



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY
AUSTRALIA



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT 17/18



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

Copies of this document are available in alternative formats from:

People with Disability Australia (PWDA)

Postal Address:
PO Box 666 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Street Address:
Level 10, 1 Lawson Square Redfern NSW 2016

Phone:	02 9370 3100
Toll Free:	1800 422 015
Fax:	02 9318 1372
TTY:	02 9318 2138
Toll Free TTY:	1800 422 016
Email:	pwd@pwd.org.au
TIS:	13 14 50
NRS:	1800 555 677

PWDA acknowledges the traditional owners on whose land our offices are located. These include the Gadigal people, 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 Code of Conduct Complaints

PWDA is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (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.

Contents

About People with Disability Australia	4
Message from the President	8
The PWDA Board	10
Message from the Co-Chief Executive Officers	12
Staff, Interns and Volunteers	16
Individual Advocacy	20
Training and Research	26
Representation and Systemic Advocacy	30
International Representation and Advocacy	40
Treasurer's Report	44
Reports and Financial Statements	46

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 PWDA we confirm that our organisation continues to be committed to full adherence to the ACFID Code of Conduct.



ACFID
MEMBER



Special Consultative Status





About People with Disability Australia

17/18

A Voice of Our Own

People with Disability Australia (PWDA) is a grassroots, mutual support, representative and advocacy organisation of and for people with all types of disability. 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 of people with disability, by people with disability.

We work within the framework of, and seek to bring into reality, the rights recognised in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – a treaty we played a key role in bringing into force, both internationally and in Australia. We provide advice and information; individual, group and systemic advocacy; training, research and education; and a representative voice of people with disability in New South Wales, nationally and internationally.

Our Vision and Purpose

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

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

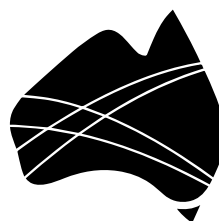
We have a cross-disability focus – membership is open to people with all types of disability. Individuals with disability and organisations of people with disability are our voting membership. We also have a supporter base of people and organisations committed to the disability rights movement. Our services 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 empower people with disability, advocate for the rights of people with disability, effectively represent people with disability, develop the disability sector, and to build the capacity of our organisation to deliver on these goals.



Disabled
People's
Organisations
Australia



PWDA is a founding member of Disabled People's Organisations Australia (DPO Australia), the cross-disability alliance of four national DPOs established in January 2015. The other members of DPO Australia are:

- First Peoples Disability Network Australia
- Women With Disabilities Australia
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance

Our Partners

PWDA has entered into a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with cross-disability Disabled People's 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. Our current MOUs are with:

- People With Disabilities ACT
- Queenslanders with Disability Network

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



In 2017-2018 PWDA provided endorsement, technical and/or secretariat support to the following organisations and campaigns:

- Australian Network for Universal Housing Design
- NSW Women's Alliance
- NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance
- White Ribbon

PWDA is on the management committees or boards of the following organisations:

- Australian Centre for Disability Law
- Australian Disability and Development Consortium
- Asia Pacific DPO United
- Australian Council of Social Services
- Pacific Disability Forum

We acknowledge Gilbert and Tobin Lawyers for their pro-bono support this year. We also thank Purpose Accounting for the provision of financial services and City Systems for the provision of IT support services.

Our Funding

In the 2017-2018 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 Program, project funding from the National Disability Insurance Agency, and a variety of specific project grants won through competitive government tendering processes, and from a growing number of individual, corporate and philanthropic donors.

This financial assistance is acknowledged with great appreciation.



Staff Members at PWDA



We are 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.



Message from the President

17/18

Dear Members,

I am pleased to present the People with Disability Australia (PWDA) Annual Report for the 2017-2018 financial year.

We continue to lead as an organisation that is progressive in its human rights approach to disability advocacy, violence prevention, housing and accommodation support, NDIS implementation, training, research and development, and supporting people with disability to be active and listened to in our community. This a small range of the ongoing individual advocacy support and policy matters that the staff deliver.

The evolution of PWDA during my Presidential term, transitioning from an Incorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee, has adapted the range of representation and support to meet new opportunities and expectations. From a governance level, we continued to change and adapt to new ways to engage with our membership base and embrace the opportunities for leadership of people with disability on our Board.

There has been a level of instability and funding uncertainty facing PWDA with the threat of funding cuts to NSW disability advocacy and representation, which has resulted in a shock-factor that people would be left without crucial support.

The potential to transform for the better the lives of people with disability has become huge, and we were successful in gaining transition funding to ensure NSW people with disability would continue to receive advocacy and representation. We are continuing our campaign to ensure this funding continues.

At the national level, we have seen a growth in programs, projects and staffing, and strengthened our presence to ensure PWDA remains in a strong and leading position.

One of the successful projects the Board are leading is the development of the Membership Engagement platform. Throughout the year, there has been an ongoing conversation on what members want and how they can have a say. This will continue, and it will be fantastic

when it is rolled out for your feedback and inclusion.

I was a Board Director for one and a half years before becoming Acting-President for six months, prior to being elected fully, by you, our members, as President for a total of two years. I have been part of the PWDA Board for a total of four years as a young leader and it has played a huge role in my commitment to lead such a successful and proud organisation. I am proud that I have been tasked with the opportunity to lead a majority-young Board of PWDA for my term. The experience and growth for me personally and professionally has been enormous – both challenging and rewarding. I stand proud of my achievements being part of the Board of PWDA.

My sincere thanks to our Co-CEOs Matthew Bowden and Therese Sands, the PWDA Senior Management Team and all staff members.

On behalf of my fellow Directors, I thank our stakeholders for their generous support including PWDA's volunteers, community partners, donors and community participants.

As always, I thank my fellow Board Directors, continuing and outgoing, for their support, leadership and governance of PWDA. Their generosity to commit time and expertise throughout the year and my term has ensured the Board of Directors has played its part in a successful year.

In the future, I am excited to watch PWDA evolve in ways that advance our position locally in NSW, nationally and internationally as a 'voice of our own'. The commitment of the Board and staff to facilitate choice, inclusion and achievement for people with disability reflects our founding principles of being an organisation of choice for people with disability, led by people with disability.

With Pride,



Bonnie Millen



The PWDA Board

17/18

President



Bonnie Millen

Vice-President



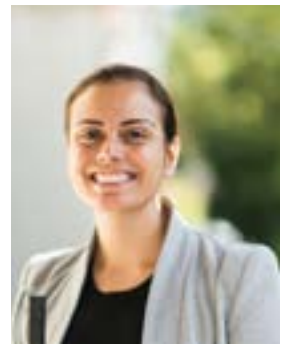
Brendan Pearce

Treasurer



Vanessa Fanning

Secretary



Ebru Sumaktas

Board Directors - 2018



Adam Hewber



Kevin Boyce



Jarad McLoughlin



Jason McCurry

Board Directors - Retired 2017



Justin Ray



Kristy Trajcevski



Suzanne Keene

Vacated

James Condren



Message from the Co-Chief Executive Officers

17/18

Throughout this financial year, PWDA has continued to progress exciting growth in activities and funding to increase our voice and to further the rights of people with disability in Australia.

This Annual Report outlines key highlights of our work across NSW, nationally and internationally, including our new collaborations, networks with our peers and other stakeholders.

At the national level, we were again successful in receiving funding to act as a disability peak representative organisation, and to work in an alliance with our partners as Disabled People's Organisations Australia (DPO Australia). PWDA's national representation and systemic advocacy work is amplified through DPO Australia, as this alliance provides a stronger voice of people with disability that builds on our diversity.

