



Independent advisor to the Western Australian Minister for Disability Services
Keeping government informed

Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability



Annual Work Report 2014

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146 – 160 Colin Street, West Perth, Western Australia 6005.

This report covers the 2014 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.

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Executive 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 many such issues, so each year we decide on our priority areas and plan how to address them. 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.

What an exciting year my first year as Chair has been. I joined the Council on 1 January 2012 as an ordinary member and was soon voted into the role of Deputy Chairperson before being appointed to Chairperson from 1 January 2014. Of course my moving into this role left a vacancy for Deputy Chair. My fellow Councillors voted Stuart Jenkinson to that position. Congratulations Stuart! On behalf of the Council, I also say a big thank you to the members who retired during the year: Kim Hawkins, Samantha Connor, Jacqueline Reid and Dr Mohammad Jehangir. During their terms on Council, each made a significant contribution. We have a dynamic membership that changes as members retire and new members are appointed. This year we had the pleasure to welcome to our team Eloise Bolam, Stuart Jenkinson and Cindy Evans. Their arrival was just in time for the launch of the disability reform trials.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Perth Hills and the WA NDIS My Way trial sites were launched on 1 July 2014. The Council's role with the reforms is to stay abreast of the issues and to monitor how things are working with the trials for people with disabilities, their carers, friends and families and the service providers. In particular, we keep our ears to the ground via our various networks to know if there is an issue that has been overlooked. As Chair I represent MACD on the NDIS My Way Reference Group which is responsible for steering the evaluation of the trial sites.

To have solid foundations in any program or service and to be able to move forward in a positive way, sound and qualified information is essential and I believe that it all begins with funded research. At the Centre of Applied Disability Research Conference in Sydney, I was inspired to see examples of research that were well connected with the disability sector priorities, and were being conducted in partnership with people with disability and sector organisations. However, a national audit identified a number of gaps in the evidence, and that the research effort is not as coordinated as it might be.

In conjunction with the Disability Services Commission and the Telethon Kids Institute the Council hosted a briefing session for WA disability research academics to give them information on the disability reforms currently on trial

in WA, and to hear from leaders within the disability community about priority areas for research from their perspectives. This event received much positive feedback that indicated strong potential for future action in this area.

We targeted some interesting projects some of which have spurred new off-shoot projects for next year. Much is being done to encourage people with disabilities to find paid employment so we decided to find out what training and supports are available for those people who would find working their own hours in their own business more suitable. We partnered with the Department of Health's Disability Health Network to host a forum to find out what health promotion initiatives have been the most successful, what works and what doesn't work and how health can be promoted more effectively. Prior to this forum the Council conducted an online survey to reach more people and we spoke about the results at the forum. Last year we started to investigate affordable housing for people with disabilities and this project continued into this year. The Disability Services Commission's policy on Family Members as Paid Support Workers also came under our microscope. Society's contemporary meaning of 'family' is changing and this presented some challenges for our project team to really pin down the heart of the project. This will continue with phase two in 2015 mindful that outcomes of the disability reform trials may point to other options.

Finally, I would like to thank our dedicated staff. Acting Executive Officer Peta Kenworthy and Executive Assistant Roslyn (Lyn) Creed provide professional executive support, keeping me on track with current tasks and issues. Thanks to both for their administrative support as well as the vital assistance provided at Council meetings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Skoss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Rachel Skoss
Chairperson
August 2015

About Us

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability 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 disability, their families and carers. The Council was established in accordance with Part 3 and Schedule 5 of the Act.

