



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY
AUSTRALIA



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT
18/19



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)

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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.

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About People with Disability Australia

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 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.



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
- Youth Action

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

In 2018-2019 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:

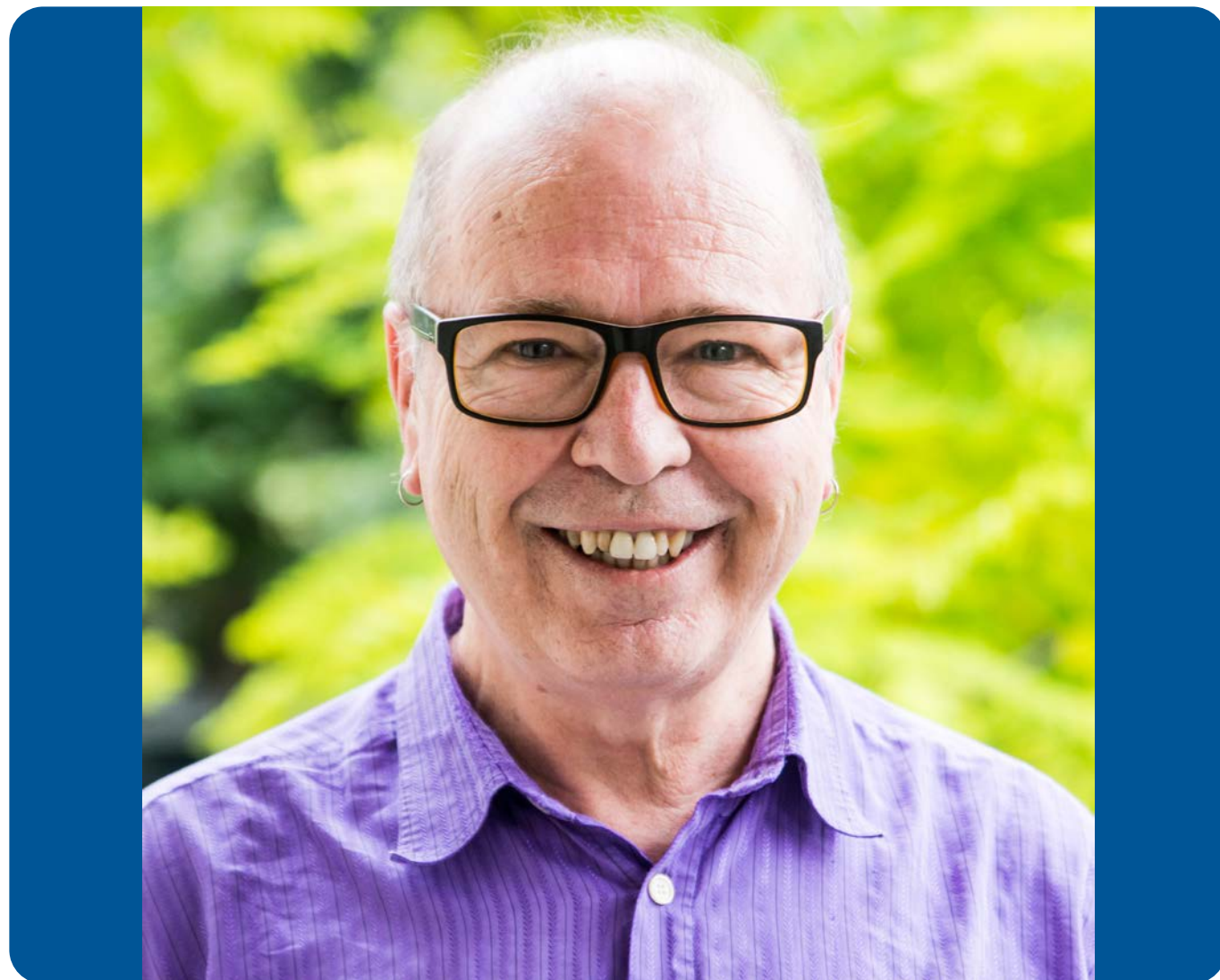
- Australian Centre for Disability Law
- Australian Disability and Development Consortium
- Asia Pacific DPO United
- Australian Council of Social Services
- Pacific Disability Forum

We acknowledge and sincerely thank Gilbert and Tobin Lawyers and King & Wood Mallesons 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 2018-2019 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.

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

Dear Members,

I am pleased to present the People with Disability Australia (PWDA) Annual Report for the 2018-2019 financial year.

Our organisation this year has continued our role as a leading voice of people with disability in Australia on a huge range of issues, such as the NDIS, the Disability Royal Commission, housing and the importance of advocacy.

At the same time, we have grown substantially, with many new projects being funded and a significant growth in staffing. This demonstrates the increasing awareness among governments and other funding bodies, of the needs of people with disability, and the role we have, as people with disability, in delivering supports and solutions.

As a long time member of PWDA, I was pleased to be elected to the position of President, and to work this year with my fellow Board members on key issues for our organisation.

This year, we've seen a growth of membership of PWDA, with our new membership system rolled out and more direct communication with members. We've surveyed members about policy issues, and provided many opportunities for members to contribute to the growth of PWDA.

On a national level, I welcomed the fulfillment of our long campaign, with our colleagues in DPO Australia, for the Disability Royal Commission, which will begin next year.

PWDA has been at the forefront of this campaign because we know the terrible toll that violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation is taking on people with disability across the country.

Issues with the rollout of the NDIS are continuing, with many state and territory governments withdrawing funding from people with disability, at the same time as

they are not eligible for NDIS supports. PWDA argued for changes to the way access and planning are working in our Federal Election campaign.

In addition, PWDA continues to argue for a significant increase in the resourcing of the National Disability Strategy to ensure that all people with disability have access to mainstream and disability-specific services.

People with disability told us clearly this year that life can be hard because of systemic exclusion, poverty and a lack of supports in both our member survey and our survey on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This showed clearly how much work is still to be done before we achieve full inclusion as people with disability.

I want to pay tribute to PWDA's long standing and outgoing Co-CEOs Matthew Bowden and Therese Sands. They have provided significant contributions to the rights of people with disability over many years leading PWDA, and have guided our organisation through huge changes. The PWDA Board, and our entire membership, thank them sincerely for all their hard work, and wishes them very well in the years to come.

I would also like to thank 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.

With Pride,

David Abello



President



David Abello

Vice-President



Paige Burton

Secretary



Kristy Trajceviski

Board director



Jaci Armstrong

Board Directors - 2019



Hannah Solomons



Karen Burgess
GIA (Affiliated)



Adam Hewber



Kevin Boyce

Retired members - 2018



Bonnie Millen



Brenden Pearce



Vanessa Fanning



Jarad McLoughlan



Ebru Sumaktas

The PWDA board



Message from the Co-Chief Executive Officers

This is our final year as Co-CEOs of PWDA, and we leave the organisation with immense pride in having grown the organisation to provide a bigger, stronger, more democratic voice for people with disability in Australia. PWDA is in a period of growth and change, and with confidence, we place the ongoing leadership in the capable hands of our new CEO and Board.

Over the last decade, we've worked to continue the long legacy of PWDA. Established nearly 40 years ago, PWDA is made up of and led by people with disability across Australia, and provides a valuable and leading voice of our own.

This year saw PWDA again grow strongly, being awarded grants and funding to deliver a wide variety of work for people with disability, as summarised throughout this report.

As well as our individual and systemic advocacy, our training and research, we are now engaged with large projects, such as the Wayfinder Hub, Enable In, and Creating and Building Access that will make a substantial contribution to the inclusion of people with disability.

We are proud of our work with our colleagues in DPO Australia, and particularly our fight to have the epidemic of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation against us recognised and address through a Royal Commission. The Australian Government announced the biggest Royal Commission to date this year, into violence against all people with disability, in all settings.

We have worked with the wider disability community to raise conflict of interest concerns about two of the Commissioners and to engage with the setup of the Disability Royal Commission. This will be a pivotal time of acknowledgement and change for people with disability and will shine a light on the causes of violence against us.

This year we campaigned on the Federal Budget and both the NSW and Federal elections, raising the key issues of concern to people with disability. With our colleagues in DPO Australia, we received detailed commitments from each major party in the Federal election and will hold them to account in the years to come.

In NSW, we continued our work with the NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance, to campaign for funding for disability advocacy, information and representative services beyond June 2020. We know that 90% of people with disability will not be eligible for NDIS services, and yet many mainstream services are not accessible. State and territory governments can't walk away from people with disability and expect the NDIS to cover everything.

We have worked this year to ensure the effective establishment of the National Redress Scheme after our work on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. We have been promoting the Redress Scheme and have begun to provide services and supports to people with disability who are applying for the Scheme.

Our expertise in providing training continues to be recognised, with hundreds of individuals and many organisations benefiting from our tailored training programs. This includes the ongoing roll out of NDIS Appeals information and training across NSW and Queensland.

We are also growing our research partnerships to progress disability inclusive research, as well as contributing our expertise to research projects and activities.

We worked to bring the voices of people with disability to the United Nations and other international forums again this year, attending the 12th session of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and participating in the Pacific Disability Forum.

As we leave PWDA, we both pay tribute to all people with disability who contribute their time and experiences so generously to PWDA. It has been an immense privilege to serve our members, our Boards and Presidents for more than a decade, and we thank them for trusting us to operationalise the values and vision of PWDA.

We would particularly like to thank former PWDA CEO Phillip French whose mentorship was critical to our leadership. We also honour the late Faye Druett, Jan Daisley and Annie Parkinson for their love and guidance as mentors and supporters during our role as Co-CEOs.

We thank all the Presidents that have led PWDA during our time at PWDA, prior to taking up our Co-CEO roles - the late Wendy Potter and Heidi Forrest – and as Co-CEOs - the late Robert Farley, the late Jan Daisley, Craig Wallace, Bonnie Millen and David Abello.

We look forward to participating as Life Members in the future of PWDA in the years to come.

We would also like to thank all the PWDA staff who are committed and passionate in their work for the advancement of the rights of people with disability across Australia. We know that PWDA is in safe hands and will continue to be a proud and active voice for the rights of people with disability in the future.



Therese Sands



Matthew Bowden

“PWDA is in a period of growth and change, and with confidence, we place the ongoing leadership in the capable hands of our new CEO and Board.”