DPO Australia provides PWDA with the opportunity to collaborate on critical issues, such as the call for a Royal Commission into violence against people with disability, employment reform, equitable access to the NDIS, transport accessibility, reform and resourcing for the National Disability Strategy (NDS) and the implementation of Australia's international human rights obligations, particularly under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

National developments with the NDIS continue to require significant work across our organisation, with our systemic and individual advocacy teams experiencing increased activity in ensuring the NDIS is equitable for all. We remain concerned about the many people with disability who are being left behind by the NDIS, and are working hard with individuals as well as the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to resolve issues as they arise.

We began building our Careers Access Hub, funded by the NDIA, that has involved engagement with a range of employers, the Australian Network on Disability (AND) and employment experts. The Hub aims to give people with disability more opportunities for employment, volunteering and internships; and assist employers to be disability inclusive in their employment practices. The development of the Hub will continue into the next financial year.

In NSW, we have joined with our disability advocacy colleagues to argue strongly for continued, recurrent funding for disability representation, advocacy and information, winning a two year reprieve from funding cuts expected in 2018. The campaign will go on into the 2018-2019 financial year with the aim of securing funding certainty that will allow us to continue our work in boarding houses, law and policy reform and the provision of expert advice



Co-CEO Therese Sands at Federal Budget lock-up



Co-CEO Therese Sands with delegates at the UN COSP event.



Co-CEOs Matthew Bowden and Ngila Bevan.

to government and non-government agencies. People with disability in NSW need a 'voice of our own' in advocacy and representation.

Our fee for service offerings continue to expand, with record growth in our training and research programs. Our training is designed and delivered by people with disability and is in high demand, and this year we reached more people across Australia than ever before. With over 35 years' experience in training designed and delivered by people with disability, we are leaders in the field of training, particularly in disability awareness and violence prevention.

Our research program has increased activities with universities, researchers and other educational facilities across the country to make sure that the voices of people with disability are front and centre in co-designing research about us. The unrivalled depth of PWDA's disability rights expertise, our ability to draw on participation from our diverse membership base, and the high academic calibre of our staff is positioning us as the 'go-to' DPO in Australia for inclusive research initiatives.

Addressing the violations of human rights experienced by people with disability is the day to day work of our individual advocates. They work tirelessly with people with disability to assist in solving problems, fighting discrimination, overcoming barriers in services, systems and processes, and seeking justice where possible. This year, our individual advocates, trainers and research teams developed a self-advocacy training package for people with disability going through the NDIS appeals and reviews process, and have begun implementation across Queensland and NSW.

Through funding from Women NSW, PWDA was able to recruit eight women with intellectual disability to become peer educators. These peer educators have designed a training program for their peers about respectful and healthy relationships, and will be implementing this training over the coming year. Women NSW also funded PWDA to assist domestic and family violence services to become accessible for women with disability, and we are progressively rolling out audits of NSW services and assisting with action planning to address inaccessibility.

We worked hard on planning and designing our new website and a streamlined membership and communications system. These will modernise our communications to members, making sure we are able to get the right information to those who need it.

We continue to partner with Qantas to administer the Carer Concession Card that allows people with disability to fly with a companion at a discounted rate. This year we provided over 600 cards to people with disability, an increase of over 100 from the previous year.

We thank all our funding bodies and donors, including the NSW Government, the Commonwealth Government and the National

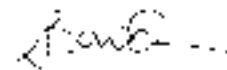
Disability Insurance Agency for their support and assistance to undertake our work.

We say a huge thank you to our Board, who are the representatives of our membership, for their clear strategic direction and vision for the future of PWDA.

We also thank Ngila Bevan, who left PWDA as Co-Chief Executive Officer at the end of 2017 to pursue other exciting human rights opportunities in New Zealand. We especially thank all of the staff, interns, and volunteers for their unwavering commitment to implementing our vision in order to realise the human rights of people with disability.



Therese Sands



Matthew Bowden



Staff, Interns and Volunteers

17/18

Individual Advocacy

Our individual advocates are based in our offices in Redfern, Sutherland, Bowral and Queanbeyan in NSW, and Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Sunshine Coast, Logan and Mount Isa in Queensland. The Individual Advocacy Team included:

- Shaana Dekker
- Stephin Hargreave
- Polly Seymour
- Garry Oates
- Shane Dillon
- Denise Robertson
- Jen Ruse
- Leonie Hazelton
- David Skidmore
- Stephen Kilkeary
- Lizzie Blue
- Natalie Ross
- Allirra Honner
- Harriet Rochester
- Lindy Rodrigues
- Mina Hunt
- Tanya Jovovic
- Freya Higgins
- Tracey Moffatt
- Grace Stevenson
- Luke Gale
- Ilona Wildauer
- Gareth Elliott

Systemic Advocacy

Our systemic advocacy team is predominantly based in our offices in Redfern and included staff working on policy and law reform, government relations, communications, training, research, community engagement and capacity building. Team members included:

- Ngila Bevan
- Kate Finch
- Meredith Lea
- Samantha French
- Dean Price

- El Gibbs
- Mel Harrison
- Meg Clement-Couzner
- Frances Quan Farrant
- Romola Hollywood
- Sonya Price-Kelly
- Natasha Walker

Corporate Services

The corporate services team keeps the PWDA engine running from the Redfern office, and included:

- Maja Hallett
- Rebecca Rongotaua
- Zorana Halpin
- Andrew Emmerson
- Peter Darby
- Ben Crompton
- Susan Strasser

Volunteers and Interns

PWDA is fortunate to have many people willing to contribute their time and skills to build the capacity of our organisation. In 2017-2018 these included:

- Milana Peters
- Indriani Pratiwi
- Harry Rutner



Staff at the staff conference discussing the NDIS.

Staff Conference

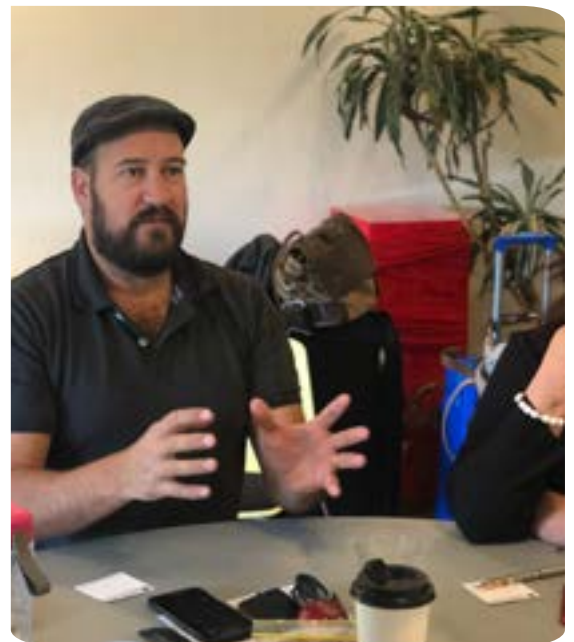
The annual staff conference in May 2018 brought together all staff from NSW and Queensland.

This year's sessions focused on issues such as the NDIS, the disability rights movement, and the new website.

We also had presentations from the NSW Ombudsman's Office on Unreasonable Complainant Conduct and NSW Legal Aid on NDIS Appeals.

With many new staff members joining the team recently, the conference enabled PWDA to welcome new staff and provided the opportunity to meet the teams from across PWDA.

Staff were able to share expertise, build connections and strengthen relationships, while having strategic discussions about policy and advocacy priorities and solutions for people with disability.



Staff during the staff conference week.



Individual Advocacy

17/18

People with disability remain among the most disadvantaged and marginalised members of the community.

We are frequently subject to discrimination, violence, 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 2017-2018 PWDA Individual Advocates assisted over 2,400 people with disability with human rights enquiries, complaints and advocacy support.

