

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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.

PWDA has been granted 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](mailto: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](mailto:pwd@pwd.org.au) or free call 1800 422 015.

Copies of this document are available in alternative formats from:

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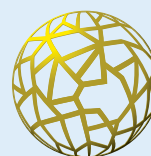
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PWDA acknowledges the traditional owners on whose land our offices are located. These include the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the Dharug people, the Tharawal people, the Ngunawal people, the Kalkadoon people, the Gureng Gureng people, the Badtjala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



**ACFID  
MEMBER**



# 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 activities 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.

### 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.



## 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 current 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**

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

In 2013-14 PWDA provided endorsement, or technical and/or secretariat support to the following organisations and campaigns:

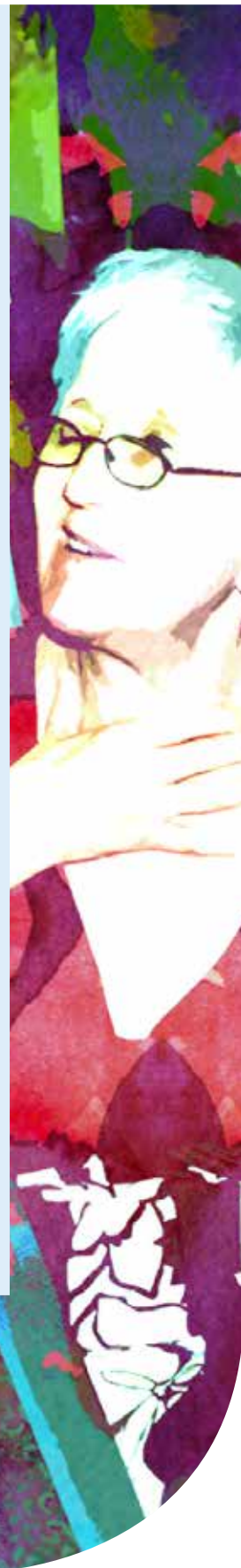
- **Aboriginal Disability Justice Campaign**
- **Australian Network for Universal Housing Design**
- **Disability Rights Now**
- **NSW Disability Advocacy Network**
- **The Shut In Campaign**
- **White Ribbon**

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

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

## Our Funding

In the 2013 – 2014 financial year, our activities have been supported by substantial grants of financial assistance from the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments, a variety of specific project grants, and a growing number of individual, corporate and philanthropic donors including the Reichstein Foundation. This financial assistance is acknowledged with great appreciation.



# Message from the President

2013 – 14 was a momentous year for our staff, board members, executive team and community as a whole with disability issues at the forefront of the national policy agenda – the launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme; renewed proposals to change Disability Support Pension eligibility; the axing of a dedicated Disability Discrimination Commissioner; and the ABC's decision to cease the ABC Ramp Up website. On the 1st July 2014, all Australians began contributing to the National Disability Insurance Scheme via the hypothecated levy that we fought for together in 2013.

We have not stood on the sidelines of debates but have been active contributors with articles in The Australian, The Guardian Australia, ABC Ramp Up, Open Forum and other publications ranging from the FECCA Mosaic magazine to the Australian Lawyers Alliance. Our 2013 Federal Election campaign demonstrated the breadth, depth and reach of our work with dozens of MPs lobbied on priority issue areas, and questions put to them at our live web cast election forum. I thank the Board, The Executive and our members for their continued support and individual contributions.

However, it's our strong individual advocacy footprint that makes PWDA most effective. It improves the lives of people with disability on the ground, and ensures we continue to speak with authority in the states and territories, nationally and internationally. PWDA Individual Advocates now assist one person with disability every hour, of every day, of the entire year.

Our online engagement strategy has continued to bear fruit and we now have a reach of over 17,000 people around Australia. The decision we all made at the 2012 AGM to make membership free, easy and available online is making a difference. Particularly pleasing is the growth in the number of people engaging with us online via our regular social media forums.

But we cannot sit on our hands. Although our impact is big, our resources are finite with key work remaining unfunded or underfunded. Over the next year we'll be taking a closer look at how best to meet the challenge of delivering in this environment without undue risk to the organisation.

Overall, 2013 – 14 saw the introduction of some significant changes that will affect people with disability in Australia for a long time to come. I am proud to have served you as your President and I acknowledge the extraordinary support of our Members and people with disability across Australia over the last year. Those interested in a fuller account of the work of the Board can view my report on the PWDA website.



**Craig Wallace**

*But we cannot sit on our hands. Although our impact is big our resources are finite with key work remaining unfunded or underfunded.*

## The PWDA Executive Committee



**Craig Wallace**  
President



**Fiona Given**  
Vice President  
(NSW)



**Faye Druett**  
Treasurer  
(NSW)



**Kristy Trajcevski**  
Secretary  
(NSW)

## The PWDA Board

**Mark Tonga**  
(NSW)

**Stuart Mawbey**  
(NSW)

**Suzy Keene**  
(ACT)

**Nigel Webb**  
(QLD) co-opted

**Kevin Boyce**  
(VIC)

**Irene McMinn**  
(NSW)

**Thomas Banks**  
(VIC) co-opted

**Sam Connor**  
(WA)

**Justin Ray**  
(ACT)

*As Board Treasurer and convenor of the Finance Audit & Advisory Group it's great to see so many new projects and new funders interested in supporting our work!*

Treasurer, Faye Druett (NSW)

*With membership increasing at an extraordinary rate it's been a busy year for the Membership, Fundraising and Events Advisory Group, as well as for me as Vice President!*

Vice President, Fiona Given (NSW)

*As Secretary I'd like to acknowledge the support and contribution of our co-opted board members.*

Secretary, Kristy Trajcevski (NSW)

The current board would also like to thank board members whose term ended in 2013 including Mary-Anne Bath, Ryan Bailey, Milly Parker, Peter Cassar Gayle Rankin, and Heidi Forrest as Vice President.