Tribute to Matthew and Therese

Carolyn Frohmader

Executive Officer, Women with Disabilities Australia

Therese and Matthew have not only helped to build PWDA as a highly respected organisation, they have also contributed much to the advancement of the human rights of people with disability, both in Australia and internationally. They have both been central to, and leaders of the disability rights movement in Australia for more than two decades. They have always worked above and beyond the call of duty in the pursuit of human rights for people with disability - both at the individual and systemic advocacy levels. Both Therese and Matthew are humble and have never sought accolades for the work they have done and for the lives they have changed. They have paved the way for people with disability to pursue their individual and collective rights; they have been instrumental in making positive changes for people with disability through legal and policy reforms; and through supporting people with disability to build their capacity to act as agents in their own right. Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA) is indebted to Therese and Matthew for all they have given, and all they have taught. On behalf of the members, staff and Board of WWDA, we thank Therese and Matthew, and wish them all the best for their future endeavours. We will miss them both.

Craig Wallace

PWDA President 2012-2016

It's been my pleasure to work with Matt and Therese in one way or another for over a decade through my involvement with the Board of PWDA and in subsequent activism. I really got to know both of them well during a very intense period from 2011 onwards. It's almost hard to credit the magnitude of change that PWDA experienced in a short space of time – losing almost a third of our funding base at the start of the decade and then pushing forward with a very ambitious agenda to step into national leadership on funding for disability supports and as a national disability peak. At the height of the whirlwind in 2013 we were dealing with a blizzard of policy, communications, program and project ambitions while seeking to build a phoenix from the ashes of major changes and disruptions in funding arrangements in NSW and Federally. All the while our core work, advocacy network and projects carried on. Amidst the white knuckle ride I came to recognise the deep mutual respect, stewardship, passion, capacities for effort and intellectual rigor that Therese and Matt brought to their teamwork in DPOA and PWDA respectively. They are a formidable dynamic duo. When they set their minds to rectifying an injustice or setting on a true course of action you should just get out of the way because it IS going to happen. Matt and Therese have advanced the rights of disabled people in Australia in lasting ways, strengthened PWDA and changed our world for the better. I wish them happy travels in the next stages of their lives and careers.



Christina Ryan Disability Leadership Institute

What an astonishing ride! Its been a real privilege to be part of the wider group of people who have worked alongside Therese and Matt over the last 2 decades. I've always valued the collaborative and supportive way they have approached colleagues in the disability community, contributing to us all being part of a broad, wild, ragtag and ratbag bunch of folk. Rather than compete, Therese and Matt chose collaboration and diversity, and that has made us all richer and stronger.

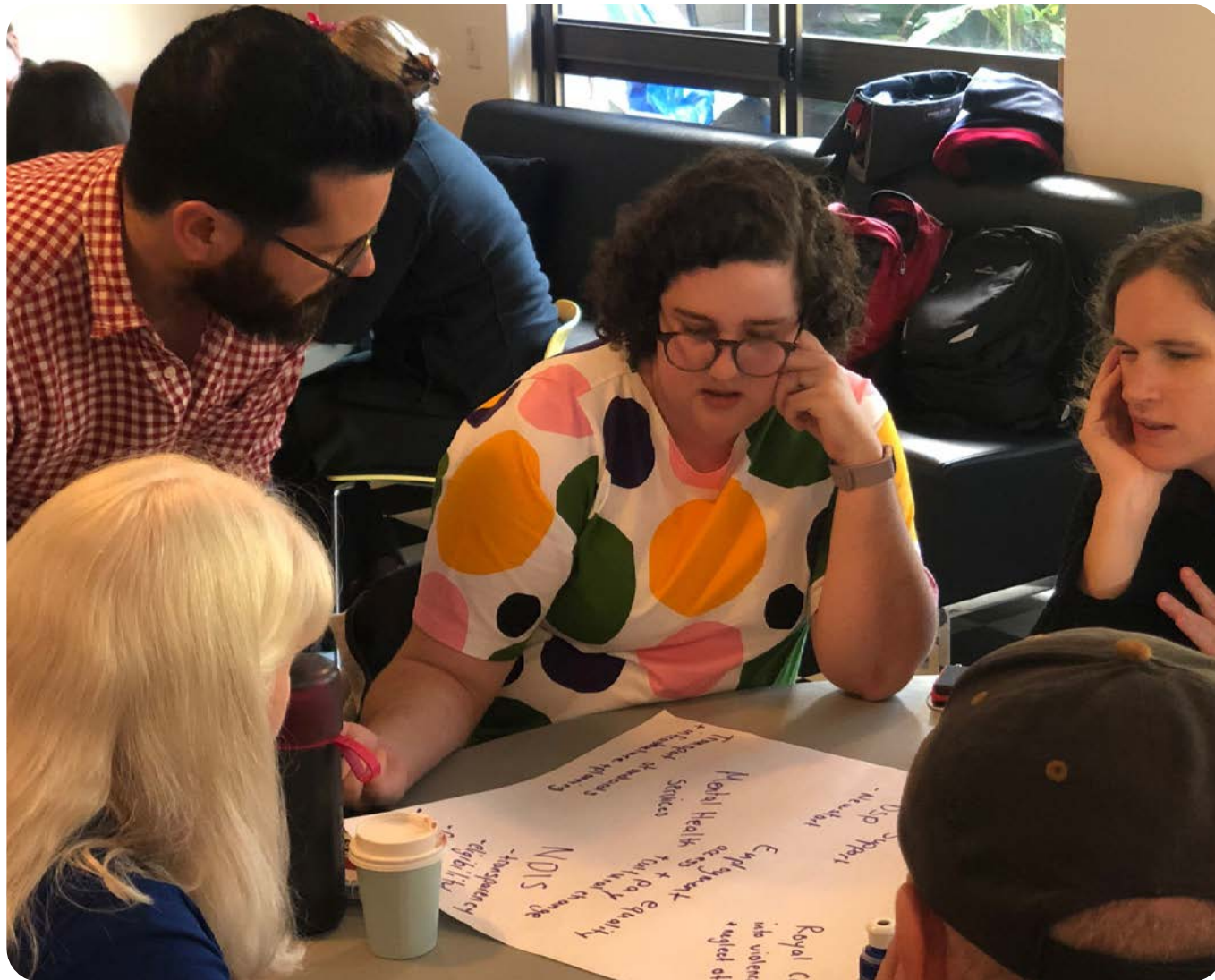
Thank you Therese for the outrageous number of unexpected phone calls and the outcomes delivered. Thanks for the generosity of being interviewed from the UN at the end of a very long day. Thanks for being part of the Disability Working Group that pulled together so many important contributions for Shadow reports on ICCPR, ICESCR, UPR and more (goodness, didn't we put the hard yards in there!). Thank you Matt for your gentleness, your live tweeting of the Royal Commission on child abuse (such a hard one), and your absolute insistence on intersectional folk joining in.

I'll miss you both enormously but will carry you and your wisdom with me always.

Bonnie Millien PWDA President 2016-2018

Matthew and Therese have been invaluable to PWDA and the wider disability movement for many years. As a PWDA member and past President, I have learnt so much from both of them and have enjoyed their mentorship and support over the years. They have built a solid, passionate and powerhouse organisation that is recognised for its passion and expertise nationally and internationally. They are absolute legends in what they do and will be missed.





Staff, interns, volunteers

PWDA staff work from our offices throughout NSW and QLD, with the central office based in Sydney, NSW. At the end of June 2019 the Sydney office relocated from Redfern to Surry Hills, a major undertaking requiring the support of many team members. The new office has sufficient space to accommodate our growing team as this year has seen a 50% growth in staff numbers across the organisation.

Co-CEOs:

- Matthew Bowden
- Therese Sands

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. Their work includes advocacy support to people with disability and managing key projects on disability rights and information, community outreach and redress. Team members included:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Alicia Bairle | • Allirra Honner |
| • Alison Champion | • Andrew Stensel |
| • David Skidmore | • Denise Robertson |
| • Dorothy Catts | • Elise Chapman |
| • Gareth Elliot | • Garry Oates |
| • Grace Stevenson | • Harriet Rochester |
| • Ilona Wildauer | • Jen Ruse |
| • Jessica Bell | • Karen Kobier |
| • Kien Tang | • Lee-Anne Pringle |
| • Leonie Hazelton | • Linda Rodrigues |
| • Linda Wiseham | • Lizzie Blue |
| • Luke Gale | • Margot McKnight |
| • Martin A'Bell | • Matthew Langman |
| • Mina Hunt | • Natalie Ross |

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Polly Seymour | • Rebecca Rongotaua |
| • Robin Turnham | • Shaana Dekker |
| • Shane Dillon | • Stephen Kilkeary |
| • Stephin Hargreave | • Sunil Fernando |
| • Tamanna Rahman | • Tanya Jovovic |
| • Ted Jensen | • Tracey Moffatt |



Systemic Advocacy:

Our systemic advocacy staff work on policy and law reform, government relations, training, disability-led research, community engagement and capacity building. Team members included:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| • Alexander Ford | • Ashleigh Ottaway |
| • Carolyn Tom | • Chloe Kearns |
| • Dean Price | • Elise Chapman |
| • Erin Foster | • Frances Quan Farrant |
| • Freya Higgins | • Giancarlo de Vera |
| • Kate Finch | • Kirsten Apps |
| • Meg Clement-Couzner | • Mel Harrison |
| • Meredith Lea | • Michelle Wernick |
| • Pamela Darling | • Pamela Dorsett |
| • Rhea Harding | • Romola Hollywood |
| • Samantha French | • Shailaja Menon |

Corporate Services:

The Corporate Services Team is the engine room of PWDA and operates out of the Sydney office. The Team covers everything to do with Governance and Compliance, Finance, People and Culture and Operations. Team members include:

- Andrew Emmerson • Karin Waldmann
- Leanne Wrightson • Maja Bulut
- Ngo Ha • Nisha Ezhilan
- Peter Darby • Puneet Chaudhary
- Stanja Buvac • Sue Strasser
- Uma Ramaprasad
- Zara Pamboukhtchian

Media and Communications:

The Media and Communications team are based in the Sydney office, and work remotely across NSW and Victoria. They work to get the word out about what PWDA is doing, and about the rights of people with disability through the website, media, social media and newsletters. Team members include:

- El Gibbs • Ben Crompton
- Maggie Korenblum • Naomi Chainey
- Kaitlyn Plyley • Rich Bowden
- Phuong Tran



Volunteers:

PWDA is fortunate to have many people willing to contribute their time and skills to build the capacity of our organisation. In 2018-2019 these included:

- Ce Liu • Nadarre Harkness
- David Urquhart • Annie Parkinson

Staff conference

The annual staff conference was held in Redfern in early June 2019. It was a great opportunity for staff from NSW and Queensland to come together, share their expertise, discuss opportunities and priorities, and collaborate on projects.

