOs in China. PWDA international delegates provide reports of their engagement activities and these can be found on the PWDA website. Funding for this international work is secured on an ad hoc basis and includes grants received with thanks from the Disability International Participation Fund facilitated by the Australian Human Rights Commission on behalf of the Department of Social Services.

Maintaining a focus on women with disability at the United Nations (New York)

In March 2015 PWDA joined Women with Disabilities Australia to represent the voice of women with disability at the 9th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59). CSW59 reviewed the global roadmap for advancing women's rights, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as gender equality for the post-2015 development agenda. We advocated that women with disability must be integral to these global roadmaps to ensure that our specific issues and concerns are recognised and addressed. We must not be left behind!

Advocating against torture of people with disability at the United Nations (Geneva)

In November 2014 PWDA led the Australian Civil Society Delegation to Geneva for the review of Australia by the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT). Over 5 days the delegation made formal and informal presentations to the Committee, with disability advocates highlighting the nature of torture and ill-treatment that people with disability in Australia experience such as indefinite detention, involuntary treatment, restrictive practices, and forced sterilisation. Since November PWDA has been working with the disability sector and other key stakeholders to raise awareness of laws and practices that lead to torture and ill-treatment of people with disability including hosting a workshop at the Australian Human Rights Commission in February 2015.

Regional Capacity Building (Korea, China)

In September 2014 PWDA was funded by the Korean Foundation of Disabled Persons to participate in the International Forum for the Advocacy of Persons with Disabilities in Asia-Pacific and the Second Assembly of Asia-Pacific Disabled Peoples Organisations United held in Seoul, Republic of Korea. PWDA currently holds the position of Vice Chair of the DPO United Committee and assisted in facilitating the event.





In June 2015 PWDA was funded as part of the China-Australia Human Rights Technical Cooperation (HRTC) Program facilitated by the International Programs Unit of the Australian Human Rights Commission to speak at a conference of the China Disabled Persons Federation, in Nanjing city, Jiangsu Province. The focus of the conference was on capacity building for provincial Disabled Persons Associations and PWDA gave two keynote speeches discussing: ‘The implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in Australia with a focus on accessibility and living in the community’, and ‘The human rights-based approach in practice – best practice examples and skills for effective leadership and advocacy by disability organisations’.

The Conference was attended by over 350 people with disability, disability service providers and disability advocacy leaders from across China. It was a tremendous opportunity to engage with people with disability in China and exchange knowledge about how disability supports and services can be delivered in a way which realises human rights and creates opportunities for increased community participation.

Disability Inclusive Development (South Pacific, New York)

In October 2014 PWDA was supported by the Pacific Women’s Program of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to participate in the 3rd High Level

Pacific Forum Disability Ministers Meeting held in the Federated States of Micronesia. The meeting brought together high level Ministerial representation from across the Pacific to discuss regional approaches to support national efforts for inclusion and promotion of disability rights. The theme of the meeting was ‘Charting New Directions for Disability Inclusive Development in the Pacific Beyond 2015’.

Following this meeting PWDA was engaged by DFAT to develop a Recommendations Paper on strategies to support and respond to the needs of women with disability in the Pacific. In February 2015, PWDA then participated in the Pacific Disability Forum Conference in Fiji, which included discussions on implementing the Recommendations Paper, and facilitating a panel on disability inclusive development.

In June 2015 PWDA also participated in the 8th Session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the UN CRPD which focussed on “mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the post-2015 development agenda” including roundtable sessions on mainstreaming disability in the reduction of poverty and inequality; improvement of disability data and statistics; and addressing the vulnerability and exclusion of persons with disabilities: the situation of women and girls, children’s right to education, disasters and humanitarian crises.



“PWDA has supported the Pacific Disability Forum and its Members across the Pacific for many years demonstrating their continued commitment to the empowerment of persons with disabilities across the Pacific”.

Setareki Macanawai, CEO Pacific Disability Forum

Treasurer's Report

I present the audited financial statements for the 2014/15 financial year.

For the information of Members, People with Disability Australia Incorporated (PWDA) sustained a net loss of \$266,763. However, the Statement of Financial Position shows that cash at bank and fixed deposits amounts to \$902,669 (total current assets minus prepayments). Whilst we have sustained a net loss for the year this is a considerable reduction on the loss that had been incurred in the previous year (\$532,490).

Income

Our funding sources continue to be very diverse. In the 2014/15 financial year, PWDA received funding and other income as follows:

- Government funding of \$3,243,144
- Other income of \$972,331

Our funding was over \$500,000 more than had been received in the previous year. Our CEO's are also working to further diversify these sources of funding.

Expenditure

Your directors and CEO's have been very scrupulous in ensuring that our expenditure levels have been maintained at a very manageable level. One of the major issues of liability that the Auditors refer to in their Independent Audit Report (available at www.pwd.org.au) relates to the amount of time in lieu (TIL) that the Co-CEO's in particular have accumulated. Your board has now implemented strategies that will eliminate that liability over the next two financial years. Once this liability has been extinguished our net asset position will revert to a positive position. We continue to work to achieve this status.



