



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY  
AUSTRALIA



Easy Read

# Annual Report 2024 to 2025



**A voice of our own**



This is the **annual report** for **People with Disability Australia.**

We will say **PWDA** for short.

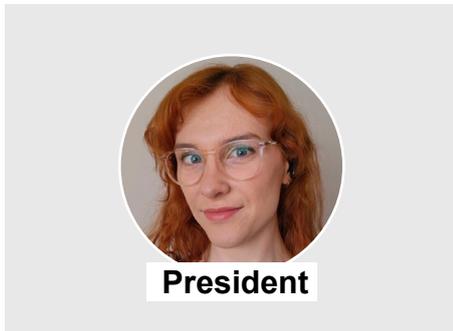


An **annual report** says what work we did this year.



This annual report is from 2024 to 2025.

# Message from the president



This message is from Trinity Ford.

Trinity is the **president** of PWDA.



The **President** helps make decisions about how PWDA runs.



This year we have worked hard to make PWDA better.



Trinity spoke at a United Nations event in New York.



PWDA got new **board directors**.



**Board directors** are a group of members who help run PWDA.



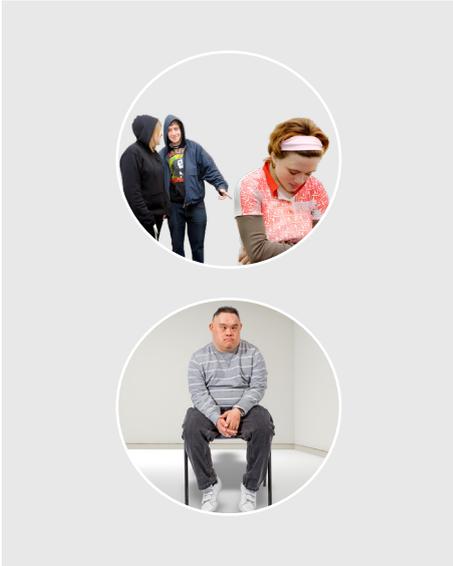
Our board directors talk about PWDA work in the media and at events.



We want to thank all old and new board directors for their hard work.



We also talked about PWDA members who died this year.



Many people with disability still die because

- Other people do things to hurt them
- They do not get the care they need.



We remember them even if we do not know all their names.

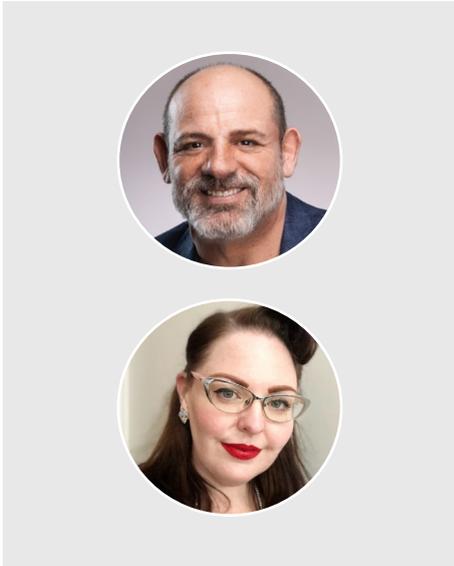


We will keep speaking up to make the world better for people with disability.



Thank you to everyone in our community for your help.

# Message from the CEO and Deputy CEO



This is a message from

- Sebastian Zagarella
  
- Megan Spindler-Smith.



They are the bosses of PWDA.



This year was hard for many people with disability.



Lots of big changes happened.



We worked hard to make things better.



We took part in important meetings and talks.



Our **advocacy** teams helped people with hard problems.



**Advocacy** means to support others to speak up for their rights.



We made our services better and wait times shorter.



We thank our staff for their hard work.



We thank the government for giving money for our advocacy services.



We thank you for supporting us.

# Our strategic plan



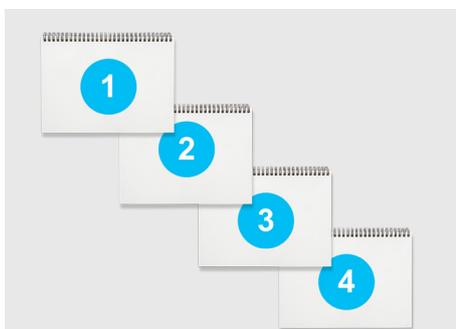
PWDA has a **strategic plan**.



Our **strategic plan** says what work PWDA needs to do.



Our strategic plan has 4 areas.



We will tell you next

- What the areas are
- What we did for each area.

# Area 1 Represent

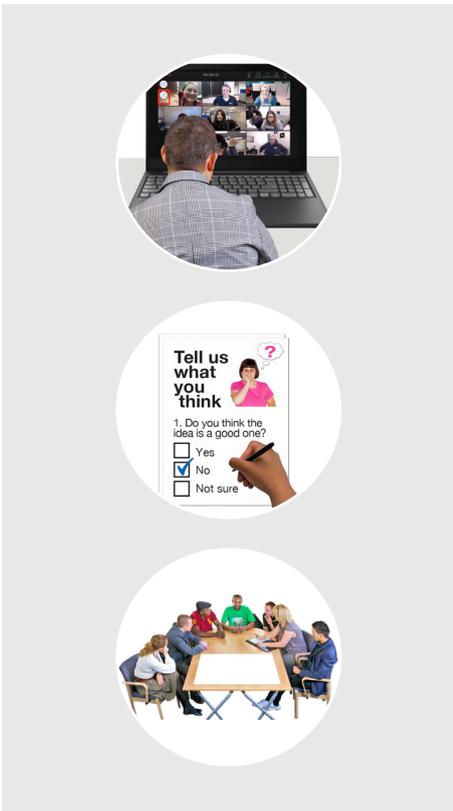


Area 1 is **Represent**.

**Represent** means we tell everyone what people with disability want.

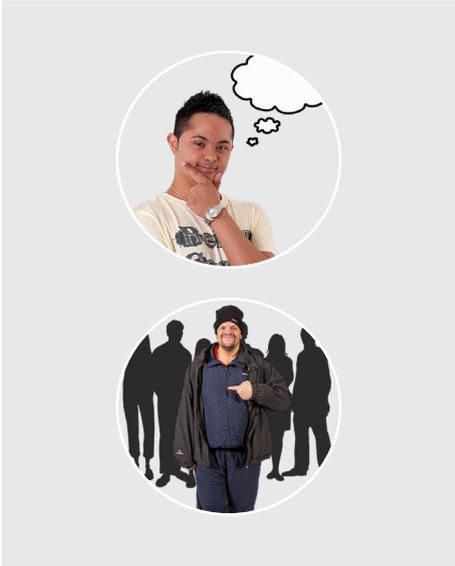


This year lots of people with disability became PWDA members.



We did lots of things with our members like

- Events
- **Surveys**  
**Surveys** are when we give our members questions to answer.
- Meetings.



Our members told us

- What they think
  
- What they need.



We made sure we used what they told us in our work.



In Australia we did lots of work about the rights of people with disability.



We spoke to the government about what our members want them to change.



We did lots of work with **LGBTQIA+** people with disability.



**LGBTQIA+** means the different ways people can love and feel about who they are.



We joined events like

- The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade
- Fair Day
- Melbourne Midsumma March.



We also had lots of different events for

- LGBTQIA+ people with disability
- International Day of People with Disability
- The Disability Royal Commission
- The Australian Federal Election.



We spoke about disability rights in other countries.



PWDA spoke at the United Nations Conference of State Parties to the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. **COSP18** for short.



PWDA representatives at COSP18 were

- Deputy CEO Megan Spindler-Smith



- Board Director Steph Travers



- Board Director Alexandra Bignell



- PWDA Member Tahlia-Rose Vanissum.



President Trinity Ford spoke at the Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations.

# Area 2 Advocate



Area 2 is **Advocate**.

**Advocate** means we support all people with disability to get their rights.



We spoke up at lots of meetings about how to make disability rights better.

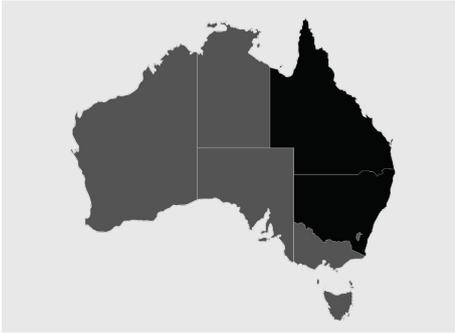


We also wrote lots of reports to the government.



We wrote and spoke about topics like

- Changes to the NDIS
- The Disability Royal Commission
- **Disaster and emergencies**  
A **disaster or emergency** is when something very bad happens and people may need help quickly to stay safe.
- Housing for people with disability
- Support to get paid
- Stopping bad things from happening to people with disability.



This year we supported over 2 thousand people in NSW and QLD.



We helped people with disability deal with big issues like

- The NDIS
- Places they live
- Issues at school
- Health
- **Abuse.**

**Abuse** means when someone hurts you bad.

# Area 3 Educate



Area 3 is **educate**.

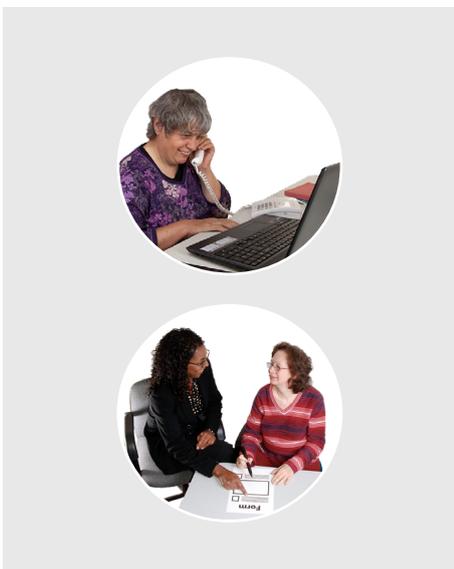
**Educate** means we teach everyone about people with disability and their rights.



This year PWDA did lots of work with other groups and organisations.



We gave training to 37 organisations.



The training was about things like

- How to make workplaces better for people with disability
- How to talk about people with disability.



All our trainers are people with disability.



We worked hard this year to make our training better.



This year we worked on some big projects about

- Women with disability in workplaces
- Making it easier for women and children with disability to use services
- People with disability understanding online health information better.



# Area 4 Sustain



Area 4 is **sustain**.

**Sustain** means we make sure PWDA can work well for a long time.



We had our **Annual General Meeting** on Wednesday 14 November 2024.

We say **AGM** for short.



At the AGM there were changes to our board.



At the AGM we said goodbye to these board directors

- President Marayke Jonkers



- Secretary Suresh Rajan



- Dr Haidi Badawi



- Arun Barramundi



- Declan Lee.



Board directors Kevyn Morris and Eva Sifis returned for the second year of their 2 year terms.



At the AGM these new board directors joined the board

- Trinity Ford



- Steph Travers



- Alexandra Bignell



- Peter Freckleton



- Priscilla Brice



- Presley Chihuri



- Daniel Flynn.



**President**

After the AGM Trinity Ford was chosen to be president.



**Co-Vice Presidents**

Daniel Flynn and Eva Sifis became **co-vice presidents**.



**Co-vice presidents** means both will step up together if the president can not do their job.



**Secretary**

Steph Travers became **secretary**.



The **secretary** writes down what happens at board meetings and helps sort things out.



Stuart Mawbey became a board director only until the 2025 AGM.



**Treasurer**

Stuart Mawbey became **treasurer**.



The **treasurer** helps to look after PWDA money.



This year the board worked hard to

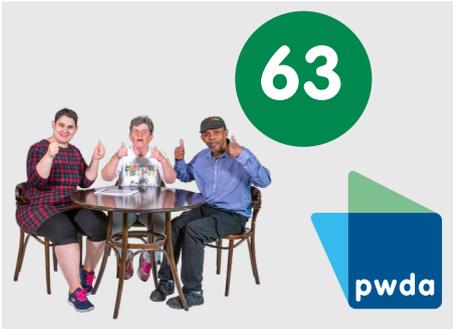
- Make the way we work better



- Help more members join things at PWDA.



This year our staff did lots of work to make sure PWDA can keep doing a good job.



We gave jobs to 63 people.



Many PWDA staff are people with disability or live with other health conditions.



PWDA staff have different genders and come from lots of different communities.



We made sure our staff were safe and well.



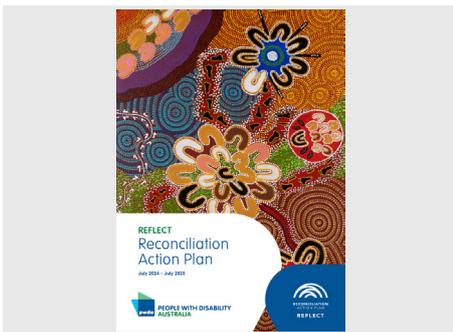
We made the technology we use like computers better.



We helped our staff learn and become leaders.



We made sure our services are safe for everyone.



This year we continued work on our **Reconciliation Action Plan**.



Our **Reconciliation Action Plan** helps us work together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



We helped people with disability get a **Qantas Carer Concession Card**.



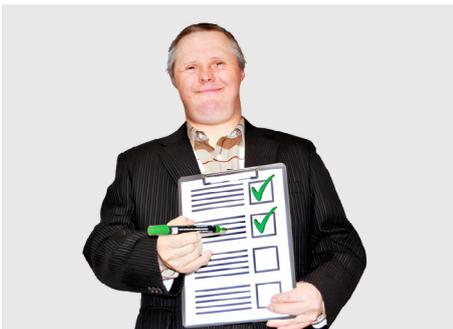
This card is for people with disability who need a carer to travel with them on a plane



PWDA passed the **audit** for the **National Standards for Disability Services**.

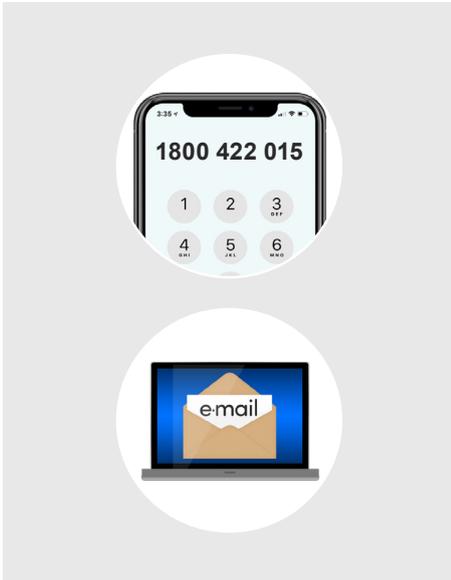


An **audit** is a check to make sure we are doing a good job.



**National Standards for Disability Services** say how to do things to keep people safe.

# Contact us



If you want support from PWDA you can

- Call us on **1800 422 015**
- Email us at [pwd@pwd.org.au](mailto:pwd@pwd.org.au)



[pwd.org.au](https://pwd.org.au)



[pwd@pwd.org.au](mailto:pwd@pwd.org.au)



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