

Membership Prospectus



Join the leading national disability rights organisation

- Support us in our passion for the realisation of human rights, citizenship and social justice for people with disability.
- Help us to create a better future for all people with disability.
- Stay informed about major issues affecting people with disability at the state, national and international levels.
- Participate in public policy and program development as it affects people with disability and their associates.
- Influence the decisions that affect the lives of people with disability and their associates.

About People with Disability Australia (PWDA)

PWDA Incorporated is a national disability rights and advocacy organisation. Its primary membership is people with disability and organisations primarily constituted by people with disability. PWDA was founded in 1981, the International Year of Disabled People, to provide people with disability with a voice of our own.

We have a cross-disability focus – we represent the interests of people with all kinds of disability. PWDA is a non-profit, non-government organisation.

PWDA also has a large associate membership of other individuals and organisations committed to the disability rights movement.

Our Vision

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 respected and celebrated.

Our Purpose

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 Work*

We provide or undertake

- Rights related information, advice and referral services for people with disability and their associates
- Short-term individual and group advocacy assistance to people with disability and their associates
- Advocacy for reform around systemic issues that adversely affect people with disability and their associates
- Representation of the sector of interest constituted by people with disability and their associates to government, industry, and the non-government sector
- Co-ordination of the sector of interest constituted by people with disability and their associates
- Disability rights related research and development around issues of concern to people with disability and their associates
- Disability rights related training and education for people with disability and their associates, service providers, government and the public.

Our values – What we believe

We believe that people with disability, irrespective of our age, gender, cultural or linguistic background, 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

Should be empowered to exercise our rights and responsibilities, without fear of retribution.

Our principles – How we go about our work

In realising our vision, purpose and core values, we are guided by the following 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, 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 all people with disability 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.

*Note: Our work is supported, in part, by grants of financial assistance from both the New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments. This assistance is acknowledged with appreciation.

Contact Us

For more information about membership contact the Communications and Membership Development Manager.

For more information about advocacy contact an Intake Officer.

Postal Address

People with Disability Australia Incorporated
PO Box 666
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Street Address

Level 10, 1 Lawson Square, Redfern NSW 2016
Telephone: 02 9370 3100
Toll Free: 1800 422 015
Telephone Typewriter: 02 9318 2138
Toll Free TTY: 1800 422 016
Facsimile: 02 9318 1372
Email: pwd@pwd.org.au
Website: www.pwd.org.au

Translating and Interpreting Service: 13 14 50
(for people from a non-English speaking background who need help to contact us)

National Relay Service: 13 36 77 or 1800 555 677 (toll free)
(for people with a communication disability who need help to contact us)

Important Notes

- This Prospectus is available in PDF, large print, Braille, plain-text format and on audio-tape. Assistance will also be provided with translation of this information for people from non-English speaking backgrounds. Contact the Information and Liaison Officer for more information.
- You do not need to be a PWDA member to have access to our information, advice, referral or individual and group advocacy services. Our services are open to all people with disability on a priority of need basis.

The Board of PWDA will accept membership applications in alternative formats (for example, computer disk, audio-tape, email, etc). PWDA can also provide assistance to complete the membership form. Contact the Information and Liaison Officer for more information.

Membership Categories



All members receive newsletters and other information about PWDA. Members are invited to be involved in our internal policy, planning and evaluation processes, and external advocacy activities.

Individual Full Membership

To be an Individual Full Member, you must:

- be a person with a disability and
- live in Australia.

Individual full members are able 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.

Organisational Full Membership

To be an Organisational Full Member, the organisation must:

- be incorporated in Australia with a governing body and
- a membership base of at least 75% of people with disability;
- 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

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

Associate members are able to

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

Membership Application

People with Disability Australia Incorporated
ABN 98 879 981 198



people with disability

I wish to apply for membership of People with Disability Australia Incorporated in the following category:

Please tick one only - (please refer to the Membership Prospectus for category criteria and descriptions)

Full Member **Individual** **Organisational**

Associate Member **Individual** **Organisational**

Name _____

Organisation name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

_____ State _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Work _____

Facsimile _____ Work _____

Email address _____

How do you prefer to receive information? (please choose one format only)

Email

OR

Standard Print OR Large Print

OR

Braille

All information collected by PWDA is protected by the
Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000 (Cth)