



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

# Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability



## Annual Work Report 2015



## Contact Details

**Address:** 146-160 Colin Street  
West Perth  
Western Australia 6005

**Postal Address:** PO Box 441  
West Perth  
Western Australia 6872

**Telephone:** (08) 9426 9269  
(08) 9426 9379

**Freecall:** 1800 629 269

**TTY:** (08) 9426 9321

**Facsimile:** (08) 9226 2316

**Email:** [advisory@dsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:advisory@dsc.wa.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.macd.wa.gov.au](http://www.macd.wa.gov.au)

---

Published by the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability, Western Australia.

May 2016

© Copyright Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability, Western Australia, 2016.

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

Authorised by the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability (Western Australia).

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

*This report covers the 2015 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

Executive Report.....	1
About Us .....	3
Report on Council Activities in 2014 .....	5
Annual Work Plan .....	5
Priorities.....	5
Watching Briefs.....	7
External Committee Representation .....	7
Meetings .....	9
Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability .....	9
State Minister for Disability Services.....	11
Disability Services Commission Board.....	11
Networking Events and Other Meetings.....	12
Council Membership and Staff .....	13
Council Members .....	13
Council Staff.....	13

---

## Executive Report

---

---

The role of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability (MACD) 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 this Executive 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.

The first half of this year was wall-to-wall guest speakers – all with very interesting information to share with Council. We heard from both sides of the disability reform trials; a former member who lives with Cerebral Palsy and educates through public speaking; we met the new head of the National Disability Services WA, and we participated in the Disability Services Commission's Reconciliation Action Plan review. The Public Advocate told us about her role in advocating for vulnerable people and making those hard but right decisions that may not always be popular. She spoke about three forms that can be used to document people's wishes while they are still able to make decisions for themselves: Enduring Power of Attorney, Enduring Power of Guardianship and Advanced Health Directive.

We continued to monitor and stay abreast of issues as they unfolded on both sides of the disability reform trials via guest speakers, members and staff attendance at various meetings, quarterly updates from the WA trial sites, functions and information sessions.

A substantial amount of briefings was prepared for the WA State Minister for Disability Services Helen Morton based on an ambitious annual work plan. The range of our projects covered: examining the viability of using multipurpose vehicles that are owned by not-for-profit organisations while idle to supplement Perth's maxi taxi fleet, recommending useful updates to the Transperth public transport app and suggesting strategies to improve the access and inclusion of the Western Australian education curriculum. We also considered the 'family as paid support workers' policy, and the potential for a new class of visa for people on working holidays who are working or volunteering in the disability sector. Employment was also considered as a key priority area, and we looked at public sector employment for people with a disability. We have held over another project about employment to 2016 while we await the release of and a chance to examine the report about the national consultation process around employment for people with disability.

A major event that I attended during October in Alice Springs was the NDS' Disability Diversity: Pushing the Boundaries of Disability Support conference. It was interesting to consider the meaning of diversity. Firstly, disability is

diverse – hence issues they face may vary significantly, as do the supports that individuals may want or require. Cultural diversity is a key issue, with many disability service organisations working to reflect the people they provide services to, and seeing the value in culturally responsive services. Given the differences in how services are delivered from state to state, we also have major structural diversity. It is important that we consider how people with disability access mainstream services as required. Finally, I want to highlight my favourite presentation with a mention of “Brotherhood of the Blues” (<http://www.redinc.org.au/>), giving a wonderful example of the diversity of solutions that can exist to enhance people’s lives via imagination and forward thinking.

Every year we farewell some members and welcome aboard new ones. For continuity of knowledge and experience on Council, we stagger members’ terms so there is never a complete change of members.

This year we welcomed Andrew Thompson and Helen Wright, both of whom settled in quickly and got down to work straight away. Then midway through the year, Alison White and Darren Lomman retired after their first terms. In each case, their personal workloads had increased to the point that they were unable to commit to a second term with MACD. They were both tremendously valuable to Council and will be missed. (Former members are never forgotten, they are far too valuable. We retain them among our contacts for future consultations and advice.) Their positions were held vacant for the remainder of the year while we recruited potential members to a new pool of candidates. We do this every two years.

At the end of the year we also thanked and farewelled Penny Fogarty and Helen Dullard; each had served their maximum four years with Council.