Some of the focus areas of the conference were:

- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Australian Centre for Disability Law
- Royal Commission overview and support sessions
- Project presentations
- PWDA research protocols and practices

Qantas Carer Concession Card

This year we continue our partnership with Qantas through the delivery of the Qantas Carer Concession Card program. We processed around 500 applications for the Cards that enable people with disability to receive discount flights for a support person. We thank Qantas for this valuable partnership.





Individual Advocacy – NSW and QLD

PWDA is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide individual advocacy to people with disability in New South Wales and Queensland. This support promotes the rights of people with disability and maximises our choice and control.

New South Wales

PWDA is funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) to provide individual and group advocacy to people with disability living in Assisted Boarding Houses (ABH) in that state.

An Individual Advocate assisted a person with disability who had been declined access to the NDIS. He has cancer. He was unaware of any community assistance and the Individual Advocate was able to refer him to a local community service, which provides a support worker to assist with home duties, access to the community and to ancillary health services. This was sufficient to meet his needs.

A focus of our Individual Advocacy work has been to restructure our ABH advocacy program to create a systemic oversight, reporting and follow-up process for the boarding houses that we visit in NSW. This allows Individual Advocates to identify and take advocacy action addressing critical concerns for people with disability such as financial exploitation, substandard health care, poor nutrition and a lack of community access. Individual Advocates also work with their PWDA Systemic Advocacy colleagues to progress these concerns to the relevant government authorities, for resolution.

The intake process for people with disability who want to access Individual Advocacy has now been incorporated within the Wayfinder Hub Project. Through email or phone contact, people with disability seeking this invaluable support can be quickly allocated to an Individual Advocate or receive warm referrals to other, more relevant services. Further, our streamlined intake process increases the self-advocacy skills of people with disability by providing us with practical information about our issues and how to resolve them.

Many people with disability who contact PWDA for support have been or still are impacted by violence. To assist Individual Advocates enhance their understanding of violence and their reactions to it, PWDA has engaged a trauma specialist to facilitate monthly group supervision sessions. Individual Advocates come together to learn about how trauma affects people with disability and how they can improve their skills in responding to survivors.

Queensland

A main focus this year has been the implementation of the Queensland Human Rights Act which has given us another tool to use in our advocacy. It has been heartening to see some service providers embracing the Act and changing their policies to be consistent with the new legislation.

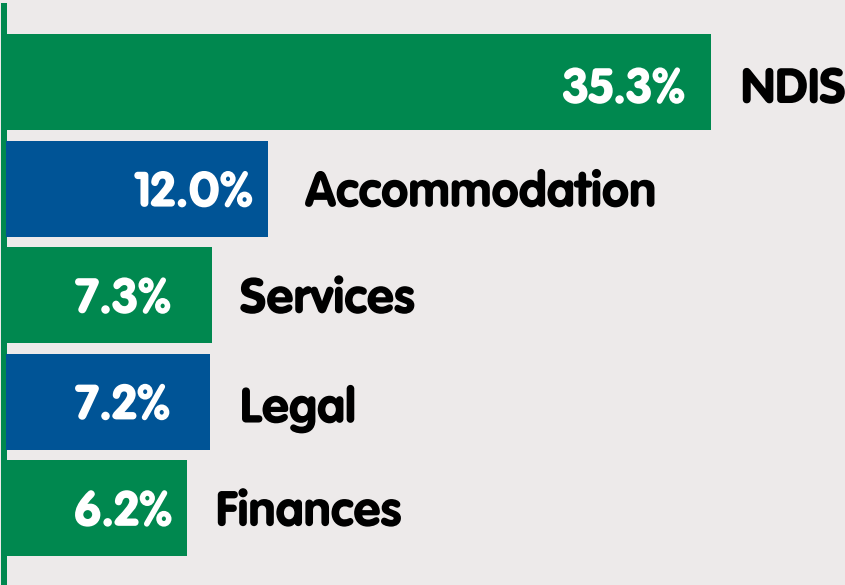
An Individual Advocate assisted a person with disability living in a small country town. This person has a psychosocial disability. He had been given insufficient notice to quit his tenancy and his landlord also withheld his bond. The Individual Advocate was able to assist him in getting his bond back and secure new housing.

Queensland offices have consistently worked at capacity with each year bringing more complex situations in the lives of people with disability. Advocates are instrumental in responding to situations of violence, abuse and neglect against people with disability and primary issues work on this year have been, access to justice, responding to child sexual assault, removal of children from parents with disability, guardianship and NDIS eligibility and plan reviews.

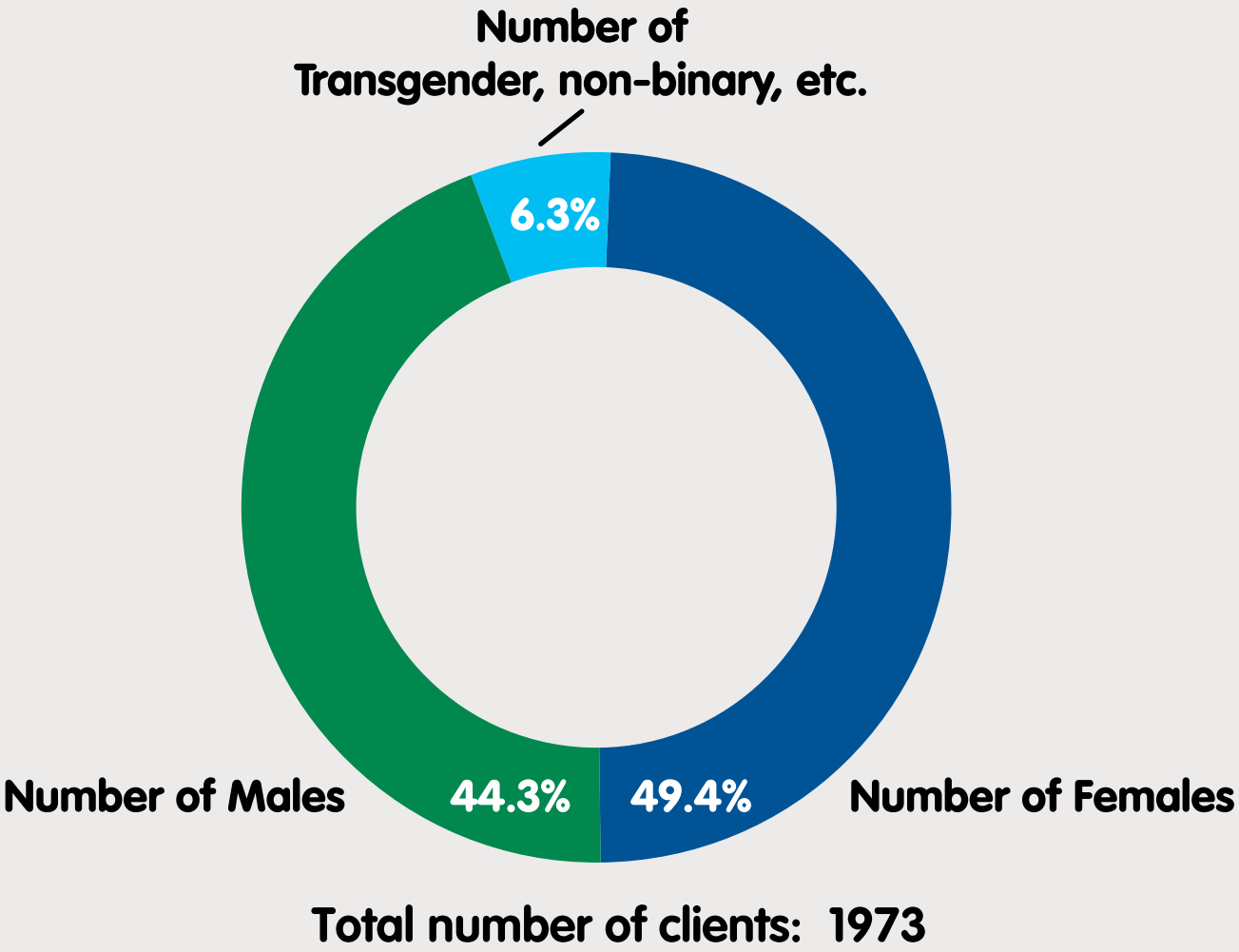
In November the PWDA Queensland Advocates met face-to-face. This is particularly important as most of the advocates work alone and at a distance from their colleagues. The meeting enabled the team to share expertise and hear from speakers on contemporary disability rights issues.

A person with disability was supported by an Individual Advocate to secure a social housing transfer to a more accessible home. The client had initially applied for a transfer via her community housing provider, with support from her NDIS Support Coordinator. However, his transfer request was lost by the community housing provider. With the support of an Individual Advocate, she secured an appropriate, accessible social housing property.

