



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



# **Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability**

**Western Australia**

# **ANNUAL WORK REPORT 2009**

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*This report covers the 2009 calendar year, following a decision by Council to align its planning and reporting timelines.*

The terms Council or MACD have been used interchangeably throughout this report and refer to the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability (Western Australia).

This Report is available in alternative formats upon request - please contact the Council office.

# CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<b>Chairperson's Report</b>	<b>1-3</b>
<b>Executive Officer's Report</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>Overview of the Council</b>	
▶ Purpose and Origin	<b>6</b>
▶ Council Relationships	<b>7</b>
▶ Strategic Framework	<b>8</b>
▶ How we work	<b>9</b>
<b>Report on Council Activities for 2009</b>	
▶ Annual Work Plan	
▪ 2009 Priorities	<b>10-13</b>
▪ Watching Briefs	<b>14-15</b>
▪ External Committee Representation	<b>16</b>
▶ Other Work	<b>17</b>
▶ Meetings	
▪ Council	<b>18</b>
▪ State Minister for Disability Services	<b>19-20</b>
▪ Disability Services Commission Board	<b>21-22</b>
▪ Other	<b>23-24</b>
▶ Guest Speakers at Council Meetings in 2009	<b>25</b>
▶ Networking Events	<b>26</b>
<b>Council Membership and Staff</b>	<b>27</b>

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The role of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability is to keep government informed about major issues affecting the lives of Western Australians with disabilities, their families and carers. There are of course many such issues, so we have to decide on our priority areas and plan how to address them each year. These priority areas are worked through systematically throughout the year and, in addition, Council also addresses other issues that arise regularly and require action. In my Chair's report I will highlight some aspects of our work during the year; however the annual work report as a whole provides comprehensive detail of the work of Council, both planned and reactive.

During 2009, Council also took on an additional project to increase the profile of the Council, develop and improve our strategies for consulting with the community, increase the profile of people with disabilities, their families and carers, increase communication flow with the Minister and make the Council's internal operations, including meetings, more effective. This project, known as "Building a Better Council" is expected to be put in place during 2009-10. Thanks to the work of Council members and staff, especially Executive Officer Gail Ambrose the project is progressing well.

Council has continued to pursue the need for greater representation and involvement of people with disabilities and family/carers in key industry decision-making. Following our briefing note to the Minister in 2008, several Council members are working with the Disability Services Commission on the development of a Consumer Engagement Framework.

We were also able to have significant input into the development of "Count Me In – Disability Future Directions", a strategy document which provides Western Australia with a clear vision and directions to create a community that welcomes, includes and adequately supports people with disabilities, their families and carers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Commission staff who worked on this for their regular updates and ongoing consultation with Council during the development process.

Continuing our interest in ensuring people with disabilities are able to get the health and medical services they need, Council has maintained its involvement with the Fiona Stanley Hospital project during 2009. Between us, Greg Madson and I have attended several Design and Interiors Reference Group meetings and have brought a number of potential access issues to the direct attention of the design team.

Another notable area of focus for Council this year was on issues for people with disabilities and family/carers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

(CaLD). Council developed a briefing note for the Minister providing background and some recommendations to increase awareness and resourcing of this area of need.

During 2008, several Council members carried out an access audit of the Perth Railway stations, following reported concerns about access and safety issues. Following discussions with and support from the Minister, a meeting was held with the Public Transport Authority (PTA) and it was agreed that I would walk through the stations with key PTA staff to look at and discuss the areas of concern. This will occur in early 2010.

Several Council members have sat on a range of committees during the year, while others have had a monitoring role on specific issues. Committees include the You're Welcome WA Access Initiative, DSC Carers Recognition Act Reference Group, DSC Disability Access and Inclusion Implementation Steering Committee, Catastrophic Injury Research Project Steering Panel and the Centrelink Consultative Committee. Some of the areas monitored by members include uptake of the Count Us In Curriculum Support Package and examples of inappropriate media reporting regarding disability.

The Council has also been able to have input to policy at a national level during 2009, through invitations to key consultations and discussions. In January I attended a consultation meeting in Melbourne convened by the Disability Policy and Research Working Group (DPRWG). The purpose of the consultation was to develop a description of what is considered to be a contemporary best practice disability service system, to inform DPRWG in advising Disability Services Ministers. I also took part in discussions and the development of a position statement on the draft Access to Premises Standard at the Australian Human Rights Commission in Sydney in July.

In my role as Chair of the Council, I also sit on the Board of the Disability Services Commission. This is a valuable experience, enabling me to gain a better understanding of many facets of the Commission and the wider disability sector. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Board Chair, members and Commission staff supporting the Board for welcoming me as a Board member during 2009.

We have had extensive support from the Commission during 2009. This takes many forms, from technical and administrative support, to providing guest speakers as requested at Council meetings and being invited to have input to various initiatives throughout the year. I would like to sincerely thank the Director General and staff for this support and look forward to continuing a mutually beneficial relationship in the coming year.

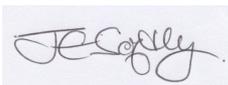
Council meetings usually include at least one guest speaker on an issue that relates to the work of Council. During 2009 this has included speakers from the

Commission and disability sector organisations. We also have a State Government and a Commonwealth Government observer at our meetings, who provide a report on areas of interest to Council. The information provided is very useful both in terms of bringing issues to our attention as well as clarifying some areas. I would like to thank all the guest speakers and the observers for their help in informing Council and for providing further information after the meeting when requested.

Several Council members completed their terms during 2009 including Jane Eacott, Anthony Thomas and Leah Ciancio. We welcomed new members Noreen Fynn, Greg Madson, Melissa Northcott and Crispin Roberts during the year. Council members have provided valuable input on a range of Council business as well as participating on external committees and I would like to acknowledge and thank members for their commitment and hard work throughout the year. I especially want to thank Jane Eacott, who as Deputy Chair of the Council from January to September 2009 brought passion, energy and integrity to the role and was a wonderful support to me. Also my sincere thanks to Melinda Manners who has been Deputy Chair since October 2009, and who has hit the ground running providing great insight, careful consideration of issues and great support to me as well as maintaining her role as the Council's Treasurer. I'm looking forward to working with Melinda during 2010 and wish to also thank her for travelling regularly from Kalgoorlie for Council business.

During 2009 we have been fortunate to have the Hon Simon O'Brien MLC as Minister for Disability Services. During 2009 the Minister attended full Council meetings on two occasions, as well as our Council Christmas lunch. Council Executive also met with the Minister in February 2009. The Minister also kindly hosted lunch at Parliament House for the full Council in September 2009. We would like to thank the Minister for welcoming, valuing and acting on the advice provided by Council as well as pro-actively seeking our input on issues. We very much value our relationship with the Minister and look forward to continuing to work with him to achieve improved outcomes for people with disabilities, their families and carers in Western Australia.

Finally, I would like to thank our dedicated staff. Executive Officer Gail Ambrose provides the best executive support I could imagine, keeping me on track with current tasks and issues, while maintaining a highly efficient secretariat. Gail's expertise, commitment and 'can do' attitude are an invaluable asset to the Council. The role of Liaison Officer has been undertaken by Kerry Ryan earlier in 2009, followed by Carol Ambridge. Thanks to both for their administrative support as well as the vital assistance provided at Council meetings.



Jackie Softly  
**Chairperson**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

In July 2009, after more than four years in an acting capacity as the Council's Executive Officer, I was successful in attaining the position permanently. As well as bringing some stability to the Council Secretariat it also provided me with some career assurance.

2009 was again a busy year with major developments including the future of disability in Western Australia through the Count Me In Disability Future Directions document. The Council was heavily involved in the consultation processes and was continually provided with regular updates from the Commission throughout the year. Our involvement will continue in years to come.

At a state level, Council provided input into the Advance Health Directive and Enduring Power of Guardianship consultations conducted by the Department of Health WA and the Office of the Public Advocate WA, the Fiona Stanley Hospital Development through consultations and representation on the Design and Interiors Reference Group; Economic Audit Committee consultations and made comment on the Commission's Draft Family and Carer Support Policy Framework.

We also provided input into national issues such as the National Disability Strategy and the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2009; the harmonisation of disability parking permit schemes in Australia; by way of attendance at consultations and submitting written comment.

This year, as part of a national disability network that monitors the activities of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we maintained a watching brief and held discussions on the convention, in particular Australia's ratification of the Optional Protocol.

A major area in our Annual Work Plan was the Building a Better Council project. This is a two year project and outlines various tasks to improve the way the Council works. The Plan was developed and actions are being addressed on an ongoing basis.

Some other areas of work included Culturally and Linguistically Diverse issues, education issues and the under-representation of consumers at key industry decision-making tables and mandatory sentencing legislation. Information on these issues are reported throughout this report.

We farewelled three members in 2009, Leah Ciancio in June, and Jane Eacott and Anthony Thomas in September. After four years working with members it is always difficult to say goodbye and this year was no exception. Jane held the Deputy

Chair position so I had worked particularly close with her and it was difficult to end our working relationship. We all wish them well in their future ventures.

I thank all current, and departing, Council members for their commitment and efforts throughout the year and express my appreciation to the Chair, Jackie, and to the Deputy Chairs, Jane and Melinda, for their leadership and support. I would also like to acknowledge Kerry Ryan and Carol Ambridge for their work in providing support to the members and myself throughout the year.



**Gail Ambrose**  
Executive Officer

## **OVERVIEW OF THE COUNCIL**

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### **PURPOSE AND ORIGIN**

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#### **State**

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability (the Council) is an independent body constituted under the Disability Services Act 1993 to provide advice to the State Minister for Disability Services on matters affecting or likely to affect people with disabilities, their families and carers. The Council was established in accordance with Part 3 and Schedule 5 of the Disability Services Act 1993.

Council is comprised of 14 members selected and appointed by the Minister. Membership must reflect the spectrum of people with a disability and includes people with disabilities, family members, carers, advocates and service providers. The Chair of the Council is also a member of the Board of the Disability Services Commission with full voting rights and undertakes the same activities in this role as other Board members.

#### **National**

Previously under the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) the Council assumed the role of a State and Territory Disability Advisory Council (DAC) and was part of a national network of similar Councils across Australia. Although the DAC network is not formally recognised in the National Disability Agreement, that replaced the CSTDA, the Council still maintains connections with this network. While the Council does not have a mandate to formally advise any Australian Government Minister, agency or body it provides input into national issues where appropriate and that are endorsed by the State Minister.

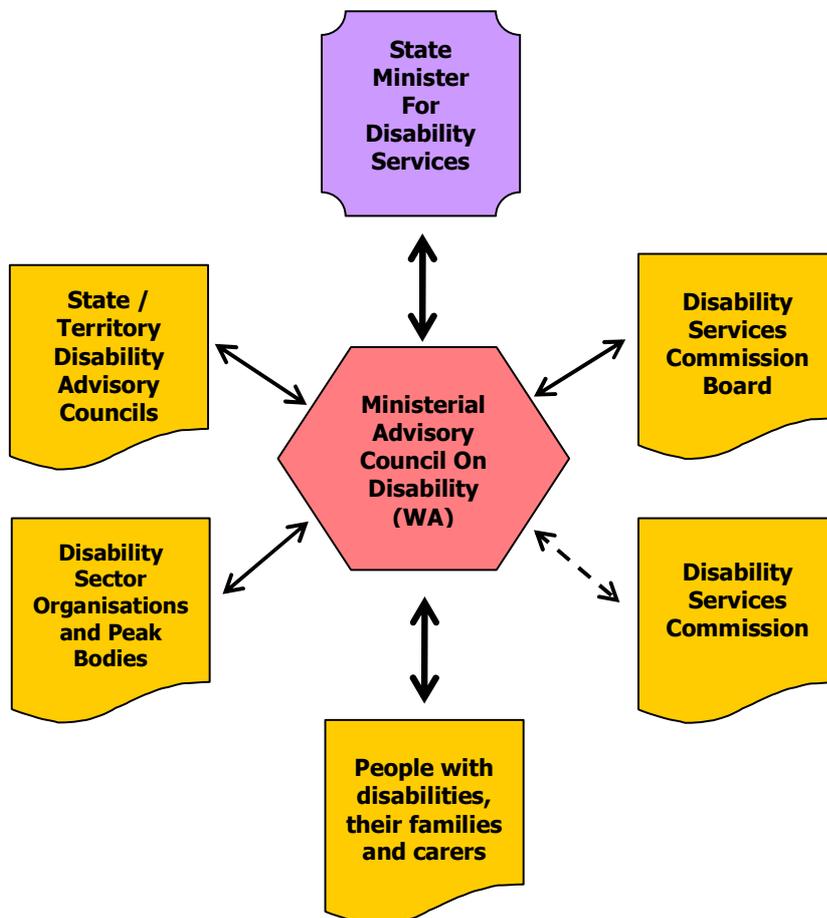
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## COUNCIL RELATIONSHIPS

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The Council undertakes its work through consultation with the sector through the members' networks and linkages within the disability community.

The diagram below shows the Council linkages within the community and flow of information gathering:



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## STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

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The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability produced its first Strategic Framework for the period of 2003 – 2006. In 2007, a Council working group met to discuss the review of the 2003 – 2006 Strategic Framework. The initial framework has assisted the Council to deliver a strategic approach to its work over that time period. However, as the Council carries out its work on an annual basis using an annual operational plan, the working group recommended that this Strategic Framework be used as an ongoing overarching document and hence would **not** have a defined period.

The Strategic Framework is used to assist the Council to provide valuable information and advice to the Minister for Disability Services. The framework content outlines “What we are going to do” and “How we are going to do it”.

The revision and development of the new framework ensures that it reflects current issues and trends and provides overarching strategies and clear links to the functions of the Council, all in user friendly language.

The framework includes the following five Focus Areas:

- **Focus Area 1 - Getting Everyone’s Input**  
This focus area describes how the Council will consult with people with disabilities, their families and carers, advocates and the wider community of Western Australia as required by the state Disability Services Act 1993.
- **Focus Area 2 - Connecting with Government and the Community**  
This focus area describes how the Council will connect with Government and the community of Western Australia to create positive changes for people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- **Focus Area 3 - Increasing Awareness**  
This focus area describes how the Council will work to increase community awareness regarding people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- **Focus Area 4 - Working together with the Minister**  
This focus area describes how the Council works together with the State Minister for Disability Services and Ministerial staff.
- **Focus Area 5 - How the Council works**  
This focus area describes how the Council manages its role.

For further detail visit our website and go to ‘Publications’ [www.macd.wa.gov.au](http://www.macd.wa.gov.au)

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## **HOW WE WORK**

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The Council operates by way of an 'issues model'. The model operates on two levels usually referred to as planned and reactive.

By identifying current issues and establishing annual priorities, Council is able to inform and advise the Minister for Disability Services on contemporary and emerging disability issues.

### **Planned Issues**

The priorities established at the planning meeting in November of each year set the direction for work to be progressed by Council in the subsequent year. The intent is to identify and research known issues and are generally identified based on current and/or emerging issues. These issues are canvassed throughout sector and member networks and relationships.

### **Reactive Issues**

Council examines issues as they occur. This may include issues that emerge throughout the year that are not included in the planned priorities. Council members and members of the public are welcome to submit matters of concern to the Council. The Council will then determine if further examination or action is required. The Minister may also request the Council to examine issues of importance.

### **Process**

Council determines the process it will use to address both planned and reactive issues. Issues may be examined using the following methods:

- Issue based model - whole Council level
- Working Groups / Committees – internal and external
- Public consultation
- Member Reports – members monitor an area and report regularly back to Council
- Watching Brief
- In partnership with other stakeholders

## REPORT ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES FOR 2009

### ANNUAL WORK PLAN

In November 2008, the Council conducted a planning session for work to be undertaken in 2009. The following Annual Work Plan was developed:

### 2009 PRIORITIES

1. Building a Better Council
2. Public Consultation issues
3. Further Education
4. Communications
5. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Issues
6. Dual Diagnosis – Mental Health and Disability

An update on each priority follows:

#### 1. Building a Better Council

During discussions at the Council's 2009 Planning Day, a number of issues were identified under the banner of "Building a Better Council". These issues were collated into five areas that correspond to the Focus Areas of the Council's Strategic Framework. A two year Action Plan was developed for Building a Better Council and work will progress into 2010.

<b>Building a Better Council Areas</b>		<b>Strategic Framework Focus Areas</b>
1. Consulting more effectively	→	1. Focus Area 1 - Getting Everyone's Input
2. Increasing the Council profile	→	2. Focus Area 2 - Connecting with Government and the Community
3. Increasing the profile of people with disabilities, their families and carers	→	3. Focus Area 3 - Increasing Awareness
4. Increasing communication flow with the Minister	→	4. Focus Area 4 – Working together with the Minister
5. Making the Council more effective	→	5. Focus Area 5 - How the Council works

## **Building a Better Council Areas**

The following information is an update of progress so far:

### **1. Consulting More Effectively - Develop and Improve Strategies to Consult with the Community**

We are currently developing ways to improve our consultation processes. This includes the further development of the Council website and a contact database to create an additional way to obtain comment from the community on issues that the Council is working on.

### **2. Increasing the Council Profile - Marketing**

We are undertaking tasks to further promote the Council and its work within the community. Work includes further development of the Council website, re-examining Council branding, engaging with the community through presentations at community and sector events, developing and maintaining stronger links with the disability sector at a local, state and national level, email/website subscription contact database, and in particular increasing the awareness of the independent advice that the Council provides to the Minister.

### **3. Increasing the Profile of People with Disabilities, their Families and Carers**

The Council will consider the use of the website and appropriate communications to increase community awareness of people with disabilities, their families and carers through positive representation.

### **4. Increasing Communication Flow with the Minister**

The focus for this area is developing ways for the Council to engage in regular dialogue with the Minister on current issues that are impacting on the lives of people with disabilities, their families and carers.

The Council is expecting that further development on the Council's consultation strategies will enable the Council to provide a more timely response to the Minister on critical and emerging issues.

### **5. Making the Council More Effective - Internal Operations**

We have completed many tasks in this area to ensure all members have a voice and are able to participate equally, to make meetings more user friendly and accessible, to sustain momentum between meetings and to provide members with professional development opportunities.

## **2. Public Consultation issues / Under-representation of consumers at key industry decision-making tables - Nothing about us without us"**

In the latter part of 2008 the Council presented a Briefing Note to the Minister on "Under-representation of consumers at key industry decision-making tables - Nothing about us without us". The Council called for more effective and broad-ranging consumer involvement at higher decision-making levels.

In 2009 the Minister agreed for the Council to explore these issues further with the Commission. A working group was formed with five Council members and several Commission staff from the Policy and Strategy Branch. Strategies on how to include people with disabilities, their families and carers in decision making roles was discussed.

Due to the synergies between consumer representation, consultation and engagement, it was agreed to incorporate all in one framework - "Consumer engagement – consultation and participation in policy setting and decision making".

Work will continue and will flow into 2010.

## **3. Further Education**

The issues identified in this area related to access and inclusion; and transition and pathways. Activities involved with this priority included:

1. Council representation on the Centrelink Community Consultative Committee on Disability that focuses on transition from school to employment and other activities.
2. Monitoring of the Curriculum Support Package.
3. Monitoring of work being undertaken by other bodies relating to transition.
4. Council Chair's involvement in the WA Telethon Institute for Child Health Research; Maximising participation and life outcomes in youth with an intellectual disability transitioning from secondary school to adult life.

This priority was reviewed at the end of 2009 to determine if further work will be done on this area in 2010. As there were many bodies undertaking work on transition from school the Council changed its focus from transition to the Post School Options Program. Monitoring of the Curriculum Support Package will continue.

#### **4. Communications**

The issues related to this area include media language, program names and titles, use of Plain Language in publications and alternative communication strategies.

To address media language, examples of inappropriate language and negative representation of people with disabilities in the media were collected. Two members will continue this role into the early part of 2010.

The use of Plain Language was a focus throughout 2009. Wherever possible, the Council encouraged the use of Plain Language in public documents. This was achieved through meeting and consultation attendance and when providing written comment on a range of matters.

#### **5. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Issues**

A range of issues, some including the provision of appropriate multi-lingual information, networking with ethnic communities and educating ethnic communities regarding contemporary thinking and their rights were looked at by the Council throughout 2009. A Briefing Note is being progressed and will be forwarded to the Minister in 2010.

#### **6. Dual Diagnosis – Mental Health and Disability**

Issues with service delivery and co-ordination were raised at the planning day. However this priority was not addressed in 2009 and was not identified for any further work in 2010.

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## **WATCHING BRIEFS**

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### **State**

#### **“Count Us In” Campaign**

The Council has been involved in the “Count Us In” Campaign over many years through committee representation, member participation in media campaigns (television, print etc) and input into various matters. Throughout 2009 regular updates were provided to the Council by the Disability Services Commission observer. Feedback was provided by members on the following projects:

- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans.
- School Curriculum Package.
- You’re Welcome WA Access Initiative.
- Count Us In Awards.
- Business Project.

#### **“Count Us In” Evaluation**

In October 2009, the Commission engaged a consultant to develop an evaluation framework for the “Count Us In” projects. The Council has often raised the issue of ongoing evaluation of the various “Count Us In” projects and took this opportunity to provide comment into the development of this framework.

### **National**

#### **National Disability Strategy**

Members were updated as and when information became available through the Council Secretariat. Several members attended the 2009 consultations that were held across the nation by the Australian Government and the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council (NPWDACC). The outcomes from the consultations were reported on by the NPWDACC in a report titled “SHUT OUT: The Experience of People with Disabilities and their Families in Australia”.

A watching brief will be maintained on further development of this strategy in 2010.

#### **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

An enormous amount of activity occurred in 2009 worldwide on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Following on from Australia signing to the Convention in 2007 and the ratification of the Convention in 2008, Australia then ratified the Optional Protocol in 2009.

In March 2009, Professor Ron McCallum AO, an Australian, was appointed as Rapporteur to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As Rapporteur, Professor McCallum will be responsible for reporting to the UN General Assembly on the recommendations and activities of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Council Secretariat subscribed to various agencies for media releases and updates on the Convention and is part of a national disability network that monitors the Convention activities.

In April 2009 several members attended a forum led by Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes on Disability Rights and Human Rights – Where to from Here?; where the Commissioner briefed attendees and responded to questions.

Proposed action for 2010 is to continue monitoring the activities relating to the Convention.

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## **EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION**

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Council members are asked to represent the Council on various committees/working parties. Council's representation on external committees for 2009 is outlined below:

### **You're Welcome WA Access Initiative State Reference Group and Joint Accessible Tourism WA Reference Group**

Samantha Jenkinson / Gail Ambrose  
(Lee Ugle proxy)

### **DSC Carers Recognition Act Reference Group**

Melinda Manners / Jane Eacott  
(Jackie Softly proxy)

### **Disability Services Commission Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Implementation Steering Committee**

Trevor Paterson  
(Samantha Jenkinson proxy)

### **Catastrophic Injury Research Project Steering Panel**

Samantha Jenkinson / Leah Ciancio

### **Fiona Stanley Hospital Design and Interiors Reference Group**

Jackie Softly  
(G Madson proxy)

### **Count Us in Business Strategy Committee**

Jackie Softly

## **OTHER WORK**

Public consultation – Council provided written submissions and comment on the following items throughout 2009:

- **Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2009**  
Submission to the Federal Parliament’s Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee - March 2009
  
- **Disability Future Directions**  
Disability Services Commission – April 2009
  
- **Developmental Disability Council Review**  
Developmental Disability Council – May 2009
  
- **Advance Health Directive and Enduring Power of Guardianship**  
Department of Health WA and the Office of the Public Advocate WA – August 2009
  
- **Draft Family and Carer Support Policy Framework**  
Disability Services Commission – September 2009
  
- **Harmonisation of disability parking permit schemes in Australia**  
National Disability Services WA – October 2009
  
- **Evaluation Framework for the Disability Services Commission’s Community Access and Information Branch’s communication strategies**  
Disability Services Commission - October 2009

## MEETINGS

The following meetings were attended by Council members and staff throughout 2009:

- Council - monthly
- Minister for Disability Services
- Council Chair, Deputy Chair, Executive Officer and Minister's Disability Policy Adviser
- Council and Disability Services Commission Board Chairpersons (Joint Chairs)
- Council members and Disability Services Commission Board members – June 2009
- Council and Carers Advisory Council Chairpersons - July 2009
- Disability Coalition (disability peak bodies) - Executive Officer

The Council Chairperson as a Disability Services Commission Board member undertook the following activities throughout 2009:

- Monthly DSC Board
- Special DSC Board held at various agencies
- Country Board visit
- Reference Networks

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## COUNCIL

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*Items of discussion at the Council meetings are outlined throughout this report.*

- The Council meets on the last Friday of each month (excluding December).
- A representative from the Disability Services Commission attends as an observer, as recommended in the 2002 Review of the Disability Services Act 1993.
- A representative from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs attends as an observer, in accordance with the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement.
- The State Minister and Ministerial staff attends twice a year.
- Guest Speakers are invited to provide briefings on current and emerging issues.
- The Disability Services Commission's Director General and staff provide briefings to Council on specific matters.

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## **STATE MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES**

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### **Regular meetings with Council Executive**

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Regular meetings are held with the State Minister for Disability Services to provide advice on issues currently being considered by the Council. These meetings are attended by the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Executive Officer. Other members of the Council who have particular knowledge on an item may also attend.

The Council advises the Minister on strategic issues as well as reactive issues as they arise. Identification of issues, in accordance with the Council's legislative mandate, is carried out by close and continuous liaison with the disability community whose opinion is sought, where appropriate, on issues under consideration.

The Council provides advice to the Minister through briefing notes or in person at regular meetings. During 2009 the Council provided information to the Minister on the following matters:

- Under-representation of consumers at key industry decision-making tables - "Nothing about us without us"
- Recruitment and appointment of new Council members
- Migration and disability
- Priority seating on public transport

### **The following reports were submitted to the Minister:**

- 2009 MACD Annual Work Report
- Perth Railway Stations - Access Audit Report
- Economic Audit Committee Consultation Briefing Note - September 2009
- Mandatory Sentencing Legislation Briefing Note - December 2009

The Council members and staff visited Parliament House on 30 September 2009 to have lunch with the Minister.

## **Minister's attendance at Council meetings with all members**

### **Hon Minister Simon O'Brien MLC and Mr David Granville, Principal Policy Adviser Disability - Friday 29 May 2009**

The Minister attended the meeting from 10:00am to 11:00am.

#### **Items discussed:**

- Council's Ministerial Briefing Note on capacity building of people with disability so they can participate at all levels of decision making including policy development.
- Recently established Taxi Industry Board to advise the Minister for Transport.
- Council's Access Audit Report of Perth Railway Stations.
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs) – discussion included enforcement and legislative approaches to ensure that authorities meet statements claimed in DAIPs and to uphold planned responsibilities. The checklist format of status reports was also discussed.

### **Hon Minister Simon O'Brien MLC and Mr David Granville, Principal Policy Adviser Disability - Friday 27 November 2009**

The Minister attended the meeting from 11:30am to 12:30pm and joined members for Christmas lunch following the meeting.

#### **Items discussed:**

- The Disability Future Directions document taken to the Premier to be launched on 3 December 2009.
- Government budgetary matters, royalties and confirmation of indexation increases.
- Mandatory sentencing legislation – Council prepared a Briefing Note and members provided some examples to the Minister. The Minister stated that he will await the Council's briefing note and may forward to the Police Commissioner, the Attorney General and the Minister for Mental Health.
- Access concerns at the Victoria Park train station.
- Western Australia's position on the procurement exemption for goods and services from Australian Disability Enterprises.

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## **DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION BOARD**

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### **Joint Chair's Meetings**

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Although the Council's mandate extends beyond the Commission we have a strong working relationship with the Commission Board and staff. The Council Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson have bi-monthly meetings with the Commissions Board Chairperson. The Disability Services Commission's Director General, Manager, Strategic and Executive Services and the Council's Executive Officer also attend.

In 2009 three meetings were held and the following items were discussed:

### **Council Items**

- Council's 2009 Annual Work Plan.
- The number of Commission employees who have a disability.
- Health Resource and Consultancy Team.
- Perth Railway Stations – Council's Access Audit Report.
- Count Us In Campaign.
- Commission Observer at Council meetings.
- Commission/Sector video production of events.
- Commission Board's Reference Networks.
- Consumer participation and representation.
- Disability (Access to Premises and Buildings) Standards.
- Disability Support Worker Training Project.
- Media Awareness.
- Fiona Stanley Hospital Development.
- Curriculum Support Package.
- Medicare Benefits Schedule Items 718/719.

### **DSC Items**

- 3% Efficiency Dividend.
- Workforce Planning.
- People with Exceptionally Complex Needs Pilot Program.
- Employment - State Government Procurement Policy.
- Outcomes from Chief Executive Officer Round Table.
- Selection process for Council Executive Officer.
- Disability Future Directions document.

## **Joint Meeting of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability and the Disability Services Commission Board**

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A Joint Meeting of all members of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability and the Disability Services Commission Board was held on Friday 5 June 2009.

Agenda items included:

- Profile building of the Disability Services Commission Board and the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability.
- Council's 2009 Annual Work Plan.
- Disability Services Commission Directorate's 2009/2010 Operational Plan Presentations.

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## **OTHER MEETINGS**

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### **Contemporary Disability Service System**

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The Council Chairperson, Ms Jackie Softly, attended a stakeholder workshop on a Contemporary Disability Service System on 19 January 2009 at the Marriott Hotel in Melbourne. Mr Arthur Rogers, Chair of the Disability Policy and Research Working Group facilitated the meeting. The following items were discussed:

- Overview of the project and purpose of the workshop.
- Criteria for identifying a best practice disability service system.
- Context setting for the best practice service system.
- Confirmation of the components of a best practice disability service system, for example:
  - Support and funding models;
  - Accessibility of mainstream and specialist services;
  - Partnership and collaboration;
  - Workforce development; and
  - Quality management.
- Groups identified best practice for each of the agreed components of service systems.

### **Draft Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards**

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#### **National Meeting**

In July 2009, the Council Chairperson, Ms Jackie Softly, participated in a national meeting with representatives from key advocacy and advisory groups to discuss the recommendations in the draft Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards Parliamentary Report and to clarify the future process.

#### **Lunchtime Forum (WA) - Commissioner Graeme Innes AM**

On Monday 24 August 2009, the Council facilitated a lunchtime forum to discuss the Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards. Commissioner Graeme Innes AM, Disability Discrimination Commissioner, was the key speaker.

The Commissioner provided an overview of the history of the Standards and the current status. He encouraged attendees to pursue and lobby government for the Standards to be passed in Parliament.

## **Carers Advisory Council**

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The Council's Chair and Executive Officer met with the Chair and Executive Officer of the Carers Advisory Council in July 2009 to discuss mutual issues.

## **Disability Coalition of Western Australia**

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The Disability Coalition comprises Western Australia's disability peak, network and representative bodies who work together for a strong united voice on issues of common concern. The Disability Coalition of WA members are:

- Advocacy South West.
- Carers WA.
- Committed About Securing Accommodation (CASA).
- Developmental Disability Council of WA.
- Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre.
- Headwest (Brain Injury Association of WA Inc.).
- National Disability Services WA.
- People With Disabilities (WA) Inc.
- Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability (Observer).

The Council holds observer status on the Disability Coalition. The Council's Executive Officer attends the monthly meetings.

## **Hon Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities**

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The Disability Coalition organised a meeting with Bill Shorten and his advisers on Thursday 6 August 2009 at Carers WA. The following items were discussed:

- Purpose and function of the Disability Coalition.
- Disability funding: the National Disability Agreement and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- Advocacy funding.
- Funding for young people with disabilities.
- High case loads of people with mental illness.
- Unmet Need - Need for accurate figures - projected figures for future planning purposes.
- Individual and block funding.
- People with disabilities in the justice system and appropriate services and accommodation upon release.
- Centrelink: Offices and carers' mental health.
- "Who Cares Report".
- Housing.

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## **GUEST SPEAKERS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2009**

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Council regularly invites guest speakers to meetings to inform members on priority areas, emerging issues or new initiatives and/or policy. This also provides an opportunity for Council to provide comment on the subject area. The following lists the speaker and subject area they presented on:

- **Dr Ron Chalmers - Disability Services Commission**  
Update on various items
- **Ms Jenni Perkins - Disability Services Commission**  
National Disability Agreement – Overview
- **Ms Pip Daly-Smith and Ms Sonya Horsman - Disability Services Commission**  
You're Welcome Initiative - Project Background and Website Demonstration
- **Ms Helen Granville - National Disability Services WA**  
Harmonising parking for people with a disability across Australia
- **Ms Kerry Stopher - Disability Services Commission**  
Disability Future Directions
- **Hon Minister Simon O'Brien MLC and Mr David Granville, Principal Policy Officer Disability** (May and November)
- **Mr Peter Batini and Mr Russell Brown - Disability Services Commission**  
Quality Management Framework
- **Mr David Rogers - National Disability Services WA**  
"Getting the training right" - NDS WA Disability Support Worker Training Project
- **Ms Marion Hailes-MacDonald - Disability Services Commission**  
Revised Eligibility Policy for Specialist Disability Services Funded or Provided by the Commission
- **Ms Naomi Tyrrell and Ms Kerry Stopher - Disability Services Commission**  
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Issues

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## **NETWORKING EVENTS**

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Throughout the year the Council members and staff attend various events including public forums, consultations, launches and awards. These events provide opportunities for members to network, gather information, participate in discussion and increase the profile of the Council.

Council members and staff attended the following events throughout 2009:

- The Disability Support Worker Awards.
- Fiona Stanley Hospital Project feedback session.
- Briefing on draft Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards.
- Disability Rights and Human Rights, "Where to from Here?" Commissioner Graeme Innes AM.
- Accessible Communities Project.
- National Human Rights Consultations - Community Roundtables.
- 2010 State Budget for Disability Services Briefing.
- Personalised Residential Support - Forum for Families.
- 2009 WA Disability Collective lecture - Hon Bill Shorten.
- Women's Health Today.
- 'The Chairman' workshop.
- Farewell function for Lois Gatley (Chair of Carers Advisory Council).
- ASSID State Conference.
- Jacques Pelletier (NDS WA).
- Governance for the Not-For Profit Board.
- Unravelling the Complexities - Finding Solutions.
- 44<sup>th</sup> ASSID Conference, Hobart, Tasmania.
- Department of Transport and Town of Claremont -Tips on designing accessible communities.
- Count Us In Awards.
- Disability Services Commission Board Christmas Function.
- Fiona Stanley Hospital Development - Focus on the accessibility of the facility.

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## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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### COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Membership of the Council is drawn from interested persons who have experience, skills or knowledge of disability. For member profiles visit the Council website: [www.macd.wa.gov.au](http://www.macd.wa.gov.au).

Ms Jackie Softly (Chairperson)	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Term 24/11/2008 – 23/11/2010</i>
Ms Yolanda Berg	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Term 4/8/2008 – 30/12/2009</i>
Mr Alexander Clark	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Term 1/8/2008 – 31/7/2010</i>
Ms Noreen Fynn	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Term 16/3/2009 – 15/3/2011</i>
Ms Samantha Jenkinson	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Term 4/8/2008 – 30/12/2009</i>
Mr Greg Madson	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Term 16/3/2009 – 15/3/2011</i>
Ms Melinda Manners (Deputy Chair And Treasurer)	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Term 25/8/2008 – 24/8/2010</i>
Ms Melissa Northcott	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Term 16/3/2009 – 15/3/2011</i>
Mr Trevor Paterson	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Term 4/8/2008 – 30/12/2009</i>
Mr Crispin Roberts	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Term 16/3/2009 – 15/3/2011</i>
Mr Lee Ugle	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Term 31/12/2007 – 31/12/2009</i>

### RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS IN 2009

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Ms Leah Ciancio	June 2009
Ms Jane Eacott	September 2009
Mr Anthony Thomas	September 2009

### COUNCIL STAFF IN 2009

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Ms Gail Ambrose	Executive Officer
Ms Kerry Ryan / Ms Carol Ambridge	Acting Support Officer