# Message from the Co-Chief Executive Officers

People with Disability Australia (PWDA) has continued to deliver highly effective individual advocacy support across NSW and Queensland, and disability rights information, systemic advocacy projects, campaigns and training at the state, national and international levels in the 2013–2014 financial year.

In this report we are showcasing some of the highlights and achievements of our work in the last year. These include our output in individual advocacy and key systemic advocacy projects and campaigns.

We would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank our funders, the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS) and the New South Wales Government's Family and Community Services, Ageing, Disability and Homecare (ADHC). We are also very appreciative of the funded support from other partners and donors named throughout this report. We also express our gratitude for the significant pro bono support we receive from Gilbert + Tobin for our legal advocacy regarding devolution of institutions.

Key highlights and achievements for PWDA during this 2013–14 financial year include:

- Moving the main PWDA office from 52 Pitt Street, to Level 10, 1 Lawson Square, Redfern.
- Co-locating at the new PWDA main office with the Australian Centre for Disability Law.
- Obtaining significant positive outcomes for people with disability receiving advocacy support across New South Wales and Queensland (Bundaberg, Mount Isa and Lower Gulf Communities, Fraser Coast, Sunshine Coast and Logan). This work included advocacy for people in segregated environments through our Boarding House Advocacy Project.
- Our advocacy program being assessed as fully compliant against the national Disability Advocacy Standards and successfully gaining the Certificate of Compliance and Accreditation. PWDA was externally audited by NCS International at the Redfern office and our regional offices in Mount Isa and Hervey Bay.
- Presenting to the UN Committee on the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) – a milestone following 5 years of work on producing the shadow report on CRPD implementation in Australia.

- Our expertise on violence and abuse being recognised in securing a DSS funded project supporting people with disability affected by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This is a large scale national project drawing on the skills of staff across the entire organisation covering individual advocacy support, law and policy reform, training and research.
- Securing philanthropic funding from the Reichstein Foundation to support a major campaign on the rights of workers with disability in segregated workplaces or Australian Disability Enterprises (sheltered workshops).
- Making significant contributions to state, national and international reforms to legal capacity legislation and policies regarding supported decision making.

Finally, we would like to thank the Board 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**

*We obtained significant positive outcomes for people with disability receiving advocacy support across New South Wales and Queensland (Bundaberg, Mount Isa and Lower Gulf Communities, Fraser Coast, Sunshine Coast and Logan). This work included advocacy for people in segregated environments through our Boarding House Advocacy Project.*



## 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, Gareth Elliott, Paulina Gutierrez, Stephin Hargreave, Mel Harrison, Leonie Hazelton, Freya Higgins, Tanya Jovovic, Cath Posniak, Lindy Rodrigues, Lynette Russell and David Skidmore in NSW; and Valerie Brown, Luke Gale, Tracey Moffatt, Rhonda Perkins, Denise Robertson and Grace Stevenson in Queensland. Many thanks also to Elizabeth Greaves and Denise Beckwith who left us in 2013 – 14 and to Damien Tracey and Ruby Akrong for their contributions to the work of the team.

### Systemic Advocates and Trainers

Our systemic advocacy team is based in Redfern and includes staff working on policy and law reform, government relations, communications, training and project coordination. Current team members include Craig Andrews, Ngila Bevan, Jessica Cadwallader, Pete Darby, Kate Finch, Samantha French and Greg Robertson. Many thanks also to Sonya Price-Kelly; as well as Jeremy Brennan and Wendi Wicks whose project work ended in December 2013. We also appreciate the support of sessional trainers Gabrielle Drake and Michelina Pelosi.

### Interns

PWDA supervises experiential learning based intern placements by 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 Law and Policy interns included Vanessa Sheer (UNSW), and Policy and Advocacy Interns included Sue Cochrane, Meredith Lee and Jemima McDonald (USyd).

### 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 2013 – 14 included Fiona Bridger, Ricky Buchanan, Terry Davis, Kate Cullen, Susan Di Giglio, Kate Muldowney and Tan Nguyen.

### 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 2013 – 14.

# Membership Engagement and Outreach

2013-14 was our most significant year yet for online engagement with PWDA members and supporters. We also participated in numerous events aimed at mainstreaming disability in our communities and reaching out to our constituents across Australia.



## New Look Website

PWDA launched a new look website in July 2013 with improved navigation and search function and a mobile friendly layout. Over 20% of viewers access our website using mobile technologies such as phones and tablets, so improving accessibility was a priority for us.

The entire website is now supported by ReadSpeaker, an online text to speech web-based application which allows the text on the website to be read to the user out loud (in an Australian accent!). Social media icons are central to each page making it easier than ever to get involved, have a say, and engage with us online.

This year our website had an average of 320,000 hits per month, a 48% increase from last year!

## Online Membership Engagement

We hosted **4 Facebook Forums** seeking Members' views on housing, access to justice, income support and what disability sector representation should look like. On average these forums attracted nearly 100 participants each, generating over 2300 comments. The views gathered from these Facebook Forums provide a strong evidential base for our policy work. Thank you to everyone who participated in discussions, the strength of our submissions and advocacy to government depends on your continued input.

We ran **2 Petitions**. The first sought signatures to call on employers to work together to create 20,000 jobs a year for people with disability. The second petitioned the ABC Managing Director to Save *ABC Ramp Up!* and collected an amazing 17,500 signatures.

## Social Media

Our social media presence saw a steady increase of fans and followers who share disability rights news and information; details about their own projects; requests for advocacy assistance; and seek connections with other disability activist groups and advocates.

We had a growth of over 1200 fans on Facebook with fans regularly providing advocacy support and information through an average of 3-4 posts and 2 messages and comments per day. With over **18,000 tweets** and over **6,900 followers** our Twitter feed has created a new space for communication around human rights and disability, especially with all our systemic advocates signed up and ready to tweet from wherever they are in the world!

Structured in relation to human rights issues, our Pinterest boards are receiving growing interest with boards on advancing the UN convention, disability and the law, disability rights in Australia, disability and the arts, employment, accessible public transport, technology and living in the community.



## Publications

We put out **23 Alerts** to Members informing them of significant news events, key PWDA activities, opportunities for online or face to face consultations, Expressions of Interest for participation in advocacy activities, and Calls to Action to take part in campaigns.

We issued **7 E-Bulletins** informing readers of positive advocacy outcomes for individual advocacy clients and updating stakeholders on our systemic advocacy work. Our E-Bulletin is sent out electronically to well over 1600 individuals and organisations, ensuring that our successes don't go unnoticed.

We published **17 Media Releases** on subjects relevant to our national systemic advocacy work. Our President, Board, Co-Chief Executive Officers and staff also made numerous TV and radio appearances and contributed to or were quoted in dozens of online and print newspaper articles, editorials and magazines. For full details of our publications please see our website.

[www.pwda.org.au](http://www.pwda.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/PWD.Australia](https://www.facebook.com/PWD.Australia)

[www.twitter.com/PWDAustralia](https://www.twitter.com/PWDAustralia)

[www.pinterest.com/pwdaustralia](https://www.pinterest.com/pwdaustralia)





# Membership Engagement and Outreach



## Events

### 2013 Federal Election Disability Q&A

This vibrant pre-election evening of questions and answers was hosted by comedian Tim Ferguson and featured PWDA members Sam Connor, Joan Hume, John Moxon and Craig Wallace. Also on the panel were the Honorable Senator Mitch Fifield, Senator Rachel Siewert and Senator the Honourable Jan McLucas. Held in Sydney, the event attracted a large in person and virtual audience with questions sought from around the room and through Twitter. The discussion was also webcast live through the PWDA website.

*“Congratulations all on a very impressive event. In terms of this entire election, and being able to ask the candidates to show their hand on issues that matter to me, this event was hands down the best democratic activity I have seen. Well done. Seriously well done.”*

Naomi, Full Individual PWDA Member

### Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade is one of the world's largest and best-loved Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex celebrations; a chance for all the colours of the kaleidoscope to come together, to commemorate, celebrate, and

communicate the universal message of diversity, equality, and infinite love. PWDA marched in the 2014 Parade alongside the Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Northcott, Touching Base & Family Planning NSW to bring the brightest, most colourful presence of people with disability the parade has ever seen. With over 150 participants (the third biggest float in the parade) we even featured in an SBS documentary!

*“Thanks to PWDA for organising this event and offering the opportunity for organisations like ours to collaborate. The outcome was spectacular, and our clients and staff had the time of their lives. We will definitely be back next year!”*

Jodie Wilkins, Northcott.

### International Day of People with Disability

In 2013 PWDA partnered with NICAN to research innovative ways to support the promotion of International Day of People with Disability and to encourage greater participation in the annual events to mark the day. We look forward to opportunities to make some of these ideas a reality for 3 December 2014!

# Individual Advocacy

People with disability remain among the most disadvantaged and marginalised members of our community. They 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 2013-14 PWDA Individual Advocates assisted over 1700 people with disability and their associates, including over 1300 new clients.

*This means that on average PWDA Advocates assist in the resolution of 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 500 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.

We provided advocacy services to a roughly equal proportion of male and female clients, representing people with disability of all ages. As in previous years, accommodation, disability services and legal issues are the three 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.

## Community Outreach

PWDA Individual Advocates delivered information sessions on disability rights and advocacy to over 1300 people across NSW and QLD. 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.

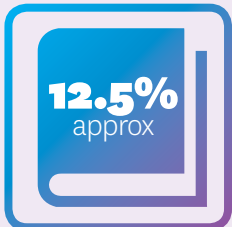
### Top 3 advocacy issues



Accommodation



Disability Support



Legal Issues

### Age percentages



<15 - 8%

15-24 - 10.5%

25-39 - 19.5%

40-54 - 31%

55-64 - 19%

65+ - 12%





# Individual Advocacy

## 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, Department of Ageing Disability and Homecare.

This year PWDA provided intensive advocacy support to nearly 230 residents of Assisted Residential Centres, and 224 instances of information and/or advice were provided to residents during outreach and closure visits. In addition, group advocacy was provided to 346 residents through our input at interagency meetings and through our participation in case conferences. We also delivered training, information and advice to 64 residents in the Metro South region about the new Assisted Boarding House Occupancy Agreement introduced as a consequence of the Boarding Houses Act 2012; and education sessions on domestic violence for women with intellectual disability at two Assisted Residential Centres.

In 2013-2014 we also continued to provide support to former residents of Sunshine Lodge, an Assisted Boarding House in the Southern Highlands that closed in 2013. All residents are now living in alternative supported accommodation settings in the area of their choice.

## Advocates in Action

### Sisters remain together

Mary\* an ageing parent of two daughters with disability requested support so the sisters could live together in supported accommodation. The QLD government service provider said this would be impossible as only single vacancies were available in their area. They suggested the women move to another region.

PWDA's Fraser Coast Advocate supported the family to express what they would need to sustain living together. The advocate also encouraged the service provider to work with the family to develop a plan to secure additional supports. The sisters are now trialling a supported accommodation option together and remain living in their home town where they enjoy the support of family and friends.



## Finding a new lease on life

Phillip\* contacted PWDA because he was not receiving the care and support services he needed. At 40, a stroke had left him with a brain injury and high care needs related to physical and vision impairment. The lack of appropriate supports meant Phillip was unable to participate in the community and had become physically and socially isolated and very depressed. Phillip had also been waiting several years to be assessed for self-directed funding.

A PWDA Advocate stressed the gravity of Philip's situation to the NSW government department responsible for providing him with home care services, and temporary measures were put in place to cater for his physical care needs. Meanwhile, the government prioritised his application for self-directed funding. He now has increased choice and control over his life as well as the maximum available hours of care.

The PWDA Advocate also identified other services in Phillip's local area that would meet his needs. Phillip now enjoys services which provide him with emotional support as well as a packed schedule of social activities and community engagement.

## At home and feeling safe again

Jane\*, a young woman with disability, was living in private rental housing in a security block after leaving a domestic violence situation. She received a rental subsidy under the Housing NSW Staying Home Leaving Violence program. However,

she was told that she had to relocate to a different property even though this would bring her into direct contact with her domestic violence perpetrator.

At the time of approaching PWDA for advocacy support, Housing NSW had cancelled Jane's rental subsidy because she was refusing to relocate. Jane was experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder and financial difficulty, and was unable to schedule urgent medical treatment due to the stress of being imminently homeless.

PWDA's individual advocate supported Jane to negotiate with Housing NSW to reinstate her subsidy for six months while she receives psychological support. Jane was able to receive medical treatment from her specialist and focus on her mental health without worrying about becoming homeless.

*\*names have been changed*

## 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.



# Systemic Advocacy

## Here's a quick breakdown of what we achieved:



**18 written submissions – that's well over 1 per month!**



**2 new websites launched!**



**17 media releases published!**

Our systemic advocacy team aims to achieve fundamental positive change to social structures and processes that result in the marginalisation and disadvantage, discrimination, exclusion, neglect 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 information from Individual Advocates, the concerns of our members, and the policy and law reform opportunities of the day.

## Our Impact

2013-14 was as busy as ever for our systemic advocates with the start of the NDIS in July, appearances at the United Nations in September, and the launch of our support project for the Royal Commission into Child Abuse in March. We spent the rest of the year advocating firmly on our key priority issues through submissions to government, media releases, stakeholder consultations, webinars, 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 2013-14. Spokespeople for PWDA appeared in a variety of media, including television, radio, print and online on over 150 occasions throughout the year. Please see [www.pwd.org.au](http://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 (BHEAG) NSW Family and Community Services, Ageing Disability and Home Care
- City of Sydney Council Way Finding Committee
- Coalition for Appropriate Supported Accommodation (CASA)
- Combined Advocacy Group Queensland (CAGQ)
- NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) Stakeholder Reference Group
- NSW Disability Network Forum (DNF)
- NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) Equal Access to Democracy Disability Reference Group
- NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) 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

## National

- Australian Electoral Commission Disability Advisory Committee
- Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) Executive Committee
- Australian Law Reform Commission Advisory Committee on Equal Recognition Before the Law
- Australian Network on Disability
- Australian Tax Office Individual Taxpayer Liaison Group
- National Disability Strategy Implementation Reference Group (NDSIRG)
- National Disability Strategy Implementation Reference Group Indigenous Working Group (NDSIRG-IWG)
- NDIS Taskforce



## Disability Support and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

This year couldn't have started any better with the NDIS roll out starting on July 1. It's been such a long time coming, and a cause for celebration by all the thousands of people with disability, disabled peoples organisations and disability advocacy organisations who fought so long and hard for this day. The NDIS is the biggest social reform in a generation. It is supported by people with disability, all sides of government, the Australian business sector, and Australian society as a whole – what a fantastic achievement!

But the work didn't stop there. People with disability are experts in our own lives, and PWDA remained committed to ensuring that we continue to co-design the scheme as it develops and improves over time. Over 2013-14 PWDA continued high-level engagement to shape the design and delivery of the NDIS, and worked to ensure that people with disability in the launch sites receive the information, advice and planning assistance they need to maximise the benefits of the scheme.

### Supporting the NDIS roll out

Our individual advocates kept a close eye on the roll-out of the NDIS in the Hunter region of NSW with a particular focus on ensuring equitable access to the scheme and maximum choice and control for people with disability who live in boarding houses, group homes, and the residents of the Stockton Centre. As part of this advocacy PWDA met with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to clarify that independent advocates can be included in NDIS individual planning sessions.

## Developing peer support networks and building advocacy capacity

Through 2013-14 PWDA collaborated with the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) University of NSW, in a participatory action research project, 'Self-Directed Disability Support: Building People's Capacity through Peer Support and Action Research'. The project established peer support and research groups in every state and territory to discuss the barriers and opportunities participants encountered in their own transitions towards individual funding. Building on the success of this project PWDA and the SPRC were successful in obtaining further grant funding in May 2014 for a one year project 'Social Action Partners: Peer Support with Children, Young People and Families in Victoria'. So far these research projects have produced 3 academic publications which are also available on our website.

## Ensuring the NDIS provides all the supports we need

The NDIS should provide eligible people with disability with all of the supports they need. However, there are many types of supports which currently are not adequately available, and speech pathology services are a good example of this. With help from a policy and advocacy intern, PWDA met with members who use or would like better access to speech pathology services and provided their feedback in a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Prevalence of Different Types of Speech, Language and Communication Disorders and Speech Pathology Services in Australia. The Senate report included many of our points in their recommendations.

## NDIS media releases

**WA in NDIS  
Whole of  
Australia  
covered**  
(4 August)

**Coalition  
commitment  
to entitlement  
based scheme**  
(17 September)

**Commitment  
to deliver  
the NDIS**  
(18 December)

**Deliver NDIS  
on time and  
get it right**  
(21 March)

**NDIS delay:  
unacceptable**  
(1 May)





## NSW Disability Inclusion Bill

From the initial consultation stage in 2013, PWDA made numerous written and face to face representations about the Disability Inclusion Bill to the NSW government independently and in collaboration with the Disability Network Forum. The Disability Inclusion Act, which became law in August 2014, replaces the Disability Services Act (NSW) and governs the arrangements for the provision of disability services in NSW during the transition to the NDIS and beyond.