PWDA continued to provide individual advocacy support across NSW and 5 Queensland Local Government Areas. We are funded to provide these advocacy services by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS), with specific Boarding House Advocacy Project funding provided by NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS).

Our individual advocacy ensures the human rights of people with disability are respected, protected and fulfilled.

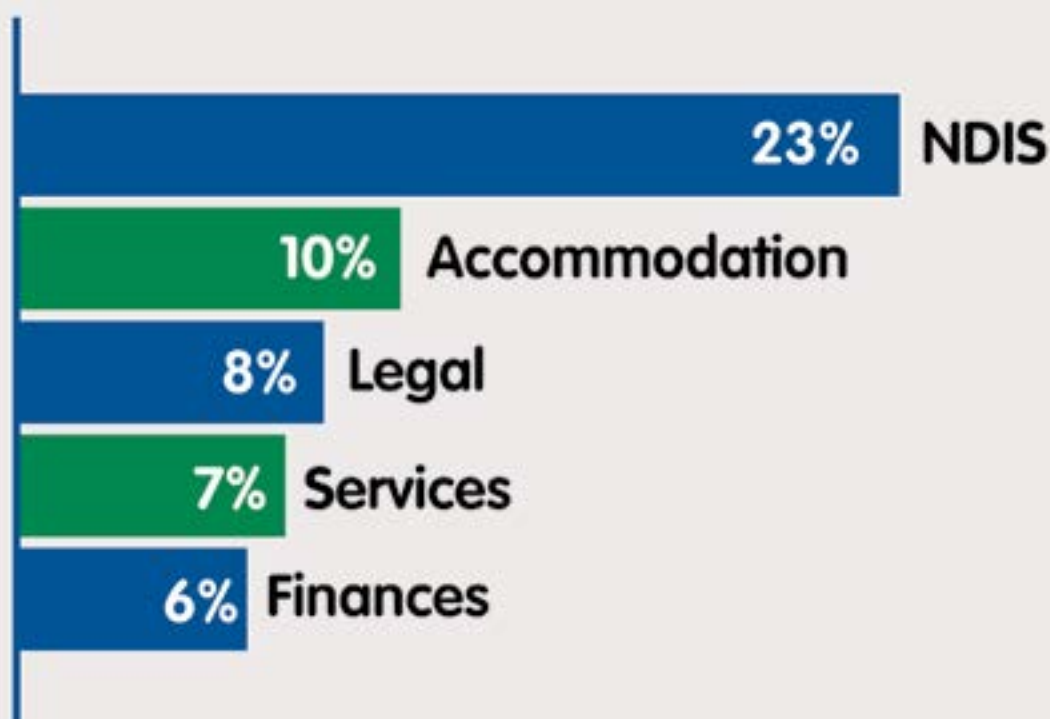
This year our advocacy progressed key human rights under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), specifically relating to:

- The rights of women with disability (CRPD Article 6)
- Living independently and being included in the community (CRPD Article 19)
- Adequate standard of living and income protection (CRPD Article 28)
- Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (CRPD Article 16)
- The rights of children with disability (CRPD Article 7)

Throughout the year, our Individual Advocates supported people with disability on a range of issues including:

- General advocacy issues (such as tenancy disputes, child protection hearings, guardianship and financial management order reviews)
- NDIS reviews and appeals
- NSW Assisted Boarding House individual and group advocacy
- Royal Commission disability support

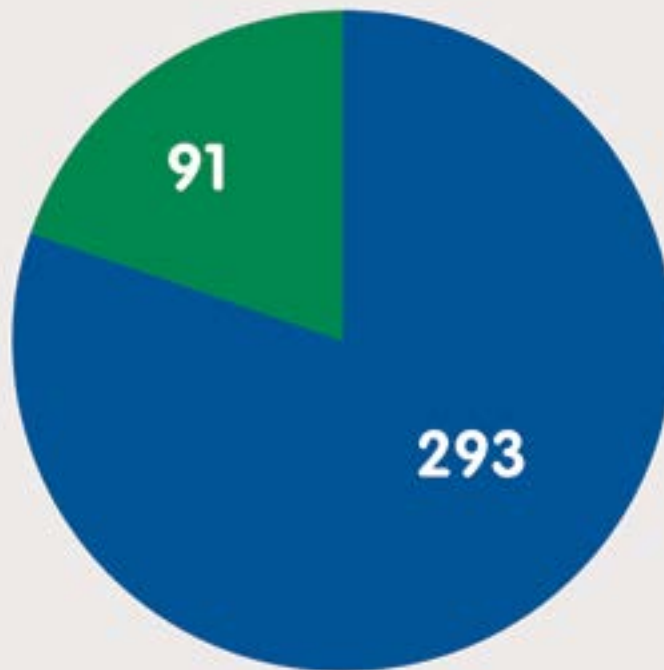
Our Queensland advocacy team worked with people with disability across the state to be ready for the roll out of the NDIS across



Top 5 advocacy issues.



NDIS reviews
and appeals
from QLD



NDIS reviews
and appeals
from NSW



NDIS reviews and appeals breakdown by state.

Logan, Brisbane, Mount Isa and Lower Gulf Communities, Bundaberg and Fraser Coast. This significantly increased our workload in these areas.

A focus of our work has been to support people with disability wanting to review or appeal decisions made under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

This often involves Individual Advocates connecting people with disability with legal services, to assist them to navigate complex and time consuming processes that can include appearances before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

Through the participation of our Individual Advocates, people with disability have been able to realise successful outcomes at review and appeal and this work has helped to inform PWDA's systemic, policy work on the NDIS.

Our advocates and trainers have been collaborating on the development of NDIS Self Advocacy and Appeals training which began in Logan and will roll out across NSW and Queensland over the next 12 months.

The training focuses on providing people with disability with information about making appeals

or reviews of their NDIS plans.

The Boarding House Advocacy Project

PWDA is funded by FACS NSW to provide individual and group advocacy to residents of Assisted Boarding Houses (ABH) across NSW.

Our role is to promote and protect residents' legal, consumer and human rights; to ensure 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 year, 256 ABH residents accessed one to one advocacy support through the Boarding House Advocacy Project.

Moreover, as many ABH residents have now transitioned to the NDIS, our Individual Advocates are often involved in supporting these people with disability with review and appeal matters. Individual Advocates also play a critical role in ensuring compliance by ABH proprietors with government legislation and regulations.

Our Advocates in Action

Two people with disability who were forced to live together in an abusive environment to get the essential supports they needed came to PWDA for support.

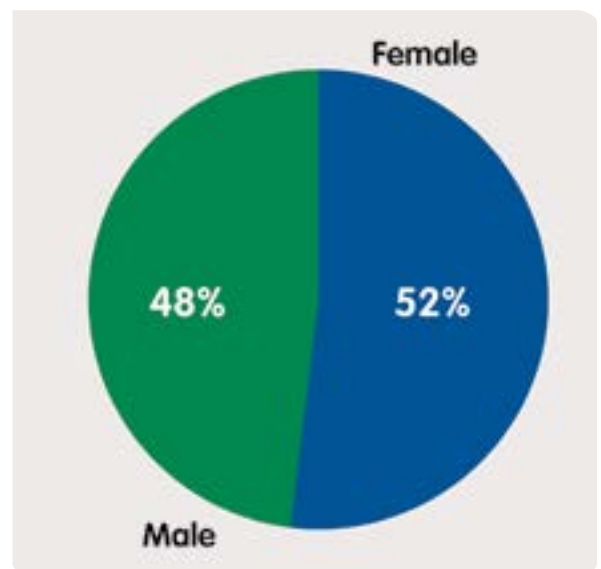
Our advocates worked with both people with disability so they could live independently with the support and community access they needed. One person wanted to live in her own home and have the resources to recover from the effects of the trauma.