Suresh Rajan

Director's Report

The directors submit the financial report of People with Disability Australia Incorporated (the Association) for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

Directors

The names of directors throughout the year and at the end date of this report are listed at page 7 of the Annual Report.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were to provide a range of disability rights related advocacy and consumer protection services for people with disability and their associates either at the New South Wales or national levels.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Results

The deficit of the Association for the financial year amounted to \$ 266,763 (2014: \$ 178,870).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the board of directors:



President
Craig Wallace



Treasurer
Suresh Rajan

Dated this third day of November 2015

Financial Reports

The information on the following pages has been extracted from the audited financial statements of People with Disability Australia Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2014 and is included here for information purposes only. A complete set of financial statements and Independent Audit Report is available at www.pwd.org.au and can also be provided upon request. With reference to the ACFID Code of Conduct, PWDA confirms that during the year the Association did not receive any international aid and development revenue.

Statement of Profit or Loss

	Notes	2015	2014
Revenue	2	3,443,655	2,838,408
Computer/website costs		(65,015)	(52,648)
Consulting and professional charges		(119,446)	(58,672)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(246,203)	(23,570)
Electricity		(20,587)	(35,726)
Employee benefits expense		(2,271,765)	(1,800,761)
Grants refunded		(7,943)	(1,531)
Meeting expenses		(31,933)	(14,329)
Motor vehicle expenses		(38,986)	(36,604)
Office relocation expenses		-	(5,051)
Printing and stationary		(33,797)	(15,000)
Program costs		(29,077)	(67,001)
Rental expense and operating lease		(304,488)	(366,931)
Repairs & maintenance		(34,737)	(24,931)
Telephone and internet		(113,614)	(90,612)
Travel and accommodation		(281,561)	(333,328)
Other operating expenses		(111,266)	(90,583)
DEFICIT BEFORE INCOME TAX		(266,763)	(178,870)
Income tax expense	1(h)	-	-
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		(266,763)	(178,870)
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(266,763)	(178,870)

Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	2015	2014
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	233,832	758,164
Trade and other receivables	5	21,526	16,871
Financial assets	6	647,311	45,843
Prepayments		35,894	3,526
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		938,563	824,404
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	361,609	599,970
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		361,609	599,970
TOTAL ASSETS		1,300,172	1,424,374
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	424,412	428,340
Other liabilities	10	769,381	667,045
Provisions	9	38,160	20,294
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,231,953	1,115,679
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	9	54,698	28,411
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		54,698	28,411
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,286,651	1,144,090
NET ASSETS		13,521	280,284
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		13,521	280,284
TOTAL EQUITY		13,521	280,284

Independent Audit Report to the Members of PWDA

We have audited the accompanying financial report being a special purpose financial report, of People with Disability Australia Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the responsible persons' declaration.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of People with Disability Australia Incorporated are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009, the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of, the financial position of People with Disability Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2015, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009* and *Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012*.

Going Concern

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1(a) in the financial report, which indicates that the Association incurred a net loss of \$266,763 during the year ended 30 June 2015 and, as of that date, the Association's current liabilities exceeded its current assets by \$293,390. These conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 1(a), indicate the existence of a material uncertainty that may cast doubt about the Association's ability to continue as a going concern and therefore, the Association may be unable to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements which describe the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared to assist People with Disability Australia Incorporated to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.



Rupaninga Dharmasiri, Partner
LBW & Partners, Chartered Accountants
Level 3, 845 Pacific Highway, CHATSWOOD NSW 2067
Dated 5th of November 2015



people with disability

For individual advocacy support contact the
Disability Rights Information Service (DRIS)
between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm (AEST) Monday to Friday
on (02) **9370 3100** or Toll Free on **1800 422 015** or
TTY Toll Free on **1800 422 016** or email **dris@pwd.org.au**

Join us!

Become a member of People with Disability Australia (PWDA) and show your support for human rights and equality!

As a PWDA member -

- You receive our E-Bulletin and Media Releases as they are published;
- You receive our regular member publication *Link-up*;
- You can participate in membership events, activities and PWDA Advisory Groups;
- You can stand up for the human rights of people with disability;
- You have a voice as a member on our social media forums, consultations and feedback;

You can be kept up-to-date on policy and government programs which directly affect people with disability.

FULL MEMBERSHIP

A. Individual Full Membership

To be an individual full member, you must be a person with a disability and you must live in Australia.

Individual full members are entitled to:

- Receive notice of, attend and vote at general meetings
- Nominate for election or appointment to the Board
- Nominate (or second or endorse) eligible people for election to the Board
- Receive information about PWDA's activities and disability issues

B. ORGANISATIONAL FULL MEMBERSHIP

To be an Organisational Full Member, the organisation must be incorporated in Australia and have a governing body made up of at least 75% of people with disability. Organisational members must appoint up to two delegates to exercise its membership rights.

Delegates of full organisational members are able to:

- Receive notice of, attend and participate at general meetings
- Exercise one vote on each motion at general meetings
- Nominate (or second or endorse) eligible people for election to the Board
- Nominate for election or appointment to the Board (provided the nominee is an Individual Full Member)
- Receive information about PWDA's activities and disability issues

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

A. Individual Associate Membership

Open to any person or organisation interested in supporting the disability rights movement and the aims and objectives of PWDA.

Individual associate members are entitled to:

- Receive notice of and attend general meetings
- Address general meetings with the agreement of the person chairing the meeting
- Receive information about PWDA's activities and disability issues

B. ORGANISATIONAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Open to any person or organisation interested in supporting the disability rights movement and the aims and objectives of PWDA.

Delegates of full organisational members are entitled to:

- Receive notice of and attend general meetings
- Address general meetings with the agreement of the person chairing the meeting
- Receive information about PWDA's activities and disability issues