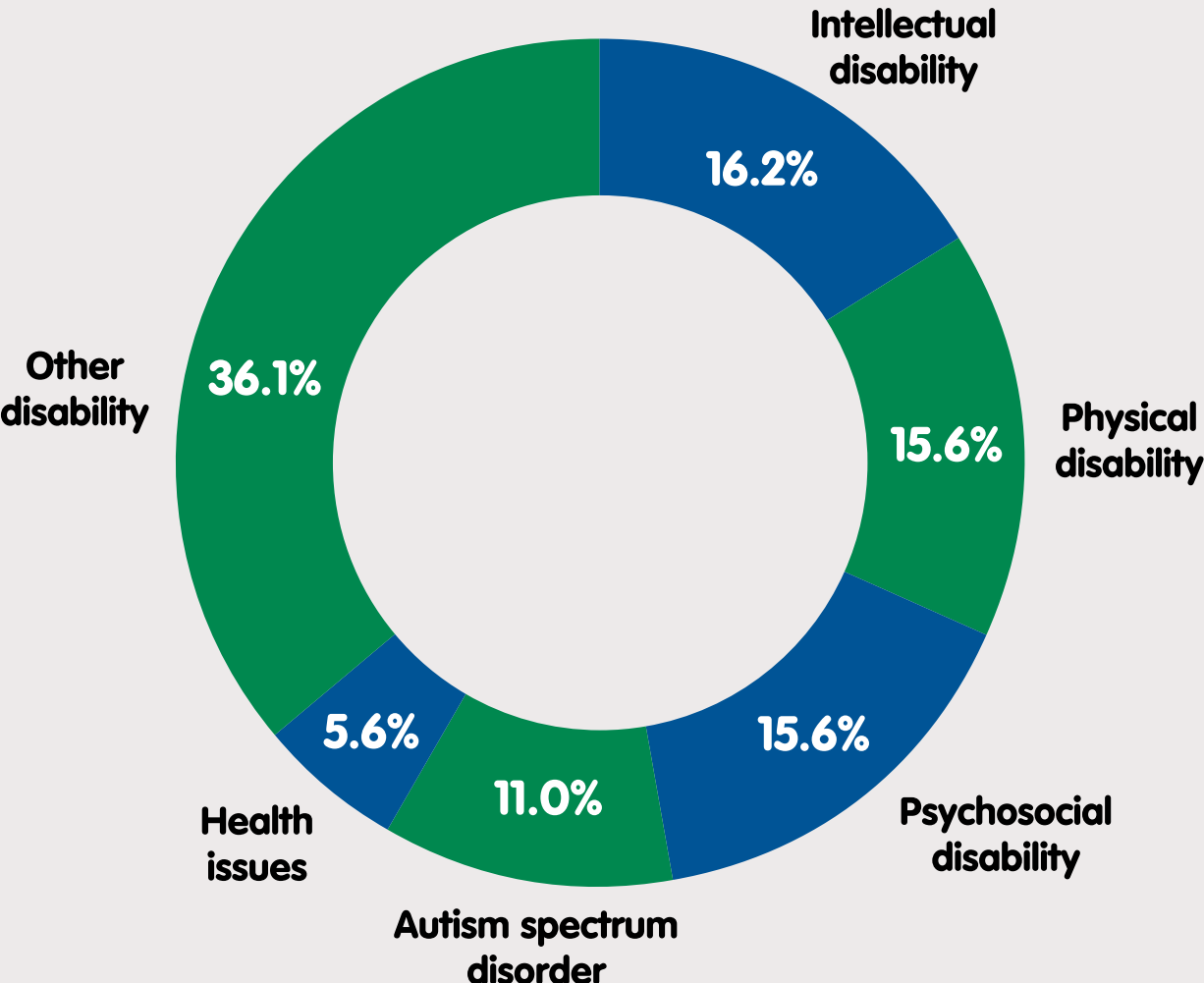
Key Complaint Types (%)

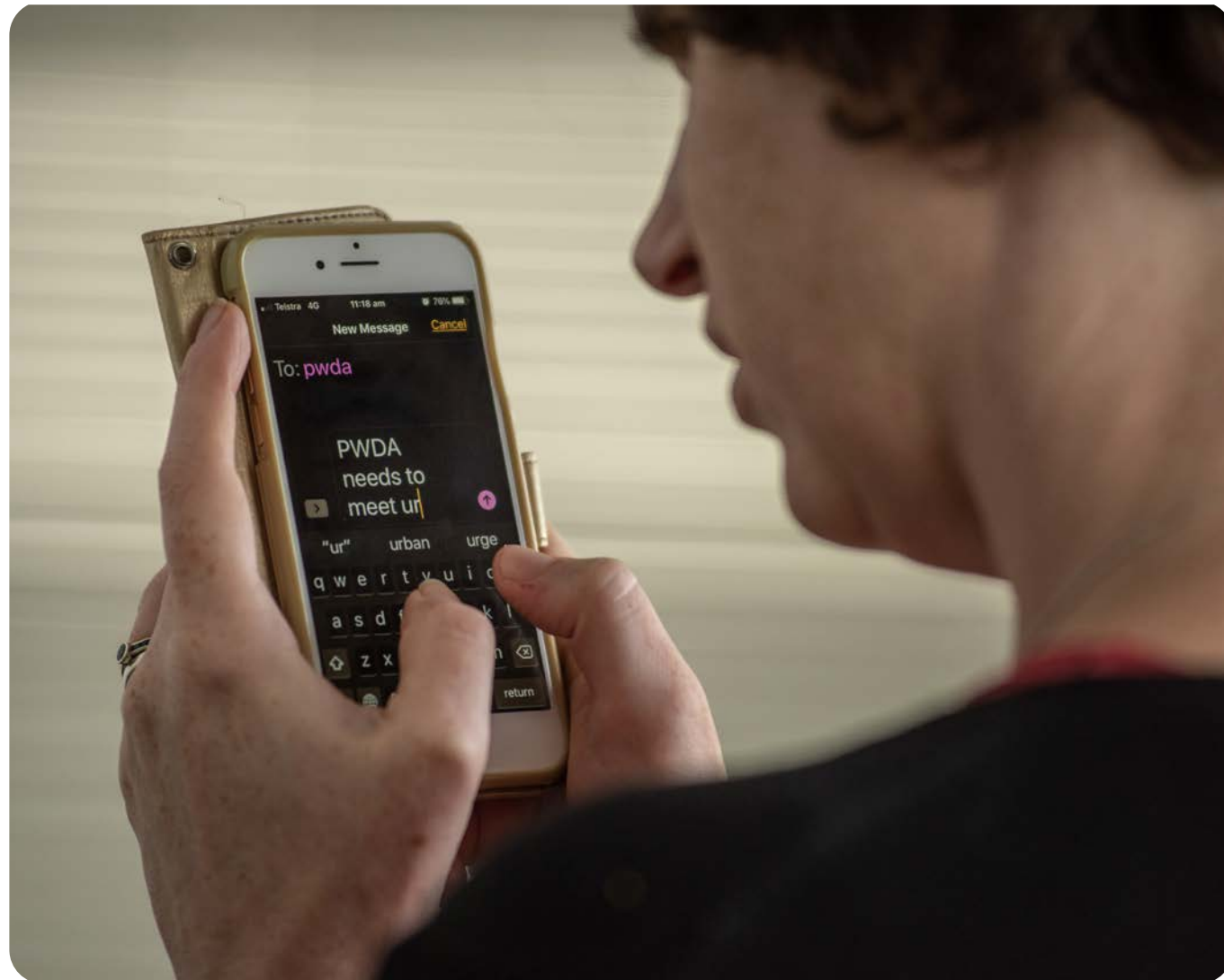


Individual advocacy stats



Main Disability Type (%)





Individual Advocacy Projects



Wayfinder Hub

The Wayfinder Hub gives people with disability, their families and supporters across Australia easy access to information, advice and referrals needed to understand choices, link to appropriate supports and make informed decisions in order to live an equal and ordinary life, in the community.

The Wayfinder Hub is available via phone, email or internet chat for assistance on any aspect of disability information.

This year, the Wayfinder Hub recruited new staff, and several existing PWDA staff members joined the Wayfinder Hub.

A Project Advisory Group (PAG) was established through an expression of interest call out to PWDA members. Fifteen members from across Australia were appointed to the Wayfinder Hub PAG and they share their expertise and knowledge and guide the development of the Wayfinder Hub.

A specialist website designer was engaged to build the Wayfinder Hub website, and we completed a significant telecommunications upgrade that allows our new contact centre to be capture call data automatically.

The Wayfinder Hub developed strong branding that has been incorporated in marketing and promotional materials. These promotional items were distributed across the country at events to provide people with disability with information about the Wayfinder Hub project and how it can help. We attended a number of expos and events in Sydney and regional Queensland.

The Wayfinder Hub is funded through a National Disability Insurance Agency Information, Linkage and Capacity Building grant.



Enable In NSW

Enable In works with people with disability who without support from this project may not find out about or be able to engage with the NDIS. The project is working to make the NDIS process more accessible for specific communities of people with disability.

To guide the Enable In project we established a Project Advisory Group constituted by people with disability with expertise in linking people who are marginalised with services and supports.

This year we focused on providing NDIS information and support to people with disability who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and people with psychosocial disability. Very positive engagement has been achieved with via Peer Support Groups where trust and rapport is built with the Enable In team.

Consultations with people with disability have identified the barriers and challenges to navigating the NDIS processes. Many people with disability don't know about the NDIS, and those that do can find it to be a daunting and complicated system. People are unaware of key NDIS concepts and processes such as eligibility, access, pre-planning and planning.

There are many challenges associated with engaging with and building trust with new services when people with disability are homeless, or have psychosocial disability because of their previous traumatic experience with services.

The project this year started three Peer Support Groups in Sydney, which are informal settings where people with disability can come and meet others, talk about their current supports, and share experiences with peers to help them connect with services as they need. Enable In project staff share general information about NDIS and relevant mainstream support information and can offer individualised support where needed, particularly where there are no other existing services.

We have worked in collaboration with a large number of organisations throughout NSW including the National Disability Insurance Agency, The Salvation Army, Uniting Local Area Coordination, Independent Community Living Australia Project Embark and the Rough Edges Café.

We have also conducted outreach with services working with people with disability, such as St Vincent de Paul Society Family Services, Legal Aid, primary health networks, ACON, Care Leavers Australia Network, Positive Life, Blue Knot Foundation, various local governments, neighbourhood centres, libraries, hospital mental health teams, New Horizons mental health peer support groups and many others.

The Enable In project is funded through a National Disability Insurance Agency Information, Linkages and Capacity Building grant.



NSW Disability Housing Information and Advocacy Services

The NSW Disability Housing Information Line and the Disability Housing Advocacy Service projects aim to assist people with disability living in group homes and units who have funding through the NDIS Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) system.

The Information Line provides information and advice to people living in SDA housing, their supporters and housing providers. The Advocacy Service works to resolve any disputes involving people with disability and their housing providers.

The recruitment for the Disability Housing Advocacy Manager and the Information and Referral Officer was completed. A wide range of communication material was designed and printed, including brochures, posters, postcards, wallet cards, magnets, and web graphics to provide information on the Advocacy Service and the Information Line.

The Project Team has done extensive consultation with a wide variety of groups across NSW, such as the NSW Ombudsman, National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), the NSW Trustee and Guardian, and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission raise awareness of our new services.

We've also sent information to over 70 SDA housing providers in NSW, some of which have come to our office for face-to-face meetings and presentations. The Project Team has also participated in several community forums organised by SDA providers.

This project is funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services.

NDIS Appeals Advocacy and Information

PWDA runs a popular and high demand NDIS appeals training, advocacy and information service for people with disability across NSW and Queensland. This program provides assistance to people with disability who have concerns regarding decisions made by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) about their access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or content of their NDIS Plan. We provide independent advice and support to help people seek a review or appeal of NDIS decisions. We provide support for internal and external reviews.

The PWDA NDIS Appeals team also provides training about the processes of reviews and promotes self-advocacy for people with disability accessing NDIS.

Our individual advocacy service is in very high demand both in Queensland and NSW. We have directly worked with 434 people with disability who have NDIS plans in the last year and have trained more than 250 people with disability.

This service is extremely important to people with disability who face the biggest barriers when they are trying to negotiate the NDIS. Without our advocacy, many people with disability would not have enough support or would not even have access to the NDIS.

A person with disability had been waiting for 15 months to find out if he was eligible for the NDIS, and was in danger of becoming homeless. PWDA helped the person with disability get access to the NDIS and get the supports they needed and keep their housing.

A young person with disability, who came to Australia as a refugee from Afghanistan, was diagnosed with intellectual disability, and in need of communication support. However, she only received a small NDIS package of \$19,000 which was totally insufficient to provide the necessary supports she needed. PWDA assisted the family to complete a review which increased the plan substantially to \$98,000, and was able to connect the young person with disability with Dari speaking support workers and she regularly volunteers at a local care centre. With the right supports in place, she is also now learning how to communicate with assistive technology.

A woman with disability, diagnosed with Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, was declined access to the NDIS. PWDA was able to assist with a review of the decision and helped to gather the necessary evidence for her to be granted access. She received a \$135,000 plan for core supports and therapies and additional funds were provided for vehicle modifications, a hoist and home modifications.

A person with disability came to PWDA after attending a PWDA reviews and appeals training session. Her supports had been significantly underfunded in her NDIS plan. She believed she was misrepresented at her planning meeting and that her functional needs were not taken into account for her to live independently and to reach her goals. She submitted a change of circumstances as her funding was going to run out. A planning meeting was scheduled with the NDIS, which she felt was positive and her needs were heard. This was reflected in the new NDIS plan which increased her funding from \$130,000 to over \$300,000. She is very happy with her current plan and is now able to work towards achieving her personal goals.

NDIS Appeals Information Sessions

We have been running free information sessions about self-advocacy and NDIS reviews and appeals across the entire state of QLD and parts of NSW. These sessions provide people with disability with useful information to help navigate the review and appeals processes.

We have developed a comprehensive information package to support participants and feedback from the sessions has been overwhelmingly positive. These sessions have been vital in helping people with disability “fill in the gaps” of an otherwise complex and daunting NDIS system.

The sessions also highlight the ongoing need for timely and relevant information to be shared with people with disability.

National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme has been set up to acknowledge and recognise the sexual abuse many people, including people with disability, experienced as children in institutions. It was set up by the Australian Government in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. PWDA participated in the Redress Advisory Council that informed the government on the design of the scheme.

The National Redress Scheme is one way for people to get recognition for the harms they experienced.

PWDA provides confidential and free support to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse with disability, who are considering applying for Redress across Australia.

This year, Individual Advocates provided direct information and support to people with disability interested in seeking Redress located in Victoria, Queensland and NSW.

PWDA researched and developed accessible information for people with disability about the National Redress Scheme, and provided advice to the Australian Government about making information accessible. We maintained relationships and networks with other Redress Support Services and participated in National forums and conferences.

We worked with stakeholders across governments and organisations to advocate for people with disability who are accessing the National Redress Scheme.



Our representation and systemic advocacy work aims to ensure that people with disability have a ‘voice’ in key decision-making mechanisms and in law and policy development and implementation. We strive to achieve fundamental positive change to social structures and processes in order to eliminate marginalisation and disadvantage, discrimination, exclusion, and all forms of violence, neglect and exploitation.

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

NSW

In 2018-2019, PWDA continued our role as the NSW peak cross-disability organisation providing information, advice and representation of and for people with disability across the state.

We are active members of a number of NSW Government committees and advisory groups where we advocate for disability rights, inclusion and accessibility. We made a number of submissions to inquiries and consultation processes across a broad range of policy areas including inclusive education, NSW disability support and the NDIS, juvenile and criminal justice, child protection, guardianship law and policy, mental health law and policy, accessible transport, accessible housing, tenancy rights, deinstitutionalisation, human rights and violence prevention and response.

PWDA works collaboratively with a range of NSW disability representative and advocacy organisations to coordinate campaigns and projects to progress the rights of people with disability in NSW.

Representation and Systemic Advocacy





Stand By Me

PWDA and other disability advocacy, information and representation organisations in NSW formed the NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance to run the Stand By Me campaign. The NSW Government plans to cut funding for disability representation, advocacy and information in 2020, so Stand By Me is a campaign to fight for the continued funding to ensure our organisations can continue to protect and uphold the rights of people with disability in NSW.

The Stand By Me campaign has focussed on building and coordinating grassroots support as well as engaging with members of parliament and candidates in the lead up to the NSW State election in March 2019.

In order to highlight the role of representation, advocacy and information, PWDA and other members of the NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance developed comprehensive submissions, and appeared at the public hearings for the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry, "Implementation of the National Disability

Insurance Scheme and the provision of disability services in New South Wales". The campaign also produced the report, "The Gaps are Getting Bigger for People with Disability in NSW".

In the lead up to the NSW election, Stand By Me held a very successful public rally, including a speech from PWDA President David Abello. We told stories of why advocacy and representation for and with people with disability was so important. We showed why commitment from all political parties to permanent funding was needed.

After the NSW election, Stand By Me continued to build our relationships with members of parliament, including the new Minister for Families and Communities and Disability Services the Hon. Gareth Ward MP, to highlight the important role of the information, advocacy and representation funding.

PWDA will continue to campaign for people with disability in NSW to have a representative voice and advocacy support to ensure inclusion and full participation in all aspects of community life.

NSW State Election

PWDA launched our 2019 State Election platform calling on all political parties to get serious about our inclusion in the NSW community. Our platform was distributed widely to members of parliament and election candidates.

The key policy areas we focused on were:

- Housing, jobs and transport
- Realising inclusion
- Stopping violence, getting justice

As part of the NSW Election activities, we also participated in the Stand By Me campaign about disability advocacy and representative organisation funding.

The full policy platform is available on our website:

<https://pwd.org.au/our-work/elections/election-archive/nsw-election-2019/>



National

PWDA continued to engage across multiple policy areas as part of our national representative and systemic advocacy work. In 2018-2019, our focus areas included:

- Implementation of the NDIS
- Employment support including pathways into open employment and wage justice
- Preventing and responding to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Infrastructure and communications accessibility
- Access to justice
- Human rights implementation and monitoring

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 work involved joint campaigns as well as making submissions, appearing at inquiry hearings, providing expert disability advice and information, participating on Government advisory and reference committees, and lobbying politicians.

PWDA participated in the 2019 Federal election releasing a comprehensive policy platform and engaging with political parties. We were again in Canberra for the Federal Budget in April 2019, providing expert analysis and media commentary.

Fixing the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

PWDA joined with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) to call on the Australian Government to amend the reasonable adjustment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). This followed a Federal Court decision, known as the Sklavos case, that makes it harder, if not nearly impossible for people with disability to make a discrimination claim about denial of reasonable accommodation under the DDA.

Our calls for change were endorsed by 30 disability advocacy and representative organisations, legal organisations and members of the Australian Discrimination Law Experts Group (ADLEG).

In March 2019, we spoke at a roundtable at the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law at Monash University about these issues with the DDA. Work commenced on drafting the necessary amendments and asking the Australian Parliament to act to fix the DDA. Our collective advocacy for change to the DDA continues.

Making the NDIS work for us

PWDA continued our advocacy to make the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) work effectively and equitably for people with disability. We consistently raised issues that people with disability experience every day in getting the essential supports they need.

PWDA represents people with disability, including on behalf of Disabled People's Organisations Australia, on the following consultative forums and groups:

- NDIS Independent Advisory Council
- NDIA CEO Forum
- NDIS Specialist Disability Accommodation Reference Group

Federal Election

PWDA launched its 2019 Federal Election platform following a member survey and broad consultation with people with disability, including our colleagues in Disabled People's Organisations Australia (DPO Australia). PWDA asked all political parties to respond to our election issues.

The Federal Election platform covered the following issues:

- NDIS
- Jobs
- Social security
- Preventing violence

The full platform is available on our website: <https://pwd.org.au/our-work/elections/election-archive/federal-election-2019/>



DPO Australia

Disabled People's Organisations Australia (DPO Australia) is an alliance of four national cross disability and population specific organisations - PWDA, First People's Disability Network (FPDN), National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) and Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA).

PWDA, on behalf of DPO Australia continued to represent people with disability on the following Government reference and advisory groups in 2018-2019:

- Disability Employment Services (DES) reform groups
 - DES Transition Reference Group
 - DES Performance Review Reference Group
 - DES Assessment Reference Group.
- Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (DIRD) National Accessible Public Transport Advisory Committee (NAPTAC)
- Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT) Modernisation Committee (DCM) and associated sub-committee.
- National Disability Strategy (NDS) Reform Steering Group
- Independent Advisory Council (IAC) to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)

PWDA, on behalf of DPO Australia also convened several working group meetings to begin the process of preparing the CRPD Civil Society Shadow Report for the UN review of Australia. The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) reviews countries on their implementation of the CRPD, and civil society can provide information to the Committee to ensure that the views of people with disability are heard.

The Working Group is made up of DPOs, disability representative and advocacy

organisations, and its work in 2018-2019 focused on gathering the views of people with disability, primarily through a survey that provided significant information on the state of disability rights in Australia; and producing a draft report. The CRPD Committee will review Australia in September 2019.

A key highlight was the Government announcement of the establishment of a Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, which DPO Australia had been campaigning for many years.



Royal Commission

After many years of campaigning, the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability was announced by Prime Minister Scott Morrison in April 2019, with a budget of \$527 million dollars over five years, the largest amount ever allocated to a Royal Commission. The Commissioners are required to provide an interim report no later than 30 October 2020, and a final report by no later than 29 April 2022.

PWDA, as part of DPO Australia assisted in establishing the 2015 *Senate Inquiry into Violence, Abuse and Neglect against People with Disability* which first recommended the Royal Commission, and which gave weight to our campaign for a Royal Commission.