## 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. Issues involving accommodation was the number one reason why people with disability sought assistance from our Individual Advocates in 2013-14. 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 became a pillar of our NDIS policy work in 2013.** Advocacy to educate public and private housing providers about the needs of people with disability and the human right to live in the community included numerous submissions to government inquiries into affordable housing, participation in forums with Community Housing Federation Australia, meetings with the NDIA, the start of a joint research project with the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), ‘Accommodating the NDIS: Maximising Housing Choice in a Reformed Disability Sector’, and our ongoing work with the NSW Housing Appeals Committee and the Australian Network on Universal Housing Design.

*NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into Social, Public and Affordable Housing*  
(submission, March)

*Senate Standing Committee on Economics Inquiry into Affordable Housing*  
(submission, April)

## 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 2013-14 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 include the formation of a Community Living Consultation Group facilitated by the NSW Ombudsman, and the repeated public commitments to close Stockton from the NSW Disability Services Minister.



2013 also saw the 21st anniversary celebrations of the close of the Caloola institution in Victoria which PWDA attended. [www.shutin.org.au](http://www.shutin.org.au)

## 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.

A key element of this work is to advocate for the implementation of the National Disability Strategy and the related NSW disability implementation plans. This year marks 4 years since the National Disability Strategy began and PWDA participated in a national focus group to provide feedback to the Department of Social Services, and prepared a progress report utilising our member's views on progress so far. Access to information in accessible formats and better access to public buildings and public transport came out as key concerns that the Strategy could be addressing better. PWDA also worked with the First Peoples Disability Network, the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council and the National Disability Strategy Implementation Reference Group Indigenous Working Group to develop Commonwealth Government targets for closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

Other highlights include input into the City of Sydney Draft Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2014 – 2017; engagement with the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) regarding ways in which the TIO can enhance their dispute resolution services for consumers with disability; providing advice to Transport for NSW to improve

'wayfinding' around the streets and public amenities of NSW for people with disability including signage, tactile ground surface indicators and mapping systems; participation in the review of wayfinding initiatives at two of Sydney's major train stations (Martin Place and Circular Quay); and advice to the Australian Electoral Commission on their Disability Inclusion Strategy 2012-20, AUSLAN services, and low vision (BLV) voter services.

Delivering training in Disability Awareness remains a core component of our strategy to improve accessibility and create more inclusive work, social and recreational environments for people with disability. In 2013-14 interactive training in Disability Awareness was delivered to a variety of organisations including Auburn Council and the City of Sydney. With a new training manager on board from May 2014 watch this space for training opportunities near you!

## Economic Security and Employment

*CRPD Article 27: "People with disability have the right to work on an equal basis as others"*

**Economic security and employment was a priority issue area for PWDA in 2013-2014.**

We repeatedly called on federal, state and local government and employers in the business and community sectors to "Get Real on Jobs" by working together to create an extra 20,000 jobs a year for people with disability. With the new federal government making changes to social security and the Disability Support Pension (DSP) ensuring economic security and addressing the high rate of poverty that people with disability experience will remain a key focus of our work.

### NDIS media releases

**Myer needs to get on with the job**

*(media release, 1 July)*

**Australia, let's get real with jobs**

*(media release, 6 July)*

**We are ready to lift**

*(media release, 9 September)*

**No broken promises - Get Real on Jobs for people with disability**

*(media release: 22 April)*



**Australian Human Rights Commission supports continued discrimination of employees with disability**  
*(joint media release, 30 April).*

## **Opposing changes to social security legislation**

PWDA was at the forefront of the national debate around changes to social security laws proposed by the new federal government in 2014. 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, would have a substantially negative impact on many thousands of people with disability.

PWDA ran a number of online forums to collect the views of people with disability about the changes that may affect them, and made multiple submissions to government about what people on DSP need, and the increased risk of poverty for those who do not receive adequate social protection. PWDA tirelessly lobbied MPs and Ministers in Canberra to make sure the voice of people with disability was heard at the highest level; met with Patrick McClure who was overseeing the Welfare Review, and worked in unity with other national non-governmental stakeholders to advocate for equality. The fight for a fair and just social security safety net for people with disability will continue into 2014-2015.

## **The Wage Justice Campaign**

In partnership with AED legal, PWDA launched the Wage Justice Campaign to end wage discrimination in Australian

Disability Enterprises (formerly sheltered workshops), and to advocate for 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 2012 High Court ruling that it is discriminatory.

In October 2013 PWDA made submissions strongly opposing the application from the government to the Australian Human Rights Commission seeking an exemption from the Disability Discrimination Act so the BSWAT could be used for 3 more years; the government was granted one year. PWDA challenged the government's application to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal complaining about this decision. PWDA became 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.

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. As such, we embarked on an intense joint advocacy effort opposing the introduction of the BSWAT Payment Scheme Bill which falls well short of providing a remedy to the human rights violations that people with disability



**Wage Justice for Workers with Disability**  
*(call to action, 14 February)*





*“Undertaking an internship with PWDA provided me with insights into the advocacy and law reform process that you could only gain through experiential learning. I developed an appreciation of the role of advocacy; not only submissions to governments, but within the broader political environment, mainstream media and social media. I have seen how PWDA actively engages with its stakeholders to inform advocacy campaigns and submissions.”*

Vanessa Sheer, JD student at the University of New South Wales who completed a Human Rights Law and Policy internship with PWDA in June 2014.

have experienced. Actions included representations opposing the Bill to a Senate inquiry, a media campaign, and lobbying over 20 senators which resulted in public backing from both the ALP and the Greens. 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 and utilise fair wage assessment tools.

### **Addressing barriers to Disability Employment Services (DES)**

PWDA partnered with other national peak disability organisations and the Department of Social Services in a yearlong Disability Employment Service Consumer Engagement Project. Our role was to increase consumer knowledge of the DES program; advise the government about the needs of people with disability looking for work, the ways to improve disability employment services, and the barriers people experience in these services. Over 400 people with disability contributed to our report to government.

*What are the barriers to employment and support into work?*

(Survey)

*Let's get 200,000 people with disability into work by 2023*

(online petition)

## **Rights Protection and Justice**


### **Access to justice**

PWDA continued advocacy on improving access to justice for people with disability in contact with the criminal justice system. This included support of Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes' research and report, 'Equal Before the Law: Towards Disability Justice Strategies', by facilitating participant attendance at national stakeholder focus groups, and providing feedback from our members based on an online engagement forum. PWDA also provided information to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Access to Justice Arrangements which focused on barriers to participation in civil proceedings. PWDA also provided a disability perspective during the establishment of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) by participation in the stakeholder reference group through 2013-14. NCAT opened its doors in January 2014 and is the gateway to specialist tribunals in NSW.

*“We need an overhaul of guardianship laws throughout Australia to ensure people with disability are treated as equal decision makers”*

Quote from a contributor via Twitter:

Access to Justice, Disability and YOU

(Facebook forum, 10 August) (4 likes). 





## Legal capacity to act

Thousands of people with disability are denied their right to act due to discriminatory laws and practices that remove their right to make decisions about their own lives. This is a violation of civil and political rights, and can impact upon all areas of life. For example, not being permitted to vote in an election, being denied the opportunity to give evidence in court, undergoing medical treatment without consent, signatures on contracts being deemed invalid, or choices about where to live being made by someone else. Two major inquiries in 2013-14 provided a platform for PWDA to speak out about the extent to which law and practice fails to recognise the legal capacity of people with disability, what needs to change, and how this can be achieved.

PWDA sat on the advisory group to the Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry into 'Equality, Capacity and Disability', and provided detailed responses to the issues raised. In a series of four papers we suggested the creation of a universally applicable support framework through which people can express their will and preferences and have that will and those preferences recognised as decisions under the law. This mechanism would not apply solely to people with disability, but would focus on the process through which the law should recognise decisions made independently or through supported decision making processes. We also made

submissions on the intersection between legal capacity and other issues such as access to justice and restrictive practices.

PWDA provided similar feedback to the UN Committee to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) consultation on General Comment No.1, Article 12 of the CRPD: Equal Recognition Before the Law. The purpose of a General Comment is to set out how a particular human rights treaty body interprets the content of a human rights provision. Therefore, the content of the General Comment has a significant bearing on the way that Australia chooses to implement Article 12 of the CRPD. The final draft of the General Comment was clearly influenced by the PWDA submission and reflected many of our views.

Work on this issue intersects with almost all of our other systemic work at PWDA. We will continue to push for the end of substitute decision making regimes and the introduction of support for decision making in all areas of the law.

## Preventing Violence and Abuse

*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".*





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. 2013-14 saw the completion of one of our most significant pieces of work on violence against women with disability to date, and the beginning of another immensely significant project focused on preventing the sexual abuse of children. When it comes to national initiatives to address violence against people with disability, PWDA remains the go-to disabled peoples organisation equipped to engage people with disability, government stakeholders, academia and the community on some of the most confronting of issues.

### **Stop the Violence Project (STVP)**

Women With Disabilities Australia partnered with PWDA and the University of NSW in this national reform project aimed at improving violence prevention and response for women and girls with disability in Australia. PWDA managed the project secretariat and advisory group, and was responsible for stakeholder engagement activities such as conducting the National Symposium, publishing the Resource Compendium and creating the STVP website. The steering group for this project was chaired by Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner, and key stakeholders included women with disability, disability advocacy organisations and the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women, the Hon Senator Michaelia Cash.

The yearlong project was funded by the Department of Social Services under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (the National Plan). PWDA was also a prominent participant in government consultations regarding the effectiveness of the National Plan in 2014, where we highlighted the evidence base created by the STVP. Going forward, PWDA will continue to advocate for the implementation of the STVP findings, and for those findings. [www.stvp.org.au](http://www.stvp.org.au)

### **Supporting the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse**

In March 2014 the Commonwealth government announced that PWDA had been contracted to provide support to the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This 30 month project will fund PWDA to: provide individual advocacy to support people with disability who wish to engage with the Commission; provide training in disability awareness, responding to sexual abuse, and respect for healthy relationships to people with disability and service providers; conduct research; and input into policy development aimed at exploring the ways that children with disability are made vulnerable to abuse by institutions, and making recommendations for reform. In June 2014 we forwarded our top 5 policy concerns to the Royal Commission and we were encouraged to see all of these addressed in their interim report.

So far, PWDA has recruited two new staff to work on the project, established the project advisory group, drafted an initial engagement strategy, developed numerous information and promotional materials including a dedicated website, and opened the support and information phone line. Our systemic advocates have been travelling nationally to connect with community stakeholders, our training manager is teeing up numerous outreach and educational events, our entire staff has been trained in responding to sexual abuse and trauma informed support provision, and our individual advocates have already begun supporting clients to tell their story.

[www.rcsupport.pwd.org.au](http://www.rcsupport.pwd.org.au)





## International Advocacy and Capacity Building

2013-14 was one of our most significant years in terms of international advocacy as we presented the civil society report on Australia's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to the UN in Geneva. Our role as a key resource for regional capacity building through input to disability inclusive development planning and training of Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs) is also becoming more widely acknowledged and sought after year on year. Funding for this international work is secured on an ad hoc basis.

### The voice of people with disability at the United Nations (Geneva)

In September 2013 PWDA led the delegation of Australian DPO's that went to Geneva to present Disability Rights Now, the Civil Society Report to the UN Committee on the CRPD. Over a period of 5 days the delegation made formal and informal presentations to the Committee on Australia's progress in implementing the CRPD from the perspective of people with disability. The Committee published their Concluding Observations shortly afterwards and many of our recommendations are reflected within their report including on issues such as forced sterilisation, legal capacity, wage

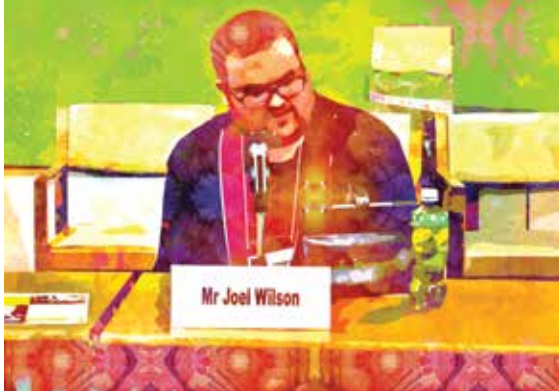
justice and indefinite detention of people with disability. Since then PWDA has been working with the disability sector to lobby government to implement the Recommendations of the Committee and much of this advocacy work is reflected in this Annual Report.

### Emerging Leaders with Disability at the UN (New York)

In June 2014 PWDA led a delegation of 7 young people with disability to the 7th Session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) at the UN in New York. Participants attended a preparatory workshop before the event and in addition to attending the formal sessions delivered a side event, "Strengthening Emerging Leaders with Disability – Barriers and Opportunities". This enabled the emerging leaders to present information and views directly to representatives participating in the UN meetings. The delegation was supported by funding from an Australian Government grants program and generous contributions made by Benevolent organisations, disability organisations and delegates themselves.

The delegation produced 6 daily reports, wrote individual reports and contributed to media including radio and video interviews and a range of social media engagement including on the hashtag #UNCOSPAUS. These are available on the PWDA website.





*“Many delegations from around the world commented on the enthusiasm and commitment of the seven youth delegates, and the strong message they brought to the UN – ‘actively include youth with disability in decision-making!’”*

### **Regional Capacity Building (Indonesia, Korea, China)**

In October 2013 PWDA provided training to representatives of Indonesian DPOs about how to engage with the monitoring and reporting processes of the UN CRPD Committee. The Shadow Report Workshop ran for two days and included sessions on effective CRPD advocacy strategies at the national and international level and the development of an Action Plan for preparation of the Indonesian civil society report on implementation of the CRPD. The training was delivered as part of the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice (AIPJ) program funded by AusAID.

Also in October PWDA was funded by the Korean Foundation of Disabled Persons (KOFOD) to participate in the International Forum for the Advocacy of Persons with Disabilities in Asia-Pacific and the first Assembly of Asia-Pacific Disabled Peoples Organisations United (AP DPO 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 2014 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 Shijiazhuang city, Hebei Province. PWDA presented a paper, “Implementing the Right to Live in the Community: Experiences from Australia” and also hosted a delegation of Chinese government officials in Sydney as part of a study tour on human rights protection practices.

### **Disability Inclusive Development (New York)**

In September 2013 PWDA participated in the UN High Level Meeting on Disability and Development and the General Assembly Special Event on the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This was the first time that the rights of people with disability have been discussed within the MDG framework at such a high UN level. A key outcome from these discussions was recognition that disability must be included in the implementation mechanisms contributing to the post 2015 development agenda.



# Treasurer's Report

I have pleasure in presenting the audited financial statements for the 2013-14 financial year.

For the benefit of providing information to members I can report that for the year 2013/14 the Profit & Loss Statement shows that People with Disability Australia Incorporated (PWDA) achieved a net loss of \$532,490 while the Balance Sheet shows that cash at bank and fixed deposits amounts to \$804,007.

## Income

In the 2013-14 financial year, PWDA received funding and other income as follows:

- Government funding of \$2,230,828
- Other non-recurring funding of \$528,400
- Fundraising of \$17,704
- Trading activities of \$16,871
- Other non-operating income of \$393,157

The net loss is mainly attributed to the relocation and fit-out of PWDA's main office in Redfern. The relocation cost us approximately \$400,000. It is expected that better profit outcomes will be achieved in 2014-15 and in the following financial years.

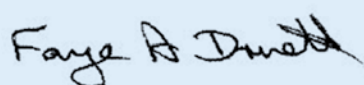
## Expenditure

In the financial year 2013-14, \$400,000 from the reserves in the bank were spent on new office fit-out and equipment including the new server, replacing old computers and ergonomic office chairs. These purchases have improved the safety of the work environment and the adaptive equipment has improved accessibility and the everyday functionality within the office, enhancing the delivery of member support and the administration of fundraising activities. Purchase of these items has placed us well to provide improved services to our members as well as the wider community. Most of the costs in relation to new office equipment have been included in the asset account of the Balance Sheet.

The regular office expenses such as salaries, rent, telephone, insurance, superannuation, postage, stationery, subscriptions and bank charges etc. are shown in the Profit & Loss Statement. These expenses are unavoidable.

The liabilities section of the Balance Sheet, includes an amount of \$371,003 representing total staff entitlements. We intend to fund this liability by depositing funds into a term deposit. We acknowledge this liability is high and the Board has a strategy in place to reduce the liability by the end of the next financial year.

During 2013-14 the budget process introduced in the previous financial year was revised and updated. As a consequence, the Board has been better informed regarding the detail of all income and expenditure and is able to plan more accurately. For the forthcoming financial year, 2014-15, a draft budget has been developed and it will continue to be a useful management tool for the Board as it can be updated as required until there is a regular pattern of income and expenditure. I am confident that this budget will deliver a surplus for PWDA.



**Faye Druett**



# 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](http://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.

## Balance Sheet

	Notes	2014	2013
		\$000	\$000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	758,164	28,444
Trade and other receivables	4	16,871	106,164
Financial assets	5	45,843	1,000,000
Prepayments		3,526	7,602
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>824,404</b>	<b>1,142,210</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	6	246,350	41,859
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>246,350</b>	<b>41,859</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,070,754</b>	<b>1,184,069</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	428,340	315,232
Other liabilities	9	667,045	158,045
Other provisions	8	20,294	20,818
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,115,679</b>	<b>494,095</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Long-term provisions	8	28,411	230,820
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>28,411</b>	<b>230,820</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,144,090</b>	<b>724,915</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>(73,336)</b>	<b>459,154</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus/(deficit)		(73,336)	459,154
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>(73,336)</b>	<b>459,154</b>

## Statement of Changes in Equity 2014

	Retained Surplus/ (Deficit) \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2013	459,154	459,154
Deficit for the year	(532,490)	(532,490)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2014</b>	<b>(73,336)</b>	<b>(73,336)</b>

2013	Retained Surplus/ (Deficit) \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2012	425,421	425,421
Surplus for the year	33,733	33,733
<b>Balance at 30 June 2013</b>	<b>459,154</b>	<b>459,154</b>

## Statement of Cash Flows

	Notes	2014	2013
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		\$000	\$000
Receipts from customers		3,730,452	2,940,372
Payments to suppliers and employees		(3,774,657)	(3,413,090)
Interest received		47,828	47,314
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3,623</b>	<b>(425,404)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		-	700
(Increase)/decrease in held to maturity financial investments		954,157	(240,910)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(228,060)	(4,150)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>726,097</b>	<b>(244,360)</b>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		729,720	(669,764)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		28,444	698,208
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>758,164</b>	<b>28,444</b>

## Detailed Profit and Loss Account

	Notes	2014	2013
		\$000	\$000
Consultancy fees		69,593	39,902
Donations		15,502	14,096
Grants		2,703,090	2,709,715
Gain on disposal of fixed assets		50	10,402
Interest income		33,804	58,383
Other revenue		16,369	78,975
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,838,408</b>	<b>2,911,473</b>
Less: Expenses			
Accounting fees		11,133	15,750
Advertising		-	24,091
Agency staff costs		20,364	30,395
Auditors remuneration		18,500	14,625
Bad debts		-	4,390
Bank charges		3,331	2,486
Cleaning		21,814	17,317
Computer costs		52,648	50,741
Conference/Seminar costs		6,194	564
Consulting and professional charges		58,672	58,712
Depreciation		23,570	43,594
Electricity		35,726	38,491
Equipment - small		3,785	11,112
Grants refunded		1,531	40,000
Insurance		13,539	13,498
Media expenses		6,308	-
Meeting expenses		14,329	13,865
Motor vehicle expenses		36,604	36,644
Office relocation expenses		358,671	-

Continued over page



<i>Continued from previous page</i>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
		\$000	\$000
Postage		5,113	7,255
Printing and stationary		15,000	15,204
Program costs		67,001	54,718
Provision for annual leave		138,491	35,508
Provision for long service leave		5,337	(32,126)
Provision for redundancy		(207,303)	40,057
Provision for time in lieu		212,511	169,895
Recruitment costs		1,689	3,368
Rental expense and operating lease		366,931	353,152
Repairs and maintenance		3,117	4,679
Salaries		1,454,636	1,347,522
Security costs		551	325
Staff amenities		6,997	22,903
Staff training		14,217	5,126
Subscriptions and publications		10,301	6,761
Superannuation contributions		156,624	136,946
Telephone and internet		90,612	106,693
Translations & interpreting		4,831	5,798
Travel and accommodation		333,328	151,149
Workers compensation insurance		4,195	26,532
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>(3,370,898)</b>	<b>(2,877,740)</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(532,490)</b>	<b>33,733</b>

## Statement by the Directors

The directors have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

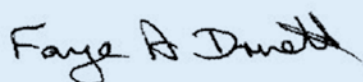
In accordance with a resolution of the board of People with Disability Australia Incorporated, the directors declare that the financial report:

1. presents fairly the financial position of People with Disability Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2014 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (NSW) 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation (NSW) 2010; and
2. at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that People with Disability Australia Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the board and is signed for and on behalf of the board by:



President  
**Craig Wallace**



Treasurer  
**Faye Druett**

*Dated this 23 Day of October 2014*

## Compilation report to People with Disability Australia Incorporated

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of People with Disability Australia Incorporated, which comprise the detailed profit and loss account for the year ended 30 June 2014. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is to provide detailed information relating to performance of the entity that satisfies the information needs of the directors.

### The Responsibility of the Directors

The directors are solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements and have determined that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet its needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

### Our Responsibility

On the basis of the information provided by the directors we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting and APES 315: Compilation of Financial Information.

Our procedures use accounting expertise to collect, classify and summarise the financial information, which the directors provided, in compiling the financial statements. Our procedures do not include verification or validation procedures. No audit or review has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the directors. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.



**Rupaninga Dharmasiri**  
Partner

### LBW & Partners

Chartered Accountants  
Level 3, 845 Pacific Highway  
CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

*Dated this 23 Day of October 2014*





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](mailto: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, Alerts and Media Releases as they are published;
- 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

#### 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)

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Individual and Organisational Associate Membership is also available to any person or organisation interested in supporting the disability rights movement and the aims and objectives of PWDA.