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



**Dr Rachel Skoss**  
Chairperson  
March 2016

---

## 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.

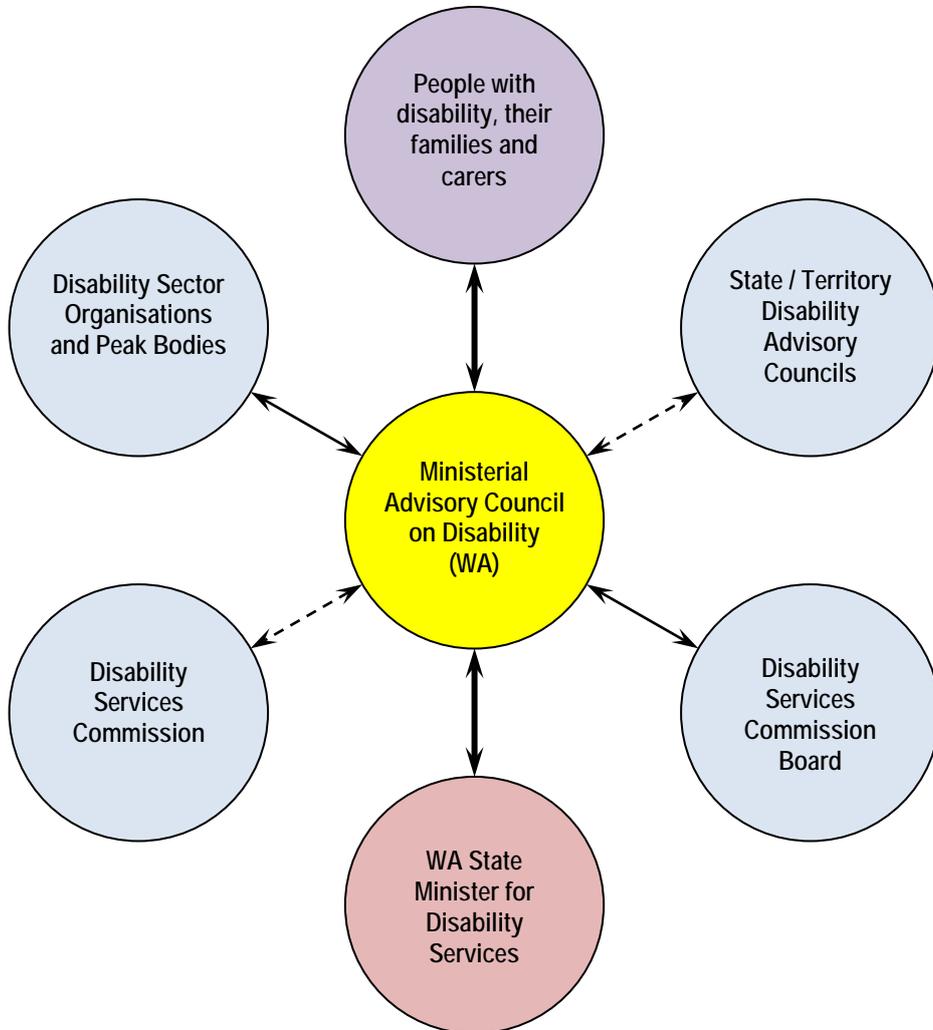
Council is comprised of 14 members selected and appointed by the Minister. Membership must reflect the spectrum of people with a disability and includes people with disability, family members, carers, advocates and service providers.

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](http://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 circles in a central vertical position and four other circles (two to either side). The top circle 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 2015

---

---

### Annual Work Plan

In November 2014, the council conducted a planning session for work to be undertaken in 2015. The following Annual Work Plan was developed and includes Priorities, Watching Briefs and member representation on External Committees.

### Priorities

#### Employment

Project 1 – Vocational for people with complex needs

The objective of this project was to review current vocational employment pathways for people who have complex employment needs. Due to the national consultation process around employment for people with disability, this project was put on hold until the recommendations from that could be considered in 2016.

Project 2 – Public sector employment for people with disabilities

We looked for ways that the recruitment process could potentially be improved.

MACD would like to see changes made that allow for people with disabilities or mental illness to receive prior knowledge of all upcoming public sector vacancies from levels one to three, without attracting reverse discrimination claims or other negatives.

Council members reviewed current legislation, strategies and reports.

#### Transport

Project 1 – Public transport

An app to track basic public transport timetables has been developed by Transperth. Members' suggested updates to the app to increase the usefulness of this service for people with disabilities.

Project 2 – Multi-use vehicles to supplement maxi taxis

Multipurpose vehicles that are owned by not-for-profit disability sector organisations may be an under-utilised resource that could be used to boost Perth's fleet of Maxi Taxis. To discuss this issue we hosted a roundtable forum with representatives from MACD, NDS, Activ, Ability Centre, Rocky Bay, UnitingCare West, PwDWA, DSC and the Department of Transport.

## **Sport and Recreation**

Project – Age appropriate recreational activities

MACD Councillors' drew on their own personal experience and networks, including local government, to identify barriers and challenges that people with disabilities faced when attempting to participate in mainstream sport and recreational activities. Discussions were also had with Inclusion WA and the Department of Sport and Recreation. A briefing was provided to the Minister of Disability Services.

### **Policy Review: Family members as paid support workers**

Stage One

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.

Stage Two

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:

- a) Who can provide support and what kind of support they can provide?
- b) Who can be paid, for what supports they can be paid, and what funding is allowed to be used for these payments?
- c) What specific considerations will be given to safeguarding and advocacy for the individual with disability and the 'natural networks' that are / will be in place?

The terms 'family' and 'reasonable and necessary' were defined including exploration of who the modern family now consists, and what is expected from family without the expectation of recompense.

## **Education**

Project – Inclusion and Access

Recommendations were made to the Minister for Disability Services following rigorous examination of relevant national and state policies and guidelines related to access for students with disability. We identified examples of good practice and consulted education experts.

## **Workforce Sustainability**

Project – Travel visas for disability care workers

Some travellers on working holidays are able to extend their visas by undertaking work in approved industry. As this does not extend to working as carers for people with disabilities, it is seen by MACD as a potentially untapped extension of the disability sector workforce.

A member's own case study was the impetus for this project in which, Council undertook an analysis of the Federal Government policies, mindful that a review of visas was current.

Recommendations were made to the WA State Minister for Disability Services that could then be passed through the appropriate channels to the Commonwealth Government.

## **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.

- National Disability Insