



Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability

Independent adviser to the
WA Minister for Disability Services

Keeping government informed

Annual
Work
Report
2011

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146 – 160 Colin Street, West Perth, Western Australia.

This report covers the 2011 calendar year, following a decision by Council to align its planning and reporting timelines.

The terms 'the 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.

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability has an important and legislated role to keep the Minister for Disability Services, and through them the government, informed about major issues affecting the lives of Western Australians with disability, their families, carers and the sector.

There are many issues which are ongoing and require long term work and cultural change to have an effect, as well as issues which arise or are relevant to this year. 2011 was a year which had a focus on change and reform at both state and federal levels, which was reflected in the Council's work plan. It was also my first full year as Chairperson and the Council working with Minister Morton.

In November 2010 we took the time to decide on our priority areas and plan how to address them. These priority areas are worked on throughout the year and, in addition, the 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.

Membership

Each year there is a turnover of some of the membership of the Council as different people finish their terms. At the end of 2010 Council had three new members join to fill vacancies. They were Samantha Connor, Dr Katie Ellis, and Jacqueline Reid. 2011 started with a full Council with myself as the newly appointed Chair and Trevor Patterson elected by members as Deputy Chair.

At the end of 2011 we had three members retire from Council as their terms ended. Thank you to Trevor Patterson, who brought a wealth of experience from the area of disability employment services, Lee Ugle, who was a staunch advocate for the rights of people with disability to live independently, and Yolanda Berg who showed great examples of participation. Their input throughout the year, and over their terms on Council was most valuable.

Unfortunately Dr Katie Ellis chose to resign from Council midway through the year due to a number of other commitments, including being a new Mum. We hope that she may rejoin Council again in the future as she has specialist expertise in the area of access and inclusion on the internet, social networking and other information technology areas.

Council Activities

The Council is involved in a range of activities some of which are representative, some which are consultative, and all aimed at fulfilling the mission of the Council.

In the area of access and accessible communities the Council continued its role this year in promoting and supporting the You're Welcome Access WA initiative through membership of the reference group. As Chair I was interviewed by Landscape the Department of Environment and Conservation magazine for an article on access issues in National Parks, an area covered in You're Welcome. We also worked with People With Disabilities (WA) Inc. and the Disability Services Commission (DSC) to finalise and launch the "Prepare for Take off!" resource on accessible airline travel with the Minister at Perth International Airport. This generated some articles in sector newsletters and even a radio interview in Adelaide.

As part of our work promoting inclusion this year the Council provided briefing papers through our Minister to the Minister for Education on issues for children with disability and the Post School Options program funded by the DSC. We also gave input into the Primary Health Care Strategy bringing the perspective of the need to include people with disability in health strategies. The Health Department held a Clinical Senate titled "Clinicians - Do you see me?" which myself and others attended. This raised many issues of the problems people with disability and carers face in the health system because of the often complex interactions between disability and health. One of the outcomes of this has been the commitment to the establishment of a Disability Health Network which the Council will be involved with.

Much of our work with the Minister and the DSC is on the need for involvement of people with disability, their families and carers in the development of policy and review of practice. This has seen the Council take on representative roles in a number of projects and on committees (refer page 18 for a complete list). The Support Worker Training Project has continued to be something the Council has had representation on as well as the Self Directed Services Reference Group. Council also put in a submission to the Disability Professional Services Review. Throughout the year Council members attended a range of one off events for information and to provide input and ensure the diverse perspectives of the sector are heard.

Our biggest project in 2011 was a major consultation on self directed services in the disability sector. As this is a major policy area of the WA State Government, Council thought it timely to find out what people with disability, families, carers, service providers and advocates understood about self directed services, and what support, accountability and safeguards are needed for it to be successful. This consultation took up the second half of the year with an online survey, a metropolitan forum, and a number of regional forums. The results and final findings are being prepared in 2012. All Council members assisted in facilitating

the forums and promoting the consultation. I would like to thank them, and the service providers, advocates and Carers Advisory Council members who promoted our consultation and assisted with forums.

Council often has watching briefs on items of interest that are on the national or state agenda that we may not be directly involved in. The National Disability Strategy (NDS) and the state equivalent, Count Me In, were areas discussed at length at Council, particularly around their implementation and effect on the ground. The Productivity Commission Inquiry into a Long Term Disability Care and Support Scheme, the Every Australian Counts Campaign, and subsequent announcement of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was the other major item which Council discussed in meetings and with the Minister. Both of these areas are continuing to be an important part of disability policy into the future which the Council will stay informed of and be involved where appropriate.

Chair's role and activities

The Chair of the Council has a role that includes being the direct link to the Minister and direct liaison and exchange with the DSC through sitting on the DSC Board. In this role I get to visit regional and metropolitan offices and meet Local Area Coordinators (LACs), people with disability, families and service providers to hear about their experiences. In 2011 I visited the Mirrabooka office and the Narrogin office in the Wheatbelt. Both had unique issues for their area, Mirrabooka having a strong ethnic and multicultural diversity, Narrogin having many issues relating to distance and lack of services. There were also similarities in that transport, unemployment and inclusion in school were common issues that LACs were working on, and that person centred planning and development of community connections made a big difference to people's lives.

Another role the Chair has is to be involved in the monitoring of the National Disability Strategy. Under the Strategies Evaluation and Monitoring section all state Advisory Body Chairs are required to meet annually to feedback on progress. This year it was to discuss the first year and input into the implementation plan. It is really important that there is input and monitoring by representative groups such as the Council who can bring the lived experience of people with disability and families to the discussion. I believe our input into the implementation plan was valued and along with other consultation resulted in a much better document. This process is sure to improve over the years as the strategy gains traction.

I was very privileged in 2011 to attend two major events as Chair of the Council. The first was the National Disability and Carer Congress which brought together over a thousand people in Melbourne to discuss the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It was a magnificent sight seeing so many people with disabilities, family members, advocates and service providers in the same room hearing from the Productivity Commission, politicians from all levels and people with disabilities, carers and service providers. A comprehensive report which detailed

some of the hopes and fears for a NDIS was presented to Council and the Minister.

The second event was my participation in the Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) as part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2011 in Perth. The CPF was a parallel event to CHOGM which brought people from civil society from all over the Commonwealth to discuss issues of human rights, the role of civil society, and the role of the Commonwealth. It was very humbling when hearing about the issues in some Commonwealth countries that affect so many people not just those with disability. During CHOGM I was also very honoured to attend the garden party at Government House in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

It was a very busy year with many major policy issues and areas of change which are continuing into 2012. The Council has endeavoured to keep the Minister informed on the major issues affecting people with disability, carers and the sector throughout the year and we would like to thank Minister Morton for valuing our advice and seeking our input on issues.

The work of the Council would not be possible without our wonderful dedicated staff. Gail Ambrose, our Executive Officer, provides support, advice and does a lot of behind the scenes organising which keeps the Council running smoothly. Carol Ambridge, the Liaison Officer provides administrative support and vital assistance at Council meetings. Thank you for your dedication.

Finally I would like to thank the Council members' of 2011 for their enthusiasm, commitment, expertise and belief that the Council has an important role to play and can make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Jenkinson', written in a cursive style.

Samantha Jenkinson
Chairperson

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

At the start of the year the Council was able to commence a new year with a relatively new executive. Samantha Jenkinson was appointed as Chairperson in the previous November shifting up from her Deputy Chair position creating a smooth succession process. Trevor Paterson was voted by the members into the position of Deputy Chair. Staff remained static with Carolyn Ambridge as Executive Assistant and myself as Executive Officer.

From our planning day in November 2010 it was clear that 2011 would be a busy year. Along with areas that members had identified there was the knowledge of imminent change, at a state and national level, on how services would be delivered in the future.

At the planning day the Council discussed concerns that had been raised within the community about self directed services and what it would mean to people with disability and their families. It was clear that there was some 'fear of the unknown' and that a lot of work would be required to educate people. With this in mind the Council considered that the first stage would be to gather people's thoughts on what it would mean to them if they were to have more choice and control in how they received their services.

A major project was developed by Council to undertake statewide consultations. A large amount of work was required from the Council's secretariat in supporting the project team. Following the development of a feedback form, staff were required to organise public forums in various regions across the state; this entailed a substantial amount of work behind the scenes. Carol and I also travelled to the regions to provide support to those Council members who facilitated the forums. We ended the year with an immense amount of information from the six public forums and the 80 surveys. The next task was to input the data ready for analysis, with the remainder of the project to continue into 2012.

As is usual for the Council, membership changes occurred. Throughout the year we farewelled Trevor, Lee, Yolanda and Katie. Four new members would be appointed in early 2012 bringing new perspectives to Council. That is the benefit of change but what comes with that is having to farewell people we come to care about.

I commend all Council members for their dedication and commitment to the work of the Council and to the clear goal of improving the lives of people with disability and their families. Working with Samantha and Trevor over the year has been a very smooth process - I look forward to working with Samantha further in the future. I thank Trevor for his work and commitment; he will be missed both professionally and personally.

I sincerely thank the excellent support that Carolyn Ambridge provides to me on a daily basis as a work colleague and friend and the support that she provides, with ease, to the Council members.

I would also like to thank our observers Michael Peverley from FaHCSIA and Alison Blake from DSC. Michael and Alison very diplomatically respond to our many queries and keep us up to date on what is happening.

We look forward to the new work and the continuation of activities and initiatives into 2012.



Gail Ambrose
Executive Officer

OVERVIEW OF THE COUNCIL

PURPOSE AND ORIGIN

State

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

The Council maintains networks with other State and Territory Disability Advisory Councils across Australia. 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.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

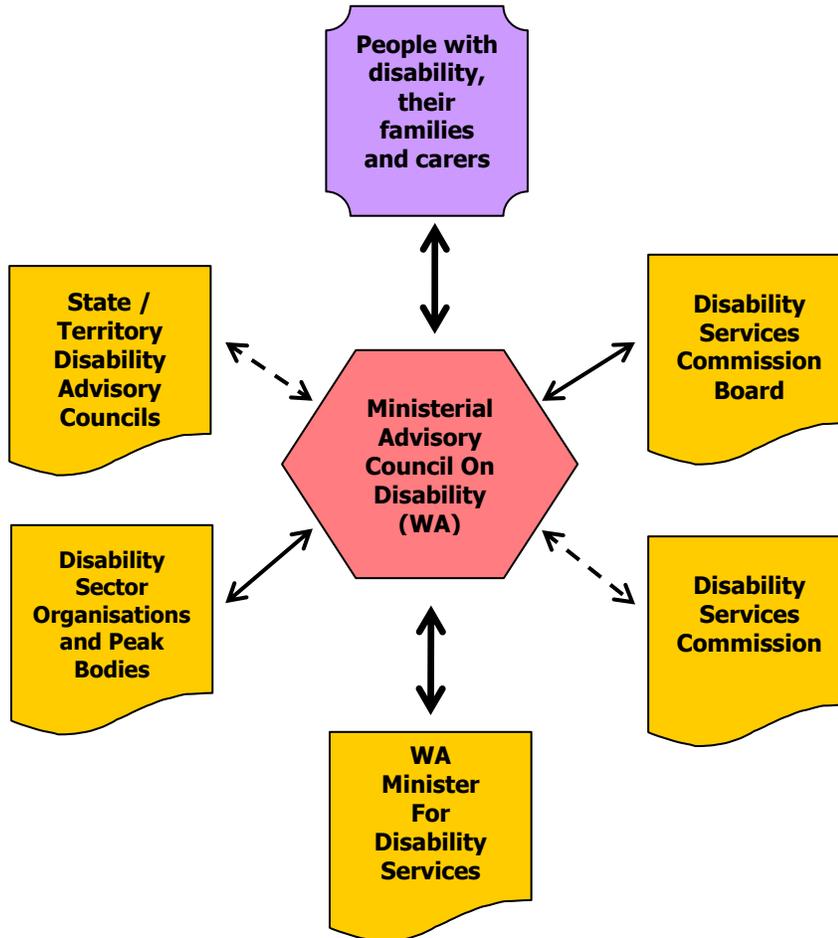
The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability's Strategic Framework assists the Council to deliver a strategic approach when providing valuable information and advice to the Minister for Disability Services. The framework content outlines "What we are going to do" and "How we are going to do it". The framework includes five Focus Areas:

- **Focus Area 1 - Getting Everyone's Input**
- **Focus Area 2 - Connecting with Government and the Community**
- **Focus Area 3 - Increasing Awareness**
- **Focus Area 4 - Working together with the Minister**
- **Focus Area 5 - How the Council works**

For further detail visit our website and go to 'Publications' www.macd.wa.gov.au

COUNCIL RELATIONSHIPS

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 linkages within the community and flow of information gathering:



Description of diagram:

The diagram above includes three shapes in a central vertical position and four shapes (two either side). The top shape represents people with disability, their families and carers with an arrow to the Council followed by an arrow to the Western Australian Minister for Disability Services. This represents the flow of information and advice coming from the community through the Council and onto the Minister. The other four shapes depict secondary links to State and Territory Disability Advisory Councils, Disability Sector Organisations and Peak Bodies, the Disability Services Commission Board and the Disability Services Commission.

REPORT ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

In November 2010, the Council conducted a planning session for work to be undertaken in 2011. The following Annual Work Plan was developed:

PRIORITIES

1.	Self Directed Services	Definition; capacity building; safeguards and accountability; and impact on sector development
2.	Education and Post School Options	Technology; student information; choice; independent schools and transport
3.	Accessible Communities	Housing stock and community infrastructure
4.	Health	Health services
5.	Air Travel Booklet for People with Disabilities	Joint project with People With Disabilities (WA) Inc. and the Disability Services Commission
6.	Transport	Transport issues at major events
7.	Building a Better Council Project	Continuation of project

An update on each priority follows:

1. Self Directed Services

Changes are occurring where the delivery of disability services, at a local and national level, is moving towards a more self directed approach. The Council considered it important to find out what self directed services means to people with disability, their families and carers and the service sector. In 2011 the Council agreed to conduct statewide consultations to gather views.

The consultation process stretched over a three month period and included six public forums and a variety of ways for people to provide written feedback.

A feedback form was developed and for the first time the Council provided an online survey. An abbreviated form was used to guide the group sessions at the forums.

The questions were based on the following four focus areas:

- Understanding self directed services – what people with disability, their families and carers understand about self directed services
- Capacity building – what people need
- Accountability and safeguards – managing things and being safe
- Impact on sector development – how will organisations be affected

Public forums were held in:

Perth	27 September 2011	Facilitated by Samantha Jenkinson
Albany	9 November 2011	Facilitated by Ishtar Beetham
Bunbury	16 November 2011	Facilitated by Samantha Jenkinson and Noreen Fynn
Northam	23 November 2011	Facilitated by Samantha Connor and Greg Madson
Geraldton	28 November 2011	Facilitated by Samantha Jenkinson
Narrogin	30 November 2011	Facilitated by Samantha Connor

Disability Services Minister Helen Morton attended the Perth forum to formally close the event and to officially launch the Council's new logo.

Council members and staff either travelled or resided in the country regions. Up to 200 people attended the public forums and almost 80 surveys were received. Members from the Carers Advisory Council (CAC) assisted at the forums. This was the first time the Councils had worked in partnership and plans for a joint project in 2012 were discussed. The Ministerial Advisory Council appreciated the involvement of CAC members in this consultation and sincerely thank them for the assistance they provided.

The closing date for comment was extended from December 2011 to January 2012. The project will continue in 2012 with the development of the final report followed by submission to the Minister.

2. Education and Post School Options

Education

Review of Education Standards

The Australian Government undertook consultation to review the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards) by way of public forums/meetings and written submissions.

To have input into this process Council members attended consultation forums (including a stakeholder roundtable attended by Samantha Connor) and gathered information from within its networks. The information predominantly related to the implementation and awareness of the Standards in practise in Western Australian educational facilities and highlighted a number of issues relating to the experiences of students with disability.

To meet the Council's state mandate the Council determined that feedback should be provided directly to the WA Disability Services Minister for consideration.

Issues included:

- Limited notification from the Australian Government of the review's community consultations.
- Lack of underlying principles embedded in the Standards.
- Developing a system with a more human rights focus.
- Eligibility and funding issues.
- Discrepancies with what is intended at senior management / policy level and what actually occurs in the classroom.
- Develop and establish regular review mechanisms and mandatory reporting processes to ensure providers meet their obligations for students with disability and to realise systemic change.
- An extensive knowledge of legislation, standards and conventions as a requirement for all new teachers.
- Provision of more support and professional development around disability for teachers and other support staff to better integrate students with disability.
- Limited consultation and regular review of Individual Education Plans.
- Conduct effective consultation and assessment needs of students with disability to ensure optimum outcomes and involvement of the student and their families.
- Complaints process relating to the Standards can be difficult and costly and often not lead to any systemic change.
- Competitive environment for vocational education and training institutions having to pursue more commercial and competitive tendering processes.
- Absence of online learning in the Standards.
- Accessibility of teaching and learning materials.
- Misunderstandings of terms such as 'reasonable adjustment'.
- Lack of advocacy support for students with disability and their families.

The Minister for Disability Services forwarded this paper to the Education Minister.

Post School Options

The Council presented a briefing to the Minister identifying several issues that some people are experiencing as their children approach their future beyond school.

Some of the issues included:

- Post School Options application process.
- People who are being overlooked (falling through the gaps).
- Better promotion of mixed options.
- Lack of choice.
- Lack of country service providers for Alternatives to Employment.
- Change of ATE Program name.
- Self management of funding.

3. Accessible Communities – Housing and Community Infrastructure

Housing

Samantha Jenkinson attended a meeting with the Disability Services Commission for a briefing on current work/activities on housing for people with disability. Following this meeting a briefing was provided to the Council. As there was substantial work being undertaken in the area of housing the Council maintained a watching brief on various activities.

Community Infrastructure

The Council received regular updates on “Count Me In” activities from the Disability Services Commission and this also enabled members to provide feedback on matters relating to community infrastructure and accessibility. One of the main areas related to the importance of government authorities being accountable and meeting their Disability Access and Inclusion Plans’ requirements. Council continues to monitor these matters and takes advantage of having input into major infrastructure projects such as the Perth Railway Station redevelopment and the Perth City Link Project.

4. Health

WA Primary Health Care Strategy submission

The Council’s submission into the WA Primary Health Care Strategy was provided to the Minister for Disability Services who then submitted the comment directly to the Minister for Health.

Some major points provided in the Council’s submission included:

- The lack of consumer representation on the review’s working group.
- Establishing a correlation with national reform strategies and initiatives.
- The focus on systems and structures and not the people.

- Limited mention of people with a disability, their families and carers as stakeholders or as a particular focus within the Western Australian health system.
- The common principles underlying the WA Primary Health Care Strategy not focusing on the outcomes for people.
- Appropriate access to information including alternative formats.
- The establishment of a Disability Health Network to link the key stakeholders in disability and health to raise awareness of disability within the health sector.
- Consultation and engagement with people with disability, their families and carers and disability service organisations.
- Inclusion of disability related bodies when strengthening partnerships with research organisations, universities, centres of excellence and national and international bodies of evidence-based practice.

Clinical Senate Debate - “Clinicians - Do you see me?”

The Clinical Senate is made up of a diverse and dynamic group of clinicians who vigorously debate challenging issues confronting the whole of health in Western Australia. The Senate operates outside of the formal Department of Health structure and provides a source of independent clinical advice to the Western Australian public health system. It provides a forum where collective knowledge on clinical issues is shared and decisions are made across the system to the benefit of all.

Council Chair, Samantha Jenkinson, was invited to attend as an expert witness along with other disability peak body representatives. The topic was “Clinicians - Do you see me?”. After presentations from disability representatives the members of the senate discussed the issues raised then developed recommendations which were voted on and forwarded to the State Health Executive for consideration.

Some of the recommendations from the day included the development of a Disability Health Network and Disability Liaison Officers based in major regional hospitals. The Council will continue their interest in the establishment of these initiatives.

<h3>5. Air travel booklet for people with disability</h3>
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This project was jointly undertaken between the Council, People With Disabilities (WA) Inc. and the Disability Services Commission. The resource is intended for use by people with disability and their travelling companions on what to do when flying. The information includes; before you fly; making your booking; at the airport; in flight and on arrival.

The “Prepare for take off – air travel tips for people with disability” information booklet was successfully launched by the Minister for Disability Services at the Perth International Airport on 21 August 2011.

6. Transport – major events

In the latter part of 2011 two major events were scheduled to be held in Perth and Fremantle; the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and the World Sailing Championships. The Council provided a briefing note to the Minister identifying issues with public transport and access needs for people with disability during these events. These major events would create a huge demand on the local transport system, in particular the taxi industry. People with disability, who rely heavily on taxis in many cases as their only form of transport, would have been affected the most. The key recommendations were:

- Awareness of the needs of people with disability and early planning for their transport and access needs around the time of these events; and
- Communication plans that are to be sent throughout the community on public transport and road closures during these events must include relevant disability groups to enable the information to be dispersed within their membership.

In addition, Melissa Northcott attended the CHOGM 2011 Information Briefing at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre in April. Items discussed included security, traffic and policing, access for people with disability and the CHOGM taskforce’s liaison with the taxi industry.

7. Building a Better Council (BBC)

The BBC project began in 2009 where the Council reviewed and developed strategies for the following area of its operations:

1. Consulting more effectively
2. Increasing the Council profile
3. Increasing the profile of people with disabilities, their families and carers
4. Increasing communication flow with the Minister
5. Making the Council more effective

The following items were developed and/or completed in 2011:

Council branding

- The Minister launched the new logo at the Self Directed Services consultation forum and congratulated the winner of the logo competition Mr David Crocker.
- Stationery and member’s badges were updated with the new logo.

Professional Development Workshop

The Council engaged Mr Peter Dhu to conduct a half day professional development workshop for members on Presentation Skills. The workshop was tailored to focus on the following outcomes:

- More effective participation in council meetings, other meetings and other networking opportunities that the Council members might find they have.
- To be more confident and effective when and if Council members have an opportunity to present to a group.

WATCHING BRIEFS

The following items were listed as watching briefs. The Council received updates on the activities for each area listed below and monitored the impacts that these activities had on people with disability, their families and carers. Where able Council members provided comment in a variety of ways.

Economic Audit

Noreen Fynn represented the Council on the Economic Audit Committee - Self Directed Services Reference Group.

Several Council members attended the Partnership Forums held in February and December of 2011. The Partnership Forum's membership is comprised of leaders from government and the community sector (human services). The role of the forum is to implement many of the Economic Audit Committee's recommendations relating to procurement and community sector funding.

National Disability Strategy

The National Disability Strategy sets out a ten year national plan for improving life for people with disability, their families and carers. The Development Officials Working Group (DOWG) with Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has responsibility for developing the implementation of the NDS. The DOWG is made up of representatives from 1st line state and territory agencies and line specific agencies.

All Chairs of the various state disability advisory bodies, the national disability advisory body and Graeme Innes from the Australian Human Rights Commission were invited to Melbourne by FaHCSIA to have input into the implementation plan of the NDS. Samantha Jenkinson attended the meeting in Melbourne in August and another in December via teleconference. Prior to the Melbourne December meeting, Samantha Connor attended a consultation meeting with the Disability Services Commission that would subsequently feed into the national meeting.

Disability Care and Support Scheme - Productivity Commissions' Public Inquiry – National Disability Insurance Scheme

A range of activities occurred in 2011 with the release of the Productivity Commission's report on a Disability Care and Support Scheme. The Council Chairperson was involved in a range of meetings with other members attending various events as well. Written and verbal briefings were provided to the Minister throughout the year.

National Disability and Carers Congress 2 - 3 May 2011 Melbourne

The National Disability and Carer Congress was convened by the National Disability and Carer Alliance to provide an opportunity for people with disability, their families and carers, service providers and advocates to examine, analyse, debate and discuss the proposal for a NDIS. Samantha Jenkinson, Council Chairperson, attended this conference and reported that there was representation from a number of organisations and a large number of people with disability. It was beneficial to obtain other state and territory viewpoints on the scheme. A written report on the congress was provided to the Minister.

NDIS Forum - Reform of Disability Services in Australia

In October 2011, a public forum was held to discuss the reform of disability services in Australia, including the NDIS and the National Injury Insurance Scheme. Speakers included the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation; Assistant Treasurer, Senator the Hon Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers and Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Mr Graeme Innes AM. Several Council members attended the forum and participated in the group discussions.

Australian Disability Enterprises (ADE) Review

This review was identified by the Council as a watching brief due to its indirect connection to some of Councils priorities.

The initial review report "Vision for Sustainable Supported Employment" was prepared by an independent advisory body and was submitted to the Parliamentary Secretary. The report outlined a ten year vision on supported employment for people with disability. Although the main focus was Australian Disability Enterprises the work also included a broader employment agenda.

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

Council members are asked to represent the Council on various committees/working parties. Council's representation on external committees for 2011 is outlined below:

- **Centrelink Community Consultative Committee on Disability**
Melissa Northcott (Proxy Greg Madson/Lee Ugle)
- **Consumer Engagement Framework Committee**
Noreen Fynn, Samantha Jenkinson and Gail Ambrose
- **Disability Support Worker Training Project Reference Group**
Crispin Roberts (Proxy Kim Hawkins)
- **DSC Carers Recognition Act Reference Group**
Ranil Ratnayeke (Proxy Noreen Fynn)
- **DSC DAIP Implementation Steering Committee**
Samantha Connor (Proxy Greg Madson)
- **EAC – Self Directed Services Reference Group**
Noreen Fynn (Proxy Ishtar Beetham)
- **NDS WA Disability Employment Services Sub-committee**
Greg Madson
- **Positive Behaviour Framework Guiding Committee**
Ishtar Beetham (Proxy Jacqueline Reid)
- **You're Welcome Access Initiative Committee & WA Accessible Tourism Reference Group**
Samantha Connor and Gail Ambrose (Proxy Lee Ugle)

OTHER WORK

The Council undertakes activities in addition to the key priority areas that are outlined in the Annual Work Plan. The following comment provides an overview of other work undertaken throughout 2011.

Review of Disability Professional Services

In March 2011, the WA Government engaged KPMG to conduct a review of Disability Professional Services looking at services provided by both the Disability Services Commission and non-government organisations. The Council provided input into the review with the main points including:

- The need for a social model that encompasses across an individual's life span that provides a range of therapy services to facilitate physical functioning, independence and participation in social and community activities.
- Parents of young children with a disability are seeking the best outcomes and results for their children to have a "normal" life.
- Therapy for teenagers and young adults should include supporting the young person with socialisation, communication, participation and independence as they move out of school and into adulthood.
- With adults it is about maintaining health and function as well as socialisation, communication, participation and independence.
- In all age groups therapy services should include the provision of assistive aids and equipment.
- Person centred and family centred approaches should be more self directed to enable real choice, decision making and dignity of risk.
- Coaching or collaborative models (where the therapist identifies strategies that are implemented in the home and the school) can be more effective, however can also place additional pressure on families and education systems.

Census 2011

A discussion paper was prepared and discussed at a Council meeting detailing concerns with some of the questions in the Census 2011 form. The key concerns revolved around the questions under "Need for assistance in everyday activities" rather than asking "Do you have a disability?". This may not identify those people who are deaf, blind, have an intellectual, physical or any other disability unless they receive support with everyday basic care needs from other people. This data can create an inaccurate result for effective future planning.

These issues were referred to the National Advisory Council on Disability and Carer Issues for consideration.

National Aids and Equipment Reform Research Project

The commonwealth, state and territory Disability Ministers agreed to reforms aimed at more consistent access to aids and equipment. Jenny Pearson and Associates Pty Ltd were appointed to undertake research for the Aids and Equipment Reform priority. Council members provided input into this research.

Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Assessment Panel

Council member, Jacqueline Reid, participated on the panel for the assessment of applicants for the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure. Jacqueline said that the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure provides a wonderful opportunity for people with disability and young carers to learn new skills, gain independence and extend their personal networks.

Commonwealth People's Forum

The Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) brings together civil society representatives from around the world, to discuss and debate key issues facing Commonwealth people. Held every two years in the run up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the CPF is the single biggest opportunity for civil society to engage with Commonwealth leaders on global development issues.

The attendance of Samantha Jenkinson, Chairperson of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability, at this forum provided the opportunity to meet people from a range of Commonwealth countries and to hear their perspectives and experiences of human rights. It also provided networking opportunities with colleagues from national and international disability organisations.

MEETINGS

Council members participate in a range of meetings within the sector. Several are standing meetings and meetings that provide an opportunity for Council to have input into various strategies and initiatives. It also provides members the facility to network and to increase their knowledge and expertise. Information on these meetings are outlined throughout this report.

The following meetings are standing meetings that Council attended on a regular basis in 2011:

- Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability – monthly.
- Minister for Disability Services.
- Joint Chairs - Council and Disability Services Commission Board Chairpersons (Executive only) – bi-monthly.
- Council members and Disability Services Commission Board members – November 2011.
- Disability Coalition (disability peak bodies) - Executive Officer - monthly.

The Council Chairperson as a Disability Services Commission Board member attended the following meetings/activities throughout 2011:

- Monthly DSC Board (including special DSC Board meetings held at various agencies) - monthly.
- Reference Networks meetings.

Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability

The Council meets on the last Friday of each month (excluding December). Items of discussion at the Council meetings are outlined throughout this report. Below is a list of attendees at Council meetings other than members:

- The State Minister and Minister's Policy Adviser attends twice a year.
- A representative from the Disability Services Commission attends as an observer.
- A representative from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs attends as an observer.
- The Disability Services Commission's Director General and staff provide briefings to Council on specific matters.

Guest Speakers at Council meetings

Council regularly invites guest speakers to meetings to inform members on Council priority areas, current and emerging issues or new initiatives and 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:

- **Mr Tim Doncon, Disability Services Commission**
Review of the Commission's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2011 - 2016
- **Mr Garry Young, Disability Services Commission**
Community Living Initiative
- **Mr David Granville and Ms Helen Taylor, Disability Services Commission**
Housing for people with disability – brainstorming issues
- **Dr Ron Chalmers, Disability Services Commission**
Director General's briefing
- **Ms Monique Williamson, Disability Services Commission**
Newly established Community and Sector Development Directorate

State Minister for Disability Services

Meetings between the Minister and the Council Executive

The Council advises the Disability Services 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 written briefings and at regular meetings with the Council Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Executive Officer.

During 2011 the Council provided information to the Minister on the following matters:

- Council's Annual Work Plan 2011.
- Council submissions into state and national consultations.
- Productivity Commission Report.
- National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).
- Public transport and access needs for people with disability during CHOGM.
- Disability Employment Support Services tender.
- WA Primary Health Care Strategy.
- Education and Post School Options.
- National Disability and Carer Congress.
- Council Input into National Inquiries.

Meetings between the Minister and all Council members

The Hon Minister Helen Morton, Minister for Disability Services and Mr Mark Hutson, Principal Policy Adviser Disability attended the full meeting of Council in September and November 2011. The following items were discussed:

- National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- Ministerial Briefing Note - Post School Options.
- Ministerial Briefing Note - Council Input into National Inquiries.
- Council's Self Directed Services Public Consultation.
- National Disability Strategy – Role of Council.
- Council's 2012 Annual Work Plan.
- Cross-agency work and opportunities.
- Technology use in schools.

Disability Services Commission Board

Although the Council's mandate extends beyond the Commission we have a strong working relationship with the Commission Board and staff. The Chair of the Council is also a member of the Board of the Disability Services Commission and conveys a consumer's opinion to the Board.

Joint Chair's Meetings

The Council Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Executive Officer meet regularly with the Commission's Board Chairperson, Mr Bruce Langoulant and the Director General, Dr Ron Chalmers.

The following items were discussed at meetings in 2011:

- Self Directed Services.
- "Count Me In" activities.
- Aids and Equipment Insurance.
- Chair's Forum.
- Productivity Commission – Disability Long-Term Care and Support Scheme.
- Self Directed Supports and Services Strategy.
- Chief Executive Officer Information Exchange Forum.
- New Commission organisational structure.
- Employment.
- Service capacity in regional areas.
- Housing for people with disability.
- Disability Support Worker Awards.

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

A Joint Meeting of members of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability and the Disability Services Commission Board was held in November 2011. These meetings provide an opportunity for all Council and Board members to network and engage in discussion on current activity.

Extensive debate was held on the following items:

- Council's Self Directed Services Public Consultation.
- National Disability Insurance Scheme – the next stages.

Carers Advisory Council

The Chairs and Executive Officers of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability and the Carers Advisory Council met twice throughout 2011.

The following items were discussed:

18 July 2011

- Caregiving into the 21st Century Conference
- Person Centred Planning
- National Disability Insurance Scheme
- MACD's Self Directed Services Public Consultation
- Premier's Circular 2010/03 - Written submissions to National Inquiries
- Consumer engagement

3 November 2011

- Regional Self-Directed Services Consultations
- Council priority areas for 2012
- Joint consultation/workshop in 2012 for 'role modelling' involvement by carers and people with disability
- March 2012 joint meeting of both Councils

NETWORKING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

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 2011:

- Partnership Forum
- Activ 60th Anniversary - Cocktail Party
- You're Welcome website consultation
- Therapeutic Goods Administration Review
- Review of Education Standards Stakeholder Roundtable and Consultations
- Clinical Senate Debate – “Clinicians – Do you see me?”
- Perth City Link Project – On-site Information Sessions
- DisabiliTea
- Blind Citizens 50 Year Anniversary
- My Life, My Way
- Launch of Early Engagement with Carers Report
- Count Me In Ambassador Showcase
- The Future of Disability Policy in Australia Improving the Lives of People with Disability, their Families and Carers
- Towards Good Lives Workshop
- “Towards a National Disability Insurance Scheme, making it happen and getting it right!”
- Carers Week 2011 - High tea at the laughter frontier
- Developmental Disability Council Annual General Meeting
- Commonwealth People's Forum
- NDIS Forum - Reform of Disability Services in Australia
- State Reception Dinner
- Aids and Equipment Reform Research Project Meeting
- The power of team work: Another angle of tackling legal/challenging issues as advocates
- Scholarship Report Presentation Ceremony
- Count Me In 2011 Awards
- DSC Board Christmas Function
- Partnership Forum - Breakfast Forum for Not-For-Profit Community Sector Leaders
- Transition to Retirement Roundtable

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF IN 2011

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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.

Ms Samantha Jenkinson (Chair)	2 nd Term 1/1/2010 – 31/12/2011
Ms Ishtar Beetham	1 st Term 8/3/2010 – 7/3/2012
Ms Yolanda Berg (retired 2011)	2 nd Term 1/1/2010 – 31/12/2011
Ms Samantha Connor	1 st Term 22/11/2010 – 21/11/2012
Dr Katie Ellis (resigned 2011)	1 st Term 22/11/10 – 21/11/12
Ms Noreen Fynn	2 nd Term 14/3/2011 – 15/3/2013
Ms Kim Hawkins	1 st Term 8/3/2010 – 7/3/2012
Mr Trevor Paterson (Deputy Chair) (retired 2011)	2 nd Term 1/1/2010 – 31/12/2011
Mr Greg Madson (Treasurer)	2 nd Term 14/3/2011 – 15/3/2013
Ms Melissa Northcott	2 nd Term 14/3/2011 – 15/3/2013
Mr Ranil Ratnayeke	1 st Term 8/3/2010 – 7/3/2012
Ms Jacqueline Reid	1 st Term 24/11/2010 – 23/11/2012
Mr Crispin Roberts	2 nd Term 14/3/2011 – 15/3/2013
Mr Lee Ugle (retired 2011)	2 nd Term 1/1/2010 – 31/12/2011

COUNCIL STAFF

Ms Gail Ambrose
Ms Carol Ambridge
Ms Karen Fletcher

Executive Officer
Executive Assistant
Acting Executive Assistant

End of report