Once announced, DPO Australia provided input and feedback on the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission to ensure that it would be a comprehensive Commission that covers all forms of violence, in all settings for all people with disability.

When the Government announced the final budget, terms of reference and panel of Commissioners, DPO Australia welcomed the announcement despite our reservations regarding the conflicts of interest of two of the Commissioners. DPO Australia publicly expressed concerns and collaborated with other disability representative and advocacy organisations to release a joint statement that was endorsed by over 100 organisations and 70 individuals.

PWDA will continue to advocate for a strong Royal Commission that provides the justice and redress for all people with disability and for adequate resources for people with disability to be supported to engage with the Royal Commission.





Systemic Advocacy Projects

Creating Access



Creating Access NSW

The Creating Access project is a joint project between PWDA and Youth Action, the peak body for young people and youth services in NSW. It is a one year project that aims to build the capacity of the youth sector in NSW to be responsive, inclusive and accessible to young people with disability.

Throughout 2018-2019, we have consulted with both young people with disability on the barriers they have experienced when accessing youth services, and youth workers on how confident they are working with young people with disability. We have also been working with seven diverse youth services across NSW to review the accessibility of their organisations, and to implement changes to work towards best practice. The youth services have also participated in Disability Awareness training facilitated by PWDA.

The project will finish in late 2019, with the launch of a toolkit of resources to be shared across NSW for both young people and youth services.

Creating Access is funded under the NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program.

Building Access NSW

The Building Access project has continued throughout 2018-2019 to work actively with ten Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) services throughout NSW to build their capacity to become more accessible and inclusive to women and children with disability.

PWDA continues to raise awareness in the DFV sector broadly, through workshops, presentations, and conferences, and works intensively with the organisations involved in the project to ensure that safe, respectful services are provided to women and children with disability who need support from a DFV service.

Some of the ways PWDA have worked towards these outcomes include:

- facilitating quarterly Community of Practice (CoP) and Expert Advisory Group (EAG) meetings
- performing initial audits and recommendation reports
- following up on recommendations and Disability Inclusion Action Plans (DIAPS) from services who have completed audits
- delivering Disability Awareness and NDIS training to three services of 64 participants
- presenting on the aims and outcomes of the project at the 2018 Domestic Violence NSW conference and the Safer Families conference in Victoria
- delivering a workshop at the Specialist Homeless Services Domestic Violence Community of Practice
- recruited several organisations for future years of the project.

PWDA also developed a comprehensive Program Logic and Evaluation Framework in preparation for the Interim Evaluation Report for the project.

Building Access is funded by the NSW Government.

Healthy and Respectful Relationships Training

PWDA was funded to develop and deliver a program of peer information and education sessions on healthy and respectful relationships for women with intellectual disability across key areas of NSW. This two year project was based on a co-design peer led model, where women with disability developed and delivered all aspects of the program.

The healthy and respectful relationships training sessions concluded in May this year. Over two years, (July 2017 – May 2019) the project developed material to train peer educators on what makes healthy and respectful relationships. These peer educators then led information and education sessions for other women with intellectual

disability. The sessions were successfully held in Wollongong, Campbelltown and Nowra in NSW.

The program outlined what makes a relationship healthy or unhealthy. By providing more information and knowledge about healthy and respectful relationships the program aimed to empower women with intellectual disability to better understand their own relationships.

Feedback from participants who attended the sessions was very positive. Many women said that they felt more confident about speaking up for themselves. Other women said that after the sessions they had a better idea of what a healthy and respectful relationship looked like.

This project was funded by a Women NSW Innovation Grant.





Training and Research

Training

PWDA continued to deliver our popular and high quality training to people with disability, service providers, family members and members of the community. PWDA provided training to 720 people with eight different training packages across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

PWDA's training is provided on a fee for service basis, or free for many organisations involved in the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Assault, Youth Action, NDIS Appeals or through the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund.

Our primary team of trainers are all people with disability and we recruit other trainers with disability to present with us.

This year, PWDA:

- became a trainer for Our Watch for two training packages: *Workplace Equality and Respect* and *Putting the prevention of violence against women into practice: how to Change the Story*.
- worked with the Australian Centre for Disability Law (ACDL) to present an information session around disability discrimination law and other general disability law.
- developed a disability awareness training specific for mediators working with people with disability living in specialist disability accommodation.
- trained Lifeline Domestic Violence Alert staff on disability awareness and consulted on the development of their disability awareness e-learning package.

Disability, Advocacy and Policy
5 were trained

Disability Awareness
400 were trained

Facilitating Access for Clients with Disability
400 were trained

NDIS, Advocacy, Reviews and Appeals Information Sessions
130 were trained

NDIS and Advocacy training
64 were trained

Responding to Sexual Assault
24 were trained

Sexuality and Respectful Relationships
48 were trained

Healthy and Respectful Relationships Peer Educator
24 were trained



Testimonials

From: *Bonita Stevens, Head Teacher Special Education, Dubbo College Senior Campus*

PWDA provided a safe environment for the students to engage through learning and discussion with effective feedback and redirection strategies to support knowledge and understanding surrounding respectful relationships for young people, identified risk factors and support mechanisms to provide strategies.

The young people who attended were presented with creative activities at an age and stage appropriate level to engage them and build upon their existing knowledge base. A valuable program and exceptional delivery of information inclusive for all.



From: *Antonia Georgas, Sessional Trainer*

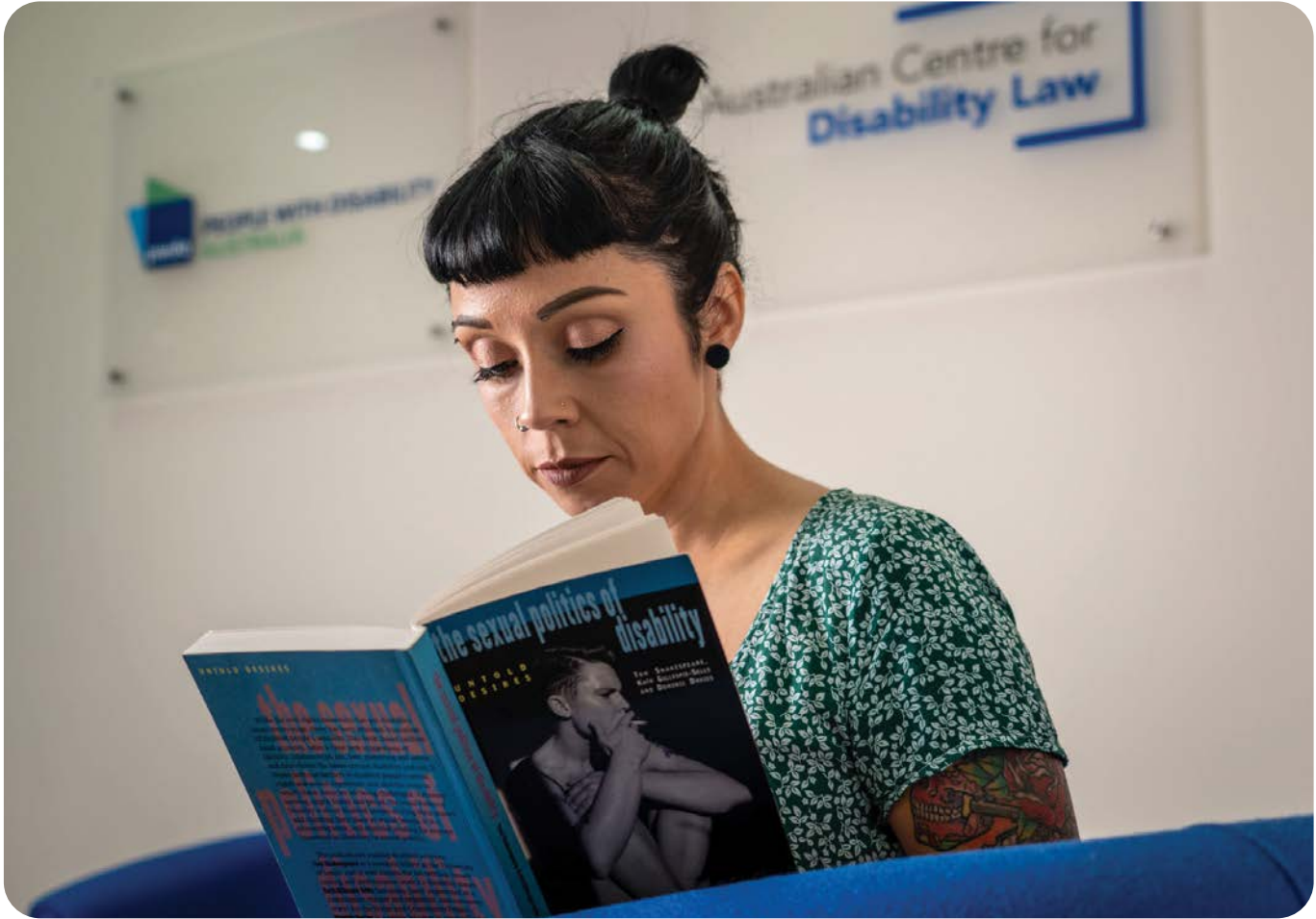
I have been facilitating Disability awareness training and NDIS training with PWDA for over a year now and can tell how much people gain out of the training, not only from their feedback, but also the comments made throughout the sessions.

In the disability awareness training most participants are non-disabled and there are many things that we teach them to be aware of when it comes to interacting with people with disability that they've never considered previously. However, after the training is complete it all seems to make sense to them and they feel more confident when dealing with people with disability. This is truly very satisfying as their trainer, knowing that I am bridging the gap between people with disability and non-disabled people.

The NDIS training leaves not only the participants very reassured about how to continue to manage the process. People are definitely more confident in proceeding with the NDIS than when they first entered the training session.

From: *Mark Patrick, Managing Principal Solicitor, Australian Centre for Disability Law*

PWDA delivers an extensive training package on Disability Awareness within workplaces and services. We complement PWDA's training by working in partnership to deliver information on disability discrimination and other areas of law relevant to people with disability including the NDIS. We have worked together in a wide variety of settings, such as local government, community organisations and youth services.



Research

PWDA has been actively involved in a range of research activities that align with our Inclusive Research Protocols over the past year. We support inclusive research that is led by and driven by people with disability. We ensure that the voice of people with disability is heard in research and that our voice helps drive research that benefits our daily lives.

PWDA provides expert advice to universities and other agencies on the experiences of people with disability. We make sure that the social model of disability is part of any research project that we support. We also make sure that researchers understand and include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and that the human rights of people with disability are respected in research.

We have been involved in the following projects over the past 12 months.

As an expert advisor, PWDA sits on the Centre for Excellence in Disability Health Advisory Panel. We meet four times a year to discuss ongoing research projects related to the health of people with disability.

In active research, PWDA is currently working with the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Social Policy Research Centre on an upcoming journal article about the digital economy and work for people with disability.

PWDA joined the advisory group of a new Queensland based research project on the complex interfaces of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). This project is being led by Griffith University and UNSW Social Policy Research Centre.

We provided expert consultation to the University of Sydney, School of Public Health for a new course on disability. This course will begin in 2020.

PWDA also supports the work of the University of Melbourne Social Equity Institute and its co-research model. We provide expert consultation to the Institute on a fee for service basis for projects related to people with disability. In 2018, we gave advice on how people with disability buy mobile phones as part of a project on accessible telecommunication.

In partnership with University of Sydney Centre for Disability Research and Policy, PWDA coordinated and facilitated a workshop in Sydney focused on community led research for DPO representatives from Indonesia.

International Work

PWDA continues to represent people with disability at regional and international levels through our engagement with the United Nations and networks with our sister Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs).

Our international work aims to deliver against all of PWDA's Strategic Directions:

- advocacy on the rights of people with disability;
- capacity-building and empowerment;
- effective representation, capacity-building and sector development.

We do this work by participating in consultations and at conferences, hosting public events and speaking at seminars, making submissions on topics of key concern, and supporting people with disability to have our voices heard and to build leadership and representational skills.

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



Participation in the Fifth Session of the United Nations Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022

PWDA currently holds the elected position as Vice Chair of *Asia-Pacific Disabled Persons Organisations United (DPO United)*, a grass-roots regional DPO network. We represented DPO United at the annual meeting of the UN Working Group for the Asia-Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, held at UN Regional Headquarters in Bangkok in February 2019.

Some of the key issues discussed at the meeting included:

- Composition and workplan of the UN Working Group for the next five years, with particular focus on the key role of DPOs;
- Strategies for collection of evidence-based data for monitoring implementation of the CRPD;
- Strategies for addressing accessibility of the physical environment, public transportation and communication and information in the region;
- Resourcing to ensure genuine engagement of DPOs in implementation of the CRPD and Sustainable Development Goals;
- Input to a Working Paper on Disability Inclusive Procurement Policies in the Government Sector.

12th Session of the United Nations Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the CRPD

PWDA, on behalf of DPO Australia, coordinated the participation of people with disability at the COSP meeting in June 2019. We worked collaboratively with the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) to conduct preparatory workshops and ensure activities were coordinated throughout the COSP.

The annual conference brings together countries that have ratified the UN CRPD and representatives from DPOs and civil society organisations to discuss implementation of the CRPD.

The theme of this year's COSP was *"Ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in a changing world through the implementation of the CRPD"*, and the three subthemes were:

1. Technology, digitalisation and ICTs for the empowerment and inclusion of persons with disabilities
2. Social inclusion and the right of the highest attainable standard of health
3. Inclusion of persons with disabilities in society through participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports

PWDA, on behalf of DPO Australia hosted a side event - Inclusion of Indigenous persons with disability in society through participation in cultural life. This side-event explored how CRPD obligations apply to the specific situation of Indigenous Peoples with disability and how these obligations are reinforced by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons.

PWDA also made a number of statements during the formal meetings, including one by Vice-President Paige Burton on the need to include children and young people with disability in decision-making that affects their lives.

Regional engagement and capacity building

PWDA is committed to supporting the growth and development of our sister Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in the Asia Pacific Region. We work to ensure that regional human rights, humanitarian aid 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 and youth, 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.

Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)

PWDA remains an active member of the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), a regional DPO network that works to build the capacity of DPOs, strengthen self-representation and improve the lives of people with disability in the Pacific through advocacy and capacity-building.

In 2018, PWDA was re-elected onto the PDF Board for an initial two year term to June 2020. PWDA has actively participated in various governance roles, including regular Board and Sub-Committee meetings for:

- Pacific Women with Disabilities Committee (elected member since 2009)
- Membership Committee (elected Chair since Aug 2018)
- Finance Committee (elected member since Aug 2018)
- Policy Committee (elected member since Aug 2018)
- Human Resources Committee (elected member since Aug 2019)

Additionally, PWDA participated in the PDF bi-annual *Pacific Regional Conference on Disability*, held in Nadi, Fiji from 25 Feb to 1 March 2019 in our capacity as a Board member and as on-going member of the PDF Women's Committee. During the conference PWDA facilitated a panel session on '*Mainstreaming Disability: Regional and International Frameworks*' and a Workshop on *Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Management*.

Sustainable Development Goals and the Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (APRCM)

The Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Organisations Engagement Mechanism for the Sustainable Development Goals (APRCM) has been set up by non-government civil society organisations (CSOs), including DPOs, in collaboration with the United Nations to facilitate engagement and collaboration to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During 2018 the APRCEM membership undertook elections for a new Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC), which is made up of 5 Sub Region Focal Point representatives and 17 'Constituency' Focal Points, which includes the 'Disability Constituency' representing people with disability across the Asia-Pacific Region.

PWDA is working closely with sister DPOs in the Asia-Pacific and the UN to establish a more formalised network of DPOs to engage with the UN activities around the SDGs and to provide input to the APRCEM processes.

As part of our role on the APRCEM, PWDA participated in several high level regional forums on sustainable development, which were convened and supported by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia-Pacific (UNESCAP), held in Bangkok, Thailand in March 2019.

This included:

- Asia-Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD)
- Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (AFPSD)

The APPFSD and the AFPSD are the key platforms for bringing together governments and Civil Society Organisations to review progress with implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Asia-Pacific Region.

This year's sessions addressed the theme 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality' and reviewed:

Goal 4 on quality education, Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth, Goal 10 on reducing inequalities, Goal 13 on climate action, Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and Goal 17 on partnerships for the Goals and their inter-linkages. The Forums also reviewed progress of the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

PWDA will continue to support the SDG engagement mechanisms, with particular focus on facilitating ongoing engagement and representation of DPOs across the Asia-Pacific in the Post 2030 Agenda.



Disability watchdog fields 1,500 serious incident reports against NDIS participants in six months

Living on the disability pension: 'It's like the slow dimming of the light'

Budget savings have come at expense of people needing welfare support, advocates say

Disability Groups Slam Changes to DES Program

**Communications,
Media, Membership**

The 'unconscionable' state of Australia's train stations

Inclusive emoji update sees better representation of disability

This year we completed the transition to our new, more accessible website, including a comprehensive renewal and update of all web content plus significant investment in accessible content, such as Auslan and Easy English.

The PWDA homepage dynamically links to timely and useful content, driven by our member engagement and current activities and events. We average over 40,000 web visitors each month.

PWDA posts daily on Facebook a selection of news, our work in the media, scheduled program posts (such as highlighting web content or PWDA services) as well as informing people with disability of key developments in disability policy. Our posts have a consistent and strong engagement level, widely shared and commented on by people with disability.

PWDA posts daily on Twitter, including live Tweeting events such as Parliamentary inquiries or other disability-related activities. We participate in hashtag campaigns related to people with disability and post information of interest to people with disability. We built our followers by 1200 this year.

We also developed a new Instagram account this year to particularly engage with younger people with disability. This year, we increased our Facebook likes by over 2000, with consistent, strong engagement with our posts, including comments and shares.

PWDA News is published each fortnight to showcase what is happening across our organisation, as well as information of interest to members and supporters. This year, we developed an audio edition which is available on our website.

We also send out a Daily Media Round Up newsletter with a summary of the day's disability related news on weekdays.

PWDA has a strong media presence, as the national peak cross disability rights organisation. We have been in the media over 130 times talking about the importance of disability advocacy, the Royal Commission, housing, the NDIS, transport accessibility and even plastic straws and emojis!

PWDA has also produced a range of publications for our programs and projects that highlight the wide range of work that we do.

This year, our member survey had the strongest ever response, with members clearly interested and engaged in disability rights issues. Their concerns included:

- NDIS
- Income support/welfare
- Housing
- Accessibility
- Health
- Employment
- Violence/abuse

PWDA has had a steady increase in members this year, with individual memberships available for free for people with disability.



Financial Report

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA LTD
ABN 98 879 981 198

FINANCIAL REPORT - 30 JUNE 2019

DIRECTORS' REPORT

People With Disability Australia Ltd is registered as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital under the provisions of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The Directors present the report on People With Disability Australia Ltd for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

DIRECTORS

The names of and other information on the Directors in office during or since the end of the year are as follows. The Directors were in office for this entire period unless otherwise stated.

Name	Position	Date appointed
Current Directors		
David Abello	President	21 November 2018
Paige Burton	Vice President	21 November 2018
Jaci Armstrong	Treasurer	21 November 2018
Kristy Trajcevski	Secretary	21 November 2018
Karen Burgess	Board Director	21 November 2018
Hannah Solomon	Board Director	21 November 2018
Adam Hewber	Board Director	22 November 2017
Kevin Boyce	Board Director	22 November 2017
Directors who retired in 2018		
Bonnie Millen	President	23 November 2016
Brendan Pearce	Vice President	23 November 2016
Vanessa Fanning	Treasurer	23 November 2016
Jarad McLoughlan	Board Director	23 November 2016
Ebru Sumaktas	Board Director	23 November 2016

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

There were no significant changes in the nature of the activities during the year.

People with Disability Australia (PWDA):

- is a national disability rights and advocacy organisation;
- is made up of people with disability and organisations primarily constituted by people with disability;
- has a cross-disability focus; and
- is a non-profit, non-government organisation

OPERATING RESULT

The operating result of the company for the financial year was a deficit of \$61,470 (2018: surplus \$128,041).

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

The auditors' independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2019 has been received and can be found on the following page.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

David Abello
President

Jacinta Armstrong
Treasurer

12 October 2019

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA LTD
ABN 98 879 981 198

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE DIRECTORS OF
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA LTD

In accordance with the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as lead auditor for the audit of People With Disability Australia Ltd, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2019 there has been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

StewartBrown
Chartered Accountants

S.J. Hutcheon
Partner

12 October 2019

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA LTD
ABN 98 879 981 198

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	2,536,355	3,113,883
Trade and other receivables	7	276,619	112,027
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>2,812,974</u>	<u>3,225,910</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	466,478	94,159
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		<u>466,478</u>	<u>94,159</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>3,279,452</u>	<u>3,320,069</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	9	2,161,151	2,102,623
Employee benefits	10	732,775	770,450
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		<u>2,893,926</u>	<u>2,873,073</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>2,893,926</u>	<u>2,873,073</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>385,526</u></u>	<u><u>446,996</u></u>
FUNDS			
Accumulated funds		385,526	446,996
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>385,526</u></u>	<u><u>446,996</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA LTD

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue	4	5,874,993	5,064,234
Other income	4	40,315	25,167
		<u>5,915,308</u>	<u>5,089,401</u>
Expenses			
Computer/website costs		(119,401)	(114,199)
Consulting and professional charges		(374,523)	(248,837)
Depreciation expense	5	(25,309)	(29,701)
Electricity		(16,918)	(20,749)
Employee benefits expense		(4,114,827)	(3,412,191)
Meeting expenses		(107,729)	(55,024)
Motor vehicle expense		(60,525)	(82,145)
Program costs		(62,078)	(76,077)
Rental and operating lease expenses		(357,470)	(289,549)
Repairs and maintenance costs		(25,519)	(22,905)
Telephone and internet		(147,177)	(98,041)
Travel and accommodation		(372,035)	(303,737)
Other expenses		(193,267)	(208,205)
		<u>(5,976,778)</u>	<u>(4,961,360)</u>
Surplus (deficit) before income tax		(61,470)	128,041
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus (deficit) for the year		<u>(61,470)</u>	<u>128,041</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year		<u><u>(61,470)</u></u>	<u><u>128,041</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA LTD

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	Accumulated Funds \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2017	318,955	318,955
Comprehensive income		
Surplus (deficit) for the year	128,041	128,041
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year	<u>128,041</u>	<u>128,041</u>
Balance at 30 June 2018	<u>446,996</u>	<u>446,996</u>
Balance at 1 July 2018	446,996	446,996
Comprehensive income		
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(61,470)	(61,470)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year	<u>(61,470)</u>	<u>(61,470)</u>
Balance at 30 June 2019	<u>385,526</u>	<u>385,526</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA LTD

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from grants and customers		6,367,424	6,691,633
Payments to suppliers and employees		(6,587,639)	(5,151,036)
Interest received		40,315	34,232
<i>Net cash flows from operating activities</i>		<u>(179,900)</u>	<u>1,574,829</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		-	8,537
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(397,628)	(83,779)
<i>Net cash flows from investing activities</i>		<u>(397,628)</u>	<u>(75,242)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(577,528)	1,499,587
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		<u>3,113,883</u>	<u>1,614,296</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	6	<u>2,536,355</u>	<u>3,113,883</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

Note 1 - Reporting entity

The financial report is for People With Disability Australia Ltd as an individual entity. People With Disability Australia Ltd is registered as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital under the provisions of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 12 October 2019.

Note 2 - Basis of preparation**Statement of compliance**

People With Disability Australia Ltd has adopted Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements as set out in *AASB 1053 Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards* and *AASB 2010-2: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements*.

These financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions.

Basis of measurement

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Comparatives

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year. Where the company has retrospectively applied an accounting policy, made a retrospective restatement or reclassified items in its financial statements, an additional statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period will be disclosed.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The Directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company.

Key estimates**Impairment**

The Directors assess impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluation of conditions and events specific to the company that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

Note 2 - Basis of preparation (continued)**Critical accounting estimates and judgements (continued)****Long service leave provision**

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

New and revised standards that are effective for these financial statements

AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* is effective for the year ended 30 June 2019 however its application has not significantly impacted the company's financial statements.

New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2019 reporting period and have not been early adopted by the company. These include:

- AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (effective for the year ending 30 June 2020)
- AASB 16 *Leases* (effective for the year ending 30 June 2020)
- AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-profit Entities* (effective for the year ending 30 June 2020)

The Directors' assessment of the impact of these new standards (to the extent applicable to the company) is that none are expected to significantly impact the company's financial statements in future reporting periods.

Going concern

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes the company will have sufficient cash to pay its debts as and when they become payable for a period of at least 12 months from the date of the financial report.

The Company has incurred a deficit for the year of \$61,470 (2018: \$128,041 surplus) and has also incurred a decrease in cash and cash equivalents of \$577,528 (2018: \$1,499,587 increase). The company has a net current asset deficiency of \$80,952 (2018: surplus \$352,837) and net assets of \$385,526 as at 30 June 2019 (2018: \$446,996).

The Directors believe that the assets and liabilities will be realised at the values presented in the financial statements and the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Note 3 - Significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Income Tax

People With Disability Australia Ltd is a not-for-profit Charity and is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

Note 3 - Significant accounting policies (continued)**Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position. Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

Revenue recognition

Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of returns, trade allowances and duties and taxes including goods and services tax (GST). Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest method.

Grants, donations and bequests

Income arising from the contribution of an asset (including cash) is recognised when the following conditions have been satisfied:

- (a) the company obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution;
- (b) it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the company; and
- (c) the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably at the fair value of the consideration received.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of twelve months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

Trade receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less a provision for impairment. Collectability of trade receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. A provision for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables.

Property, plant and equipment**Recognition and measurement**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

Note 3 - Significant accounting policies (continued)**Property, plant and equipment (continued)****Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Office equipment	20%
Motor Vehicles	20%
Leasehold improvements	Period of lease

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Impairment of assets

Assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment. Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are compared at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units).

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability. The carrying amount of trade and other payables is deemed to reflect fair value.

Income and grants received in advance

Income, including government funding income, that is received before the service to which the payment relates has been provided is recorded as a liability until such time as the service has been provided, at which time it is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Employee benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Note 4 - Revenue		
Revenue		
Operating grants	5,471,024	4,718,296
Rental income	44,904	44,904
Training income	32,641	61,647
Travel reimbursement	24,975	28,655
Consultancy fees	-	50,627
Donations	6,983	6,256
Other income	294,466	153,849
	<u>5,874,993</u>	<u>5,064,234</u>
Other revenue		
Interest income	40,315	18,253
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	6,914
	<u>40,315</u>	<u>25,167</u>
<i>Total revenue</i>	<u><u>5,915,308</u></u>	<u><u>5,089,401</u></u>
Note 5 - Expenses		
Depreciation and amortisation		
Office equipment	13,429	26,055
Motor vehicles	11,880	3,646
<i>Total depreciation expense</i>	<u>25,309</u>	<u>29,701</u>
Note 6 - Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank and on hand	1,572,675	2,360,075
Term deposits	963,680	753,808
<i>Total cash and cash equivalents</i>	<u><u>2,536,355</u></u>	<u><u>3,113,883</u></u>
Note 7 - Trade and other receivables		
Current		
Trade receivables	51,948	71,510
Other receivables	93,421	6,930
Prepayments	131,250	33,587
<i>Total current trade and other receivables</i>	<u><u>276,619</u></u>	<u><u>112,027</u></u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

Note 8 - Property, plant and equipment

	Leasehold Improvements \$	Office Equipment \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Total \$
At 30 June 2018				
Cost	422,187	183,919	143,330	749,436
Accumulated depreciation	(422,187)	(161,471)	(71,619)	(655,277)
<i>Net carrying amount</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,448</u>	<u>71,711</u>	<u>94,159</u>
Movements in carrying amounts				
Opening net carrying amount	-	22,448	71,711	94,159
Additions	370,218	27,410	-	397,628
Depreciation charge for the year	-	(13,429)	(11,880)	(25,309)
Closing net carrying amount	<u>370,218</u>	<u>36,429</u>	<u>59,831</u>	<u>466,478</u>
At 30 June 2019				
Cost	370,218	211,329	143,330	724,877
Accumulated depreciation	-	(174,900)	(83,499)	(258,399)
<i>Net carrying amount</i>	<u>370,218</u>	<u>36,429</u>	<u>59,831</u>	<u>466,478</u>

Note 9 - Trade and other payables**Current**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Trade payables	239,615	58,954
Grants in advance	1,711,434	1,727,474
Other payables	210,102	316,195
<i>Total current provisions</i>	<u>2,161,151</u>	<u>2,102,623</u>

Note 10 - Employee benefits**Current**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Annual leave	377,533	347,004
Long service leave	216,895	179,224
Time in lieu	46,454	44,541
Redundancy	91,893	199,681
<i>Total current employee benefits</i>	<u>732,775</u>	<u>770,450</u>

Note 11 - Key management personnel**Remuneration of key management personnel**

The aggregate amount of compensation paid to key personnel during the year:	<u>870,417</u>	<u>646,522</u>
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During the year the number of key management positions increased.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$

Note 12 - Lease commitments**Operating lease commitments**

Commitments for minimum lease payments in relation to non-cancellable operating leases are payable as follows:

Within one year	486,720	246,868
Later than one year but not later than five years	1,877,535	124,974
	<u>2,364,255</u>	<u>371,842</u>

Non-cancellable operating lease relates to the lease of office premises at Level 8, 418A Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills, NSW which expires on 9 May 2024.

Note 13 - Limitations of members' liability

The company is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, and in accordance with the Constitution the liability of members in the event of the company being wound up would not exceed \$1 per member. At 30 June 2019 the number of members of this company was 1,685 (2018: 1,438).

Note 14 - Events occurring after balance date

There were no significant events occurring after balance date.

Note 15 - Economic dependency

The company considers that it is economically dependent on revenue received from the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments for its various programs. The Directors believe that this revenue will continue to be made available to the company for the remainder of the terms of the grant agreements.

The total amount of recurrent government funding recognised during the financial year was \$5,471,024 (2018: \$4,718,296) and this represented 92.5% of total revenue (2018: 92.7%).

Note 16 - Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the financial year.

Note 17 - Company Details

The registered office and principal place of the company is:
 People with Disability Australia Limited
 Level 8, 418A Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010

FINANCIAL REPORT - 30 JUNE 2019**DIRECTORS' DECLARATION**

The Directors of People With Disability Australia Ltd declare that:

- The financial statements, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, 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:
 - 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
 - give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2019 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:

David Abello
 President

Jacinta Armstrong
 Treasurer

12 October 2019

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of People With Disability Australia Ltd which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, 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 2019 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.

StewartBrown
Chartered Accountants

S.J. Hutcheon
Partner

12 October 2019



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AUSTRALIA



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