Our advocates assisted her through the NDIS process, and to get a plan that allowed her to be included in the wider community. Her recovery has been remarkable, with excellent improvements to her mental and physical well being.

A woman with disability who had been working in an Australian Disability Enterprise for 30 years contacted PWDA.

While receiving advocacy support, our advocates asked if she had received long service leave during this time.

She had not, and when her workplace was contacted about this, she was awarded three months of paid long service leave.



Breakdown by gender of people accessing individual advocacy services. (No formally recorded statistics on anyone who identified as being non-binary or another gender)

A PWDA advocate worked with a person with disability experiencing homelessness who had been struggling to survive for 16 years on Newstart.

He had sought treatment for his psychosocial disability, but not having stable housing was making the situation worse. Our advocate were able to show that he met the requirements for the more adequate Disability Support Pension.

This successful claim has increased his income and ability to maintain a home and focus on reconnecting with his family.

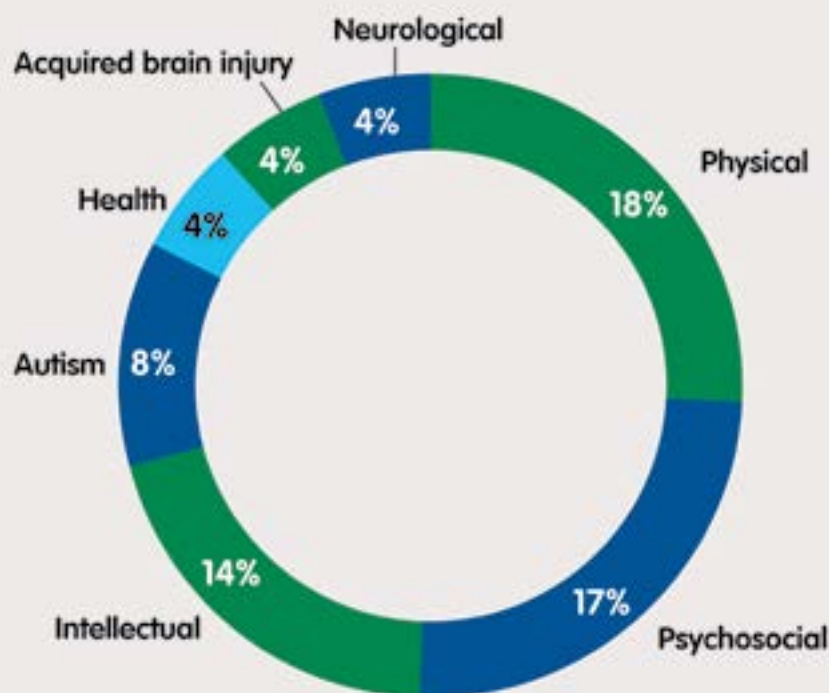
Our Advocates in Action

The transition to the NDIS has caused a crisis for some people with disability and their families.

Our advocates worked with a young man who had been relinquished into care just as disability services changed over to the NDIS.

He was assisted with his NDIS plan to make sure he had the right supports and a more appropriate place to live.

This young man now shares a home with the right supports and is thriving in his new place.



Breakdown of impairment type for people accessing individual advocacy services.

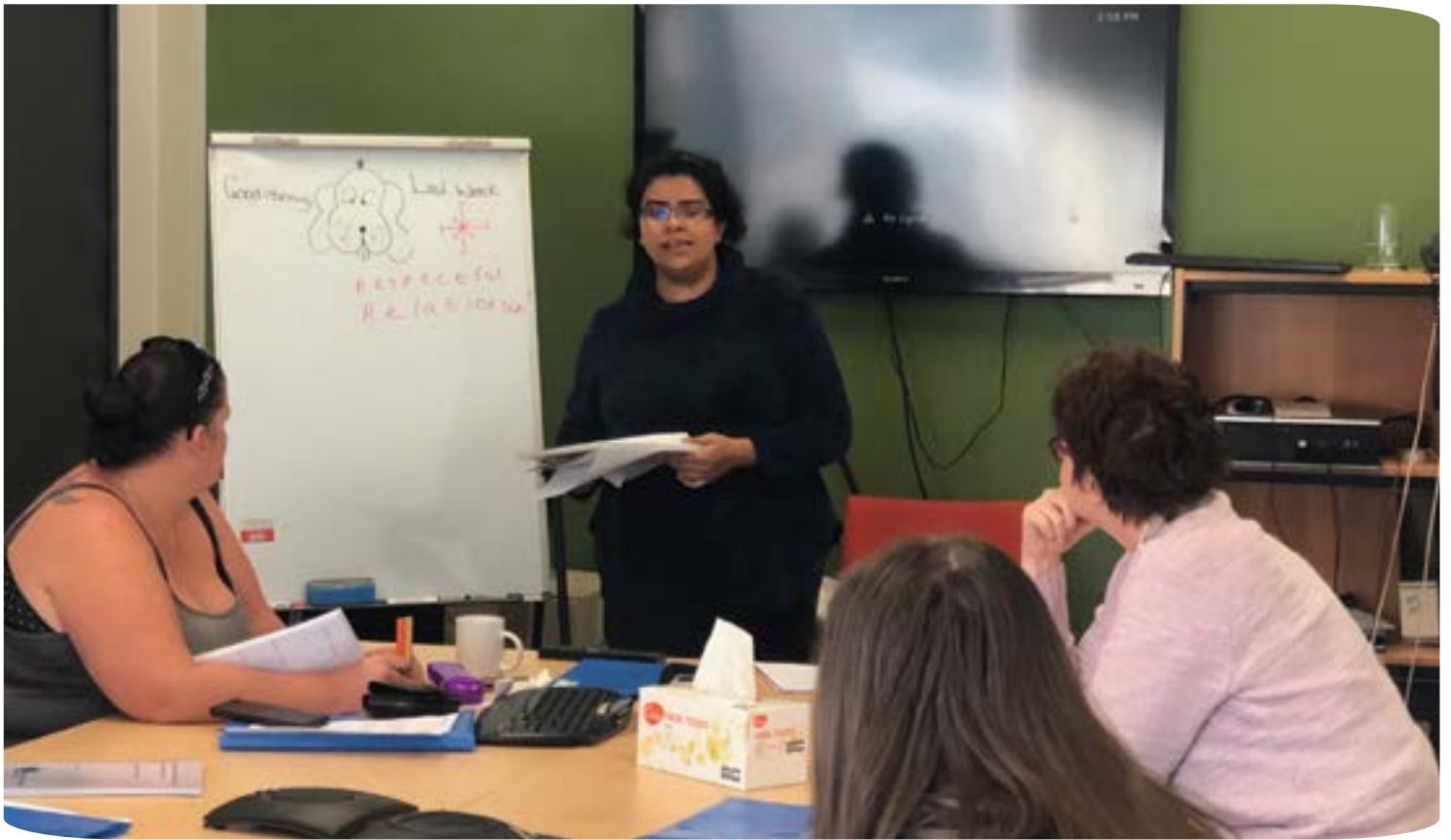


Individual Advocate Denise Robertson and Training Manager Mel Harrison in the Northern Territory.



Individual Advocates at Expos throughout the year

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.



Training and Research

17/18

Disability Rights Education and Peer to Peer Training

The high quality training that PWDA provides continues to enjoy strong support from the community. As a DPO we believe that our training should be developed and delivered by people with disability ourselves. Our primary team of trainers are all people with disability, and we recruit other trainers with disability to co-present with us.