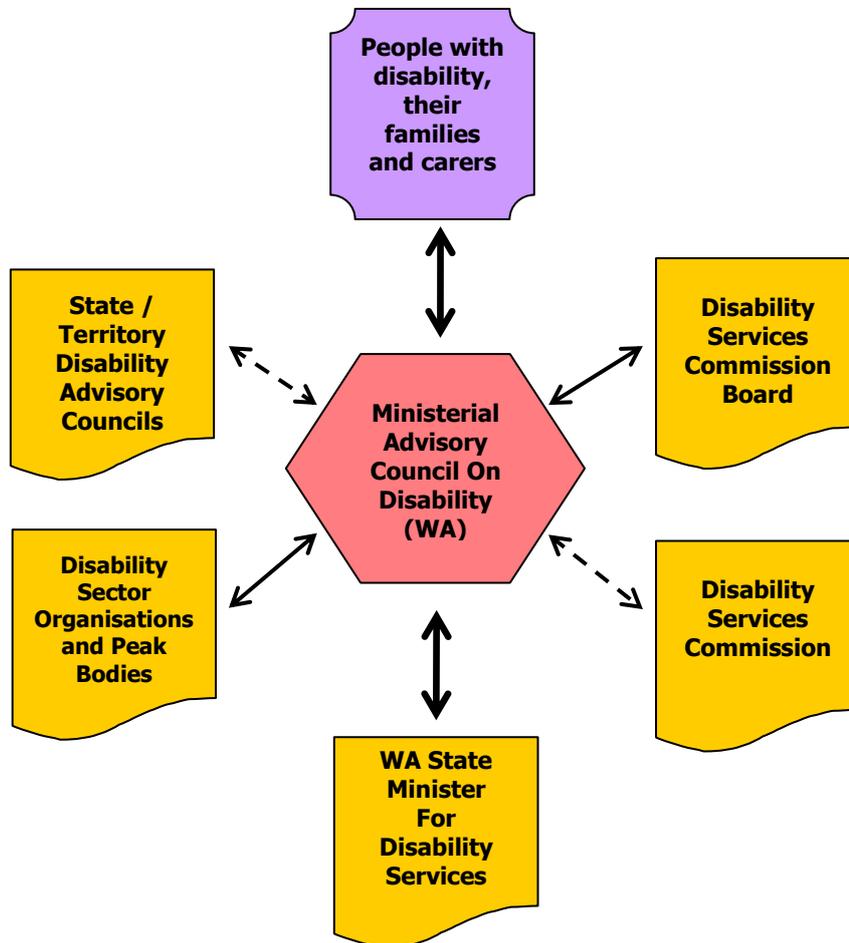
Council is comprised of 14 members selected and appointed by the Minister. Membership must reflect the spectrum of people with a disability and includes people with disability, family members, carers, advocates and service providers.

The Council's Strategic Framework assists the Council to deliver a strategic approach when providing valuable information and advice to the Minister. The framework includes the five Focus Areas:

- **Focus Area 1 - Getting Everyone's Input**
This focus area describes how the Council will consult with people with disability, 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 disability, 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 disability, 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 details visit our website and go to 'Publications'
www.macd.wa.gov.au

The Council undertakes its work through consultation with the community through the members' community networks and linkages and through formal consultation processes. The diagram below shows the links and flow of information gathering:



Description of diagram for screen readers:

The diagram above includes three shapes in a central vertical position and four other shapes (two to either side). The top shape represents people with disability, their families and carers with an arrow to the Council in the centre, followed by a downwards pointing arrow to the WA State 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 in 2014

Annual Work Plan

In November 2013, the Council conducted a planning session for work to be undertaken in 2014. The following Annual Work Plan was developed and includes Priorities, Watching Briefs and member representation on External Committees.

Priorities

Employment

The Council identified that a stronger focus is needed to improve employment opportunities for people with disability.

This year the Employment working group looked at support options for people with disabilities who wanted to establish their own business and used the Commonwealth Government's New Enterprise Incentive Scheme as a starting point and comparison. The group liaised with NEIS service providers to scope the training/support environment and located people with disability who have experience of the scheme to find out about their challenges and barriers to completing the program. The working group found that there is a gap in the training sector for people with complex needs who need support and this has led to a secondary project in 2015.

Health Promotion Survey and Café

With the intent to discover what works, what does not work and how promotion of health issues for people with disabilities could be improved, a public consultation event called a Health Promotion Café was co-hosted by the Council and the Disability Health Network.

Prior to this event the Council conducted an online survey to find out people's thoughts on how health issues are promoted; which campaigns they considered successful and which campaigns were unsuccessful. The results of the survey were presented at the Café event.

Disability Research Audit

To identify what research is being conducted into anything related to people with disability; and to identify what level of stakeholder engagement the

researchers use, an online survey was targeted to disability researchers based at Western Australian universities.

This audit also helped to determine what the research priorities are and identify any knowledge gaps. The Council's aim is to improve links between research and government so as to make better use of the knowledge currently available. Step one of this was to conduct a Disability Researchers' Briefing Event as described below.

Disability Researchers' Briefing Event

A disability research forum was hosted in partnership with the Telethon Kids Institute and Disability Services Commission. The intent was to inform researchers of the current reforms occurring within Western Australia, and also to provide an opportunity for them to hear the priorities of research from a range of leaders within the disability sector. Speakers included Minister Morton, Dr Ron Chalmers (Director General Disability Services Commission), Ms Marita Walker (NDIS Perth Hills), Ms Samantha Jenkinson (People with Disabilities), Ms Fiona Payne (Disability Health Network), Mr Rod Astbury (Western Australian Association for Mental Health Services), Mr Terry Simpson (National Disability Services), and Ms Justine Colyer (Rise and Western Australian Council of Social Services). Approximately 70 researchers attended from a range of Western Australian universities, disability service organisations and government agencies. Feedback was very positive.

Following the forum, a disability research network will be planned for Western Australia. It is anticipated that this network would facilitate and support applied disability research in Western Australia, by developing appropriate links and partnerships between relevant stakeholders. The network would develop mechanisms to encourage disability research that is based on the priorities of the disability sector, as identified by the National Disability Strategy, National Disability Research and Development Agenda, and the Disability Research Audit (2014).

Housing

In 2013, Council commenced investigation into affordable housing opportunities for people with disabilities. This project continued in 2014 to outline the areas of difference between government agency policies on community housing and culminated in a report to the Minister for Disability Services.

Documents referenced by the working group included the 'Senate Inquiry into Affordable Housing March 2014 – submission by the Community Housing Coalition WA', 'Home Ownership and Affordability for People Living with Disability in Western Australia report commissioned by NDS from Curtin University', and all available government agency policies.

Policy Review: Family members as paid support workers

The Disability Services Commission's policy 'Family members as paid support workers' was reviewed by Council in 2014. In doing the review the working group researched and reviewed policies of other states and territories, compared those policies to the Western Australian policy, researched and reviewed Federal Government policy and the National Disability Insurance Scheme's policy and reported its findings with recommendations to the Minister for Disability Services.

The Minister referred the Council's research and recommendations to the Disability Services Commission for comment.

On receipt of the Commission's response, the Council decided to create a phase two to this project to be continued in 2015 with the main objective to provide further clarity of intent and terminology definitions.

Case Studies: In support of a National Injury Insurance Scheme

To support the case for the introduction of a National Injury Insurance Scheme in Western Australia, the Council was tasked with obtaining personal stories of life-changing hardship from drivers who have sustained catastrophic injuries from single vehicle accidents in which, there was no one to blame or to sue for damages. For example, hitting a large animal on the road or running into a tree.

Locating people with compelling stories and who were prepared to have their story recorded for the Minister to present in Parliament presented a challenge that the Council managed by developing and distributing an online survey to a large database of disability sector organisations, workers and clients. Everyone who received a link to the survey was also asked to forward it onto their own networks.

This Council will continue to collect stories as they become available until the NIIIS passes successfully through Parliament and is adopted for all Western Australians.

Watching Briefs

The following items were listed as Watching Briefs. The Council received updates on the activities for each area 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.

Disability Health Network (DHN) and Disability Liaison Officers (DLO)

Disability Health Network: Council continues to participate in and to monitor the activities of the DHN into 2014.

Disability Liaison Officers: The project of placing a Disability Liaison Officer one in the South Metropolitan Health zone and the other in the North Metropolitan zone is being conducted over two years. The Council continues to monitor the progress and effectiveness of these roles.

National Disability Insurance Scheme and National Injury Insurance Scheme

The Council is strongly supportive of the above schemes and their proposed directions, and continues to monitor the progress of the NDIS and WA NDIS My Way trials.

National Disability Strategy (NDS)

The NDS outlines a ten-year national policy framework to which, all levels of government have committed to drive improvement across mainstream policies, programs, services and infrastructure, as well as specialist disability services.

Sport and Recreation

The Council has continued to monitor the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) and noted they had conducted a review of their *Disability Review Implementation Plan*.

Throughout 2014, the Council continued to monitor the DSR's Disability and Recreation Review Implementation Plan with particular emphasis on access to all types of recreation which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people with disability and their families and alternatives to respite.

Education

Member Jacqueline Reid provided regular updates on key matters of importance for students with disabilities. Council learned of the Salamanca Statement 1994 that states that every child in the world has a right to an education and this includes children of all abilities. Jacquie spoke of the Federally funded More Support for Students with Disabilities (MMSA) 2012 – 2014 that recognised the need to improve teacher capacity; the National Collection of Data for Students with Disabilities which looks at equitable funding for schools across Australia - a sub set of this is funding for students with disabilities; and Early Intervention which is yet to receive funding for three year old children with disabilities.

Transport

Council continued to monitor transport issues and was satisfied that the Public Transport Authority / Transperth is actively working toward reasonable measures to provide an accessible public transport service. Due to budget constraints initiatives will take time to be put in place.

The Council became aware of the new to Perth London Taxi Cabs that the Department of Transport (DoT) introduced in a trial to decrease the demand for accessible taxis. Members will continue to monitor DoT's ongoing assessment of these vehicles.

External Committee Representation

Council's representation on various committees/working parties in 2014 included the following:

- Consultative forum on Health and Older Australians, Disability and Carers (Centrelink)
- Curtin University's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Implementation Committee
- Carers Recognition Act Reference Group (Disability Services Commission)
- Disability Services Commission's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Implementation Steering Committee
- National Disability Service (NDS) WA Training and Professional Development Reference Group
- National Disability Service (NDS) WA Disability Employment Services Sub Committee
- Positive Behaviour Framework Guiding Committee (Disability Services Committee)
- You're Welcome Access Initiative Committee and WA Accessible Tourism Reference Group
- Home Ownership and Affordability of Housing for People with Disability Project Steering Committee
- Emerging Technology Partnership Group (Independent Living Centre)
- National Disability Services (NDS) Clinical and Allied Health Sub Committee
- WA National Disability Insurance Scheme Reference Group
- Perth Hills Advisory Network

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 a range of strategies and initiatives. It also allows the members to network and raise awareness of the Council within the community.

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 an overview of those who attend regular Council meetings:

- Council members and support staff
- A representative from the Department of Social Services (formerly known as the Department for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) attends as an observer.
- The Minister and the Minister's Policy Adviser attend one meeting a year. The Council Executive meets with the Minister on a regular basis.
- 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 priority areas, current and 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:

- Alison Blake, A/Manager Strategic Policy and Programs, Disability Services Commission spoke to the Council about the Quality Management Framework and the National Disability Standards that superseded the framework.
- Megan Barnett, Manager Disability Justice Service, Disability Services Commission gave a comprehensive overview of the Disability Justice Centres project to date including the process of the legislation through Parliament.
- Kerry Stopher Director Engagement and Mary Ashe Assistant Director Engagement, National Disability Insurance Agency, Perth Hills Trial Site presented an overview of the current trial in the Perth Hills area.

Members' presentations to other organisations

The Council offered many organisations the opportunity to have a council member visit and discuss the work of the Council. We actively sought connections to extend our range of consultation to improve the quality of information we provide to the Minister for Disability Services.

Councillor Jethro Hepton, who represents people with disabilities in the Bunbury and south west region, visited several organisations within his region to talk about the Council, who we are and what we do and how we can collaborate with other organisations on projects. This year Jethro visited the City of Bunbury, the Shire of Harvey, Enable Southwest, and his local area coordination office of the Disability Services Commission. Jethro received strong and enthusiastic feedback from each organisation.

Surveys conducted

In 2014, the Council subscribed to Survey Monkey to add online surveys to our suite of methods of engaging with the community when conducting research. Links to the surveys are emailed to our mailing list of subscribers and also placed on the Surveys page of the MACD website for anyone to access. www.macd.wa.gov.au

Surveys conducted this year included:

- Case studies and stories of personal impact to support the case for a National Injury Insurance Scheme
- Health promotion
- Disability research

State Minister for Disability Services

Meetings between the Minister and the Council

The Council advises the Minister on strategic issues as well as 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 State Minister for Disability Services through written briefings and at regular meetings with the Council Executive and the whole Council. During 2014, the Council provided information to the Minister on the following matters:

- Employment for people with disabilities
- National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS) – case studies
- Liveable and Social Housing in new developments
- Small business development and incentive scheme for people with disabilities
- Health promotion
- Disability research
- Family members as paid support workers

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 brings a consumer representative viewpoint to the Board.

The Council Chairperson meets regularly with the Commission's Board Chairperson, Bruce Langoulant.

The following items were discussed at meetings in 2014:

- National Disability Insurance Scheme
- My Way
- Disability Health Network
- Sharing Healthy Conversations
- Self Directed Services
- Consumer Engagement
- Local Area Coordination structure
- Accessible Adult Change facilities
- Quality Management Framework
- Disability Services Commission Chairs' Forum
- Limitations in flexibility of service providers

Networking Events and Other 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 2014:

- Partnership Forum Community Event: Future Directions 2014-15
- NDS Pre-Budget Submission Launch 2015-16
- Intellectual Disability in Relation to Mental Health and Epilepsy, Professor Mike Kerr
- Disability Liaison Officer Project, Phase II
- Service Providers Quality Forum
- Fiona Stanley Hospital Community Tours
- Taking the Lead in Change, Dr Michael Kendrick, Foundation for Social Inclusion
- Unpacking the National Disability Insurance Agency website with Deborah Hoffman
- Opening the State Rehabilitation Service, Fiona Stanley Hospital
- Research to Action Conference
- Carers Research Symposium
- Understanding Leadership
- Understanding Self as Leader
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Perth Hills Trial Site
- Information and consultation session on Disability Justice Centre Project
- Leading in Teams
- National Disability Insurance Agency Pricing Forum
- Leading in Organisation and the Community
- Disability Reform Briefing
- Focussing on a Sustainable Future
- 2014 NDS WA State Conference
- NDS Members Update on National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Mental Health, Intellectual and Development Disability: holistic, client-centred mental health care, Professor Mike Kerr
- Interdisciplinary Training on Disability seminar, George Jesien

Council Membership and Staff

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.

Dr Rachel Skoss	2 nd Term 1/1/2014 – 31/12/2015
Ms Kim Hawkins	2 nd Term 8/3/2012 – 7/3/2014
Ms Helen Dullard	2 nd Term 1/1/2014 – 31/12/2015
Ms Jacqueline Reid	2 nd Term 24/11/2012 – 23/11/2014
Ms Penny Fogarty	2 nd Term 1/1/2014 – 31/12/2015
Mr Tom Armington	1 st Term – 9/8/2013 – 8/8/2015
Mr Darren Lomman	1 st Term – 9/8/2013 – 8/8/2015
Mr Jethro Hepton	1 st Term – 9/8/2013 – 8/8/2015
Dr Mohammad Jehangir	1 st Term – 9/8/2013 – 30/3/2014
Ms Wendy Dimer	1 st Term – 9/8/2013 – 8/8/2015
Ms Alison White	1 st Term – 9/8/2013 – 8/8/2015
Ms Samantha Connor	2 nd Term 22/11/2012 – 1/11/2014
Mr Angelo Cianciosi	1 st Term – 9/6/2014 – 12/6/2016
Ms Cindy Evans	1 st Term – 8/3/2014 – 7/3/2015
Ms Eloise Bolam	1 st Term – 1/1/2014 – 31/12/2015
Mr Stuart Jenkinson	1 st Term – 1/1/2014 – 31/12/2015

Council Staff

Ms Peta Kenworthy
Ms Lyn Creed

A/Executive Officer
Executive Assistant