A key highlight this year was the successful recruitment of eight women with intellectual disability as peer educators who will be working with other women with intellectual disability to share their knowledge and expertise on preventing violence and having great relationships. Our peer educators have co-designed a Healthy and Respectful Relationships training package, which will be rolled out in a number of NSW locations over the coming year.

We trained a record 999 people in 2017-2018 across NSW, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The training we deliver is through project funding or by demand across a wide variety of organisations and workplaces. PWDA training is provided on a fee for service basis.

This year, we developed a new training package - NDIS, Self-Advocacy and NDIS Reviews and Appeals - that we will roll out across NSW and Queensland over the next year.

Other training delivered this year included:

- Disability Awareness training is primarily provided to mainstream service providers such as local councils, government departments, museums and galleries, domestic and family violence services, homelessness services, legal centres, development agencies, schools, colleges, and businesses to raise their disability competence and confidence.
- Sexuality and Respectful Relationships training equips people with disability with an in-depth understanding of their human and sexual rights.
- Responding to Sexual Assault and Prevention of Domestic Violence training is usually provided to disability service providers or mainstream organisations who work with people with disability such as domestic and family violence services or health centres.



Inclusive Research and Community Researchers

PWDA supports disability research that is primarily driven by people with disability. This is community led research and it ensures that people with disability answer the questions and issues that are most important to us, ensuring our voices are clearly articulated and heard. It involves inclusive and participatory action research methodologies. It is grounded, narrative, qualitative research that draws out our voices.

In 2017-18, research activities at PWDA increased with our ongoing promotion and engagement in research driven and led by people with disability. We have actively supported scholars with disability to develop and promote their work, and we have solidified genuine partnerships with tertiary institutions that openly and proudly work inclusively with DPOs. This includes participating on a number of disability inclusion advisory bodies:

- the cross agency consortium for the Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health (CRE-DH), Universities of Melbourne, Sydney, Monash, RMIT and UNSW Canberra;
- Centre for Disability Research and Policy, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney;
- the Disability Access to Justice Consortium, made up of an interdisciplinary consortium of researchers, DPOs, and community groups across Australia and New Zealand.

We have also provided our expertise to the work of the newly established Disability Innovation Institute at the University of NSW, which is an interdisciplinary research institute that collaborates with people with disability to seek innovative solutions to our needs and issues.

Our research has also driven more fee for service consulting with universities as we provide our expertise to course materials, projects and funding applications. 'Fee for service' is a key part of our Research Protocols

which stipulate that all research and expertise conducted by people with disability and their representative organisations must be properly remunerated. Our protocols are available on the PWDA website.

In addition, this year PWDA research and policy staff attended the 10th International Disability Law and Policy Summer School in Galway, Ireland further driving our presence and capability as a DPO with a strong research background, onto the international arena.

Looking ahead, our research will further develop methodologies around community based inclusive research for use within the organisation and set a standard across the sector. We will also continue to develop our evidence base to support our ongoing human rights based grassroots advocacy both at systemic and individual levels to genuinely ensure that there is 'nothing about us, without us'.



Our peer education poster on display at the Summer School.



Senior Policy Officer Meredith Lea and Research Manager Frances Quan Farrant at the Summer School.

We will continue to develop our evidence base to support our ongoing human rights based grassroots advocacy both at systemic and individual levels to genuinely ensure that there is nothing about us, without us.



Representation and Systemic Advocacy

17/18

Our systemic policy and advocacy work 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 policy work is guided by the concerns of our members, issues and trends drawn from our individual advocacy program, and the policy and law reform opportunities of the day.

This financial year, PWDA was successful in our tender to continue as a national disability representative organisation until 2020, and to work with our alliance partners in Disabled People's Organisations Australia (DPO Australia).

We also received funding from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) under the Disability Support Organisations (DSO) program and the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grant scheme. This allowed us to continue our peer to peer activities, and to build an online Careers Access Hub for people with disability in collaboration with progressive employers.

Throughout the year, PWDA made submissions to NSW, national and international inquiries and consultation processes across a broad range of policy areas including, the implementation of the NDIS, reforms to family law, employment reform, inclusive education, juvenile justice, access to justice, guardianship law and policy, mental health law and policy, accessible transport, political participation, child protection and child sexual abuse legislation, and the National Redress Scheme. We continue to provide high level advice and expertise to government, the community and business sector directly and through various advisory groups.

NSW

In 2017-2018, we continued our role as a NSW peak disability organisation providing information, advice and representation of and

for people with disability across the state. Much of this advocacy work is done at the committee level, where we advocate for disability rights, inclusion and accessibility to be at the heart of all legislative and policy development relevant to people with disability.

Significant activities included:

- Key member of the NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance coordinating the #StandByMe campaign to stop funding cuts to disability advocacy, information and representative organisations in NSW. We rallied, posted on social media, shared petitions and attended meetings with MPs. NSW organisations gathered at NSW Parliament House in April, and PWDA Vice President, Brendan Pearce acted as MC for the event. Our campaign has seen funding restored until 2020, but we continue to campaign to ensure recurrent funding for NSW disability peak organisations and independent disability advocacy.
- PWDA was funded for two projects under the first round of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund. One project focuses on increasing the accessibility of domestic and family violence services across NSW, and the

Our policy work is focused in the following areas:

- NSW project work systemic advocacy and representation;
- National project work, representation and advocacy;
- Collaborative representation and advocacy with DPO Australia;
- International advocacy.

second on working with women with intellectual disability to design and deliver education to their peers about respectful relationships.

- Consultation with Women's Legal Services NSW on the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Review) Bill about tenants who are experiencing domestic and family violence.
- Participation on the Shelter NSW/Tenants' Union of NSW steering committee meetings.
- Face-to-face consultation on resident's rights in group homes in NSW
- Provision of expertise to ACON on their disability inclusion project for LGBTIQ+ people with disability.

We contributed policy analysis and advice to the following inquiries and consultations:

- NSW Legislative Assembly Committee on Community Services inquiry into support for new parents and babies in NSW
- NSW Government's Justice Sentencing Council's inquiry into victims' involvement in sentencing

- Family is Culture: Independent Review of Aboriginal Children and Young People in Out of Home Care in NSW
- NSW Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety inquiry into Adequacy of youth diversionary programs in NSW
- NSW Law Reform Commission Review of the Guardianship Act 1987 Draft Proposals
- Women NSW consultations on the draft directions of the NSW Sexual Assault Strategy and NSW Women's Strategy
- Transport for NSW consultation on Transport Disability Incentives and Subsidies (TDIS)
- Office of the Children's Guardian Statutory Review of the Child Protection (Working with Children) legislation
- NSW Department of Justice Review of community legal centre (CLC) services
- NSW Department of Family and Community Services Discussion Paper 'Shaping a Better Child Protection System'
- NSW Department of Health Review of seclusion, restraint and observation of consumers with a mental illness in NSW Health facilities



Co-CEO Matthew Bowden speaking at a Stand By Me rally.

Reference and advisory groups

In 2017-18 PWDA contributed to the following reference and advisory groups in NSW:

Housing

- Coalition for Appropriate Supported Accommodation
- Boarding House Expert Advisory Group
- NSW Anti-Social Behavior Reference Group
- NSW Housing Federation Exchange
- NSW Housing Connect

Consumer rights

- NSW Sydney Water Customer Council
- NSW Health Care Complaints Commission Consumer Consultative Committee
- Enable NSW

Transport

- NSW Accessible Transport Advisory Committee

Sector coordination

- NSW Disability Network Forum
- NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance
- NSW Ombudsman Disability Roundtable
- NSW Forum of Non-Government Agencies

Human Rights and Justice

- NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, Guardianship Division Consultative Forum
- NSW Department of Justice Disability Advisory Council
- NSW Electoral Commission Equal Access to Democracy Disability Reference Group
- NSW Marriage Equality Working Group
- Women's Electoral Lobby Abortion Legislation Reference Group
- NSW Council for Social Services Women Expert Advisory Group

Violence prevention and response

- NSW Apprehended Violence Orders Legal Issues Coordinating Committee
- NSW Women's Alliance
- Women NSW Sexual Assault Strategy Expert Advisory Group
- NSW Victims of Crime Interagency
- Statewide Steering Committee, Joint Protocol to Reduce Contact of people with disability in Supported Accommodation with the Criminal Justice System
- Expert Advisory Group, NSW Advocate for Children and Young People Anti-Violence Campaign



Individual Advocate Leonie Hazleton (left) giving evidence before Legislative Assembly Committee hearing into Support for new parents and babies in New South Wales.



Peer Educators with Co-CEO Therese Sands, Training Manager Mel Harrison and Senior Policy Officer Meredith Lea

National

PWDA continued to work across multiple policy portfolios as part of our national work. Our focus areas include: the implementation of the NDIS; a fair social security system; better employment opportunities and, in particular, pathways into open employment and wage justice; preventing and responding to violence, abuse and neglect; infrastructure and communications accessibility; accessible housing; access to justice; and political participation.

We worked with a wide range of disability sector colleagues, government departments, community sector partners, and private sector stakeholders to raise issues of concern and ensure that the voice of people with disability was represented in reform processes and new project designs.

Our national advocacy work involved joint campaigns as well as making submissions, appearing at inquiry hearings, providing expert disability advice and information, and lobbying politicians. In the lead up to the QLD state election, we endorsed the Queensland Disability Network election platform. We were again in Canberra for the Federal Budget in May, providing expert advice and media commentary about critical developments for people with disability. Key highlights from the year's national activities are below.

NDIS

- Provided expert advice on NDIS market readiness to the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS, following consultation with people with disability through surveys, phone conversations and numerous meetings.

- Provided advice to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) on new ways of responding to NDIS participant assistive technology needs and applications to improve participant experience.
- Expert advice provided to the NDIA on the development of new participant pathways for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and Asexual Plus (LGBTIQA+) people with disability and people considered to have complex needs, including people in contact with the criminal justice system and health system interface.
- Participated in consultations for the establishment of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, including providing extensive analysis of the legislation and policy guidance documents to establish the Commission.
- Contributed to, and endorsed a joint sector statement with the Summer Foundation and other community organisations and housing providers on the Specialist Disability Accommodation Framework.

Royal Commission

- Through our Disability Support for the Royal Commission project, PWDA continued to provide high level advice and expertise to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. We attended the final session of the Royal Commission, and had our final in-person meeting to raise the issues for victims and survivors with disability.
- Advice to the inquiry into the Commonwealth Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill 2017.



Life Member Annie Parkinson with Individual Advocate Freya Higgins at an International Women's Day Event



Senior Policy Officer Meredith Lea and Individual Advocate Stephin Hargreave at a disability and family violence event.



Co-CEO Therese Sands speaking to media at the Federal Budget press conference.



Senior Policy Officers Dean Price and Meredith Lea celebrating Purple Day for all the rainbow young people with disability.

- Advice provided to the Department of Social Services and the Department of Human Services on the Commonwealth Redress Scheme survivor applicant pathway build, support services, accessibility and IT/ phone client interface.
- Actively involved on the National Redress Advisory Council for the establishment of the National Redress Scheme.

Employment

- Continued to fight for fair wages for workers with disability employed by Australian Disability Enterprises (sheltered workshops) through action at the Fair Work Commission.
- Attended ongoing Fair Work Commission hearings to work towards a modified supported wage tool to be used instead of the discriminatory Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT).
- Working in collaboration with other disability advocacy organisations - Inclusion Australia, AED Legal Centre, Queensland Advocacy Incorporated, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations and the Australian Centre for Disability Law - on joint policy positions for the future of supported employment.

Violence Prevention and Access to justice

- Participated in the National Disability Strategy Workshop - Improving Outcomes for People with Disability in the Criminal Justice System.
- Expert advice provided to Human Rights Watch on its research project and report, "I Needed Help, Instead I was Punished - Abuse and Neglect of Prisoners with Disabilities in Australia".

- Participated in consultations and prepared a comprehensive submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) Review of the Family Law System. PWDA also contributed to Women's Legal Services Australia's submission to this review.
- Provided advice to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2017 including giving evidence at the public hearing.
- Provided expertise to the Law Council of Australia for its research and final report on the Justice Project.

Accessibility and inclusion

- Initiated a new project with Spinal Cord Injuries Australia on voting access at Federal Elections.
- Coordinated the largest parade entry for people with disability for the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. We marched with over 120 people with disability, their supporters and friends to celebrate a dynamic display of disability, gender and sexuality alongside the Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Northcott, and the National Disability Insurance Agency.
- Participation on the Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) consultation on the development and roll out of a national network of self-advocacy resource centres, website, and resources.
- Participation on the Accessible Communication Australia National Advisory Committee which is overseeing a project to introduce an International Symbol for Communication Access.

Human rights

- PWDA worked with the Marriage Equality Campaign to support participation and representation of people with disability during the plebiscite.
- Informed by our individual advocacy work, PWDA supported the campaign for a Human Rights Act in Queensland and monitored its progress throughout the year.
- Held forums and participated in consultations on the establishment of a disability inclusive National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT). The NPM will monitor places of detention and we are strongly advocating for this to include disability specific institutions and a strong disability lens to all of its work.
- PWDA co-authored an academic article for the Australian Journal of Human Rights, 'A disability-aware approach to torture prevention? Australian OPCAT ratification and improved protections for people with disability'.

Reference and advisory groups

In 2017-18 PWDA contributed to the following reference and advisory groups nationally:

Violence prevention and response

- 1800Respect Expert Advisory Group, Disability Pathways Project
- Australian Human Rights Commission Expert Advisory Group, Violence against people with disability
- Department of Social Services Independent Advisory Council on the National Redress Scheme

Accessibility and Communications

- ACOSS Media and Communications Network
- Accessible Public Transport Modernisation Committee (DCM)
- National Accessible Public Transport Advisory Committee (NAPTAC)
- Department of Infrastructure Whole of Journey Working Group
- Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN), Executive Committee
- Australian Network for Universal Housing Design (ANUHD)
- Australian Electoral Commission Disability Advisory Group

- Commonwealth Bank Customer Advocate Community Council
- Communication Access Australia National Advisory Group

Adequate standard of living

- ACOSS Housing and Homelessness Policy Network
- ACOSS Income Support and Employment Policy Network

Human Rights and Justice

- Australian Human Rights Commission Expert Advisory Group, Human Rights of Intersex People
- Child Rights Taskforce
- Commonwealth Ombudsman Community Roundtable
- National Disability Strategy Reform Steering Committee

Employment

- Department of Social Services Disability Employment Services Transition Advisory Group (TRG)

National Disability Insurance Scheme

- National Disability Insurance Agency CEO Forum
- National Disability Insurance Agency Independent Advisory Council (IAC)

Disability inclusive development

- Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC)

Disabled People's Organisations Australia (DPO Australia)

DPO Australia was founded by, and is made up of four national cross-disability and population specific organisations:

- First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN);
- Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA);
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA); and
- People with Disability Australia (PWDA).

The key purpose of DPO Australia is to promote, protect and advance the human rights and freedoms of people with disability in Australia by working collaboratively on areas of shared interests, purposes and strategic priorities and opportunities.

Through DPO Australia, PWDA continued to have considerable influence and make a significant contribution to law reform processes, policy development and program design and delivery.

Our key activities throughout 2017-18 included:

- Representation on the National Accessible Public Transport Advisory Committee (NAPTAC). This committee works on transport issues across a range of separate working groups on whole of journey, information technology, bus standards, rail standards, marine and ferry standards, and taxis.
- Representation on a number of Disability Employment Services (DES) reform reference groups convened by the Department of Social Services (DSS) advocating for increased choice and control, improved performance and quality of DES providers, and fully accessible services.
- Worked collaboratively with the Australian Network on Disability (AND) and Inclusion Australia to respond to key concerns in the DES reforms, including drafting position papers and a joint media release.

- Provided a submission to the Department of Social Services (DSS) Discussion Paper on the future of Supported Employment calling for comprehensive systemic reform.
- Worked extensively with the Department of Infrastructure on consultations with people with disability to develop a 'whole of journey' guide aimed at influencing transport providers to go beyond compliance with standards.
- Coordinated activities for the campaign for a Royal Commission into violence, abuse and neglect of people with disability in Australia.
- Developed a position paper on a Disability Inclusive National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) to be established under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).
- Prepared a joint submission with Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) to the Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Delivered a keynote address on genuine community living and making the CRPD a reality at the inaugural National Virtual Disability Conference.
- Participated on the Australian Human Rights Commission's Expert Advisory Group on the Human Rights of Intersex Persons, advocating with our colleagues at Intersex Human Rights Australia for an end to forced sterilisation and forced unnecessary medical interventions without free, prior and informed consent.
- Provided extensive advice and analysis to the DSS on the NDIS Code of Conduct and associated guidelines, and the legislation and regulations underpinning the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.
- Participated in the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry into the NDIS (Quality and Safeguards

Commission & Other Measures) Bill 2017, including appearing at the public hearing and providing advice to MPs and Senators.

- Participated in the regular member meetings of the NDIA's Independent Advisory Council (IAC) and the regular NDIA's CEO forums.
- Coordinated participation and consultation processes for the development of the NDIA LGBTIQ+ strategy and processes.
- Conducted a national forum on the CRPD and UN shadowing reporting for disability representative and advocacy organisations, and with participation from

the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Attorney-General's Department and DSS.

- Participated on the panel discussion for the Australian Human Rights Commission's 25th anniversary of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth).

Media and communications

Over the last year, PWDA continued to be active across media, communications and social media, including with our DPO Australia colleagues.

We published media releases, and featured regularly in national TV, radio, online and



Senior Policy Officer Meg Clement-Couzner with participants at a Northern NSW peer forum.



Social media graphics for the 2018 Federal Budget and a poster promoting the NDIS Appeals Information Sessions.

newspaper stories.

A major accomplishment this year was developing a new website for PWDA and introducing new behind-the-scenes technology to streamline our communications. The new website is easier to access and has more Easy English content, as well as integrating our member database.

PWDA's social media platforms continue to grow, with many thousands of people actively discussing and sharing disability rights information. Our email publications, the Daily Media Round Up and the PWDA Newsletter, keep our members and supporters up to date with the latest news.

Peer to peer activities

As a DPO, PWDA prioritises peer-led activities. A key highlight for this year was the recruitment of eight peer educators, all women with intellectual disability to provide peer training on respectful and healthy relationships.

Peer support is most visible in our role as a Disability Support Organisation (DSO), where we are funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency to build local peer support groups.

This last year of DSO funding enabled us to target peer outreach in Northern NSW with people with disability who had not been reached through the DSO project previously. Four regional peer-to-peer forums were held in Ballina, Lismore, and Woodenbong. These forums focused on the experiences of people with disability in rural and regional areas in accessing support through the NDIS. A specific peer-to-peer forum was held for Aboriginal communities in the area.

We gained important insight into people's personal experiences with the NDIS, and we are in the process of summarising these experiences for feedback to government and the NDIA.

PWDA has also been contributing to the University of NSW, Social Policy Research Centre review of peer support practice with the aim of identifying ways to enhance the capacity of peer networks of people with disability.

This financial year, we were one of the successful recipients of an Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) National Readiness Grant funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency. This ILC Grant allowed us to begin to focus on improving employment of people with disability through the development of the Careers Access Hub. The Hub will create connections between skilled and talented people with disability and progressive mainstream employers looking to implement and promote inclusion strategies. The Hub is led by people with disability to create a unique collaborative peer project with employers.

As well as general employment opportunities, the Hub will also be an avenue for employers and organisations to advertise internships, apprenticeships, volunteer roles, board positions and opportunities for people with disability to be involved in research projects.

A key highlight for this year was the recruitment of eight peer educators, all women with intellectual disability to provide peer training on respectful and healthy relationships

Sharmin Chaudhury, MP
Speaker, Bangladesh Parliament



International Representation and Advocacy

17/18

PWDA continues to represent people with disability on the international stage through our engagement with the United Nations.

This ranges from participation in consultations and at conferences, hosting public events and speaking at seminars, making submissions on topics of key concern, and supporting people with disability, particularly young people and emerging leaders from Australia to have their voice heard and to build leadership and representational skills.

Our international advocacy and representation role is undertaken in our own right or through DPO Australia.

Key achievements include:

- Coordinated our appearance before the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to support DPO Australia's submission to the UN regarding the List of Issues for Australia's second periodic review. A series of human rights factsheets were provided to the Committee, which covered a range of topics, including equality before the law; indefinite detention of persons with

disability; inclusive education; forced treatment and restrictive practices; forced sterilisation; violence against persons with disability; discrimination against migrants and refugees with disability.

- Represented DPO Australia on the NGO delegation that appeared before the UN Human Rights Committee for its review of Australia under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). PWDA also drafted the disability information for the NGO report on key issues including restrictive practices, legal capacity, forced treatment, indefinite detention, and forced sterilisation.
- On behalf of DPO Australia, PWDA worked collaboratively with the Australian Centre for Disability Law (ACDL), Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) to organise and conduct two preparatory workshops for the civil society delegates participating in the 11th Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the CRPD.

At COSP, our Co-CEO Matthew Bowden urged governments from around the world to include LGBTIQ+ people with disability. He said:

"People with disability who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other diverse sexual orientations and/or gender identities (people who are LGBTIQ+) face intersectional discrimination that results in greater social exclusion, isolation, higher incidences of all forms of violence, denial of supports and the right to form relationships, and are often subjected to forced medical interventions and treatments.

However, the intersection between disability and sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status has largely not been addressed in progressing CRPD rights.

We respectfully encourage States Parties:

- to work to ensure LGBTIQ+ people with disability are able to enjoy our human rights on an equal basis with others.
- to form partnerships with DPOs and civil society organisations representing LGBTIQ+ people.
- to remove all laws that discriminate against us, our bodies, our genders, our sexualities and our relationships, and that, every effort is taken to remove all barriers to our inclusion and all forms of discrimination and violence against us.

To ensure that no one is left behind, it's time for States Parties to take the human rights of LGBTIQ+ people with disability seriously in the implementation of the Convention".

- Coordinated the civil society delegation that participated in the COSP at the UN in June 2018, including organising delegates to make formal interventions on key topics and conducting the first ever side-event on the rights of LGBTIQ+ people with disability.

Regional engagement and capacity building

PWDA is committed to supporting the growth and development of our sister Disabled People's Organisations in the Asia Pacific Region. We work to ensure that regional human rights and development mechanisms are disability inclusive and engage appropriately with people with disability. We seek to encourage the participation of people with disability, particularly women, in governance arrangements for DPOs, self-advocacy, and the design and implementation of development projects. Funding for this work is secured on an ad hoc basis.

In 2017-18, our work included:

- Providing support to Disabled People's International Asia Pacific (DPI-AP) to strengthen DPO representation and networks in the Asia Pacific region.
- Conducting workshops on disability inclusion, the media and inclusive education to DPOs and disability organisations in Indonesia in partnership with the University of Sydney for the project, "Resources for Attitudinal Change in Indonesia".

- Along with the Sydney South East Asia Centre, delivering presentations to Indonesian DPOs on the processes for conducting systemic advocacy.
- Assisting with the collation of case studies from our network of DPOs in the Asia Pacific region, on good practice examples of health providers engaging with DPOs. PWDA was contracted to do this work by the Nossal Institute and Melbourne University for the World Health Organisation (WHO) Access to Health Toolkit.

Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)

PWDA remains an active member of the PDF. We continue to sit on its Pacific DPO Funds Committee, assessing grant applications to disperse funds to assist Pacific nation DPOs with implementation of the CRPD, governance and capacity building. We also continued as a member of the Pacific Women with Disability Committee. PWDA was also elected to the board of the PDF in June 2018.

Asia Pacific DPO United

PWDA represented the Chair of AP DPO United at the UN High Level Intergovernmental Meeting (HLIGM) on the Mid-Point Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022 in Beijing, China in November 2017.

At this meeting, PWDA presented on the role of DPOs in regional implementation of the Incheon Strategy, and assisted in drafting the Beijing



Co-CEOs Therese Sands and Matthew Bowden with The Hon Jane Prentice MP and delegates at COSP in New York.



Co-CEO Matthew Bowden, Sarah Houbolt (WWDA), Stephanie Gotlib (CYDA), Rosemary Kayess, Damian Griffis (FPDN), Co-CEO Therese Sands, Dwayne Cranfield (NEDA). congratulating Rosemary Kayess on her election to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the UN COSP.

Declaration Outcomes of the meeting. Our participation at this meeting was supported by Rehabilitation International and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Disability inclusive development

In 2018, PWDA was elected onto the Executive Committee of the Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) in a permanent DPO capacity.

PWDA was elected to the board of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Risk and Compliance Committee.

PWDA was invited by the Bangladesh Ministry of Disaster and Risk management to participate

in the second international conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management held in Dhaka Bangladesh 15-16 May. PWDA provided a presentation on the role of DPOs in developing regional strategies in disaster risk management in the Asia Pacific region. PWDA also contributed to the drafting of the outcomes statement from the conference



Senior Policy Officer Samantha French at Australian Disability & Development Consortium Executive Committee Strategic Planning Day.



Treasurer's Report

17/18

I present the audited financial statements for the 2017/18 financial year.

For the information of Members, People with Disability Australia (PWDA) achieved a surplus of \$128,041 in 2017/18. This result is reflected in a positive movement in the organisation's financial position. The Statement of Financial Position shows PWDA's accumulated funds (reserves) of \$446,996. The Board is conscious of the need for a solid financial position to buffer the organisation from future financial risks.

The cash position, along with the organisation's reserves and the confirmed funding for 2018/19, are the basis for the Directors' declaration in the audit report that PWDA can meet its debts as they fall due.

PWDA engaged new auditors for the 2017/18 year, StewartBrown, who have provided an unqualified audit opinion.

Income

In the 2017/18 financial year, PWDA experienced growth in program funding from government and other self-generated income.

- Funding of \$4,718,296 from Commonwealth and State governments.
- Self-generated income of \$371,105 from activities such as training, consultancy and interest.
- Total income of \$5,089,401.

The growth in income for the year was 25%. This primarily reflected:

- Increased support for individual advocacy programs (National Disability Advocacy Program and NDIS Appeals, both funded by the Australian Government, Department of Social Services).
- The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) funding a number of projects under the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program for the NDIS.
- The NSW Government funding new programs focused on domestic and family violence for people with a disability

including access to domestic violence services and peer education training for women with intellectual disability.

- The fee for service work of PWDA, mainly related to training and research consultancies.

Expenditure

There was growth in expenditure commensurate with the increase in program activity. Total expenditure was \$4,961,360 and represented a 25% increase on the prior year - the same percentage increase as income. Mostly this translated as increased staffing to support programs, along with other direct costs such as travel. However, there was also increased investment in professional charges for development of PWDA's website and a (funded) project-specific website. Increased investment in online interfaces with members and other service users is becoming increasingly important to the work of PWDA.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Australian Government, the NDIA, the NSW Government and our other funding partners for their continued support of the work of PWDA.



Vanessa Fanning



**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY
AUSTRALIA**

Reports and Financial Statements

17/18

Director's Report

The Directors of People with Disability Australia Ltd declare that:

The financial statements, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:

- a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
- b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company.

In the opinion of the Directors there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Bonnie Millen
President

13 October 2018



Vanessa Fanning
Treasurer

13 October 2018

Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the members of People with Disability Australia Ltd.

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of People with Disability Australia Ltd which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Directors' Declarations.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of People with Disability Australia Ltd is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended, and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not- for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not- for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-

profits Commission Act 2012, which has been given to the Directors of the company, would be in the same terms if given to the Directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

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

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not- for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they

could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at The Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and the website address is <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Stewart Brown
Chartered Accountants



Stuart Hutcheon
Partner

13 October 2018

Financial Statements for 2017/2018

This information starting on the next page has been extracted from the audited financial statements of People with Disability Australia for the year ended 30 June 2018 and is included here for information purposes only.

A complete set of financial statements and Independent Audit Report is available on our website and can also be provided upon request.

With reference to the ACFID Code of Conduct, PWDA confirms that during the year the organisation did not receive any international aid and development revenue.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	3,113,883	1,614,296
Trade and other receivables	7	<u>112,027</u>	<u>237,693</u>
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>3,225,910</u>	<u>1,851,989</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	<u>94,159</u>	<u>41,704</u>
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		<u>94,159</u>	<u>41,704</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>3,320,069</u>	<u>1,893,693</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	9	2,102,623	1,038,367
Provisions	10	<u>591,226</u>	<u>468,346</u>
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		<u>2,693,849</u>	<u>1,506,713</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	11	<u>179,224</u>	<u>68,025</u>
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>		<u>179,224</u>	<u>68,025</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>2,873,073</u>	<u>1,574,738</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>446,996</u>	<u>318,955</u>
FUNDS			
Accumulated funds		<u>446,996</u>	<u>318,955</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>446,996</u>	<u>318,955</u>

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

As at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue	4	5,064,234	4,041,659
Other income	4	<u>25,167</u>	<u>24,273</u>
		5,089,401	4,065,932
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense		(3,412,191)	(2,768,007)
Depreciation expense	5	(29,701)	(117,481)
Motor vehicle expense		(82,145)	(62,253)
Computer/website costs		(114,199)	(48,537)
Consulting and professional charges		(248,837)	(113,761)
Electricity		(20,749)	(21,150)
Meeting expenses		(55,024)	(40,013)
Program costs		(76,077)	(43,640)
Rental and operating lease expenses		(289,549)	(279,512)
Repairs and maintenance costs		(22,905)	(16,848)
Telephone and internet		(98,041)	(94,543)
Travel and accommodation		(303,737)	(234,436)
Other expenses		<u>(208,205)</u>	<u>(118,114)</u>
		<u>(4,961,360)</u>	<u>(3,958,295)</u>
Surplus before income tax		128,041	107,637
Income tax expense		---	---
Surplus for the year		<u>128,041</u>	<u>107,637</u>
Other comprehensive income		---	---
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>128,041</u>	<u>107,637</u>



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY
AUSTRALIA



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA



pwd.org.au



pwd@pwd.org.au



1800 422 015



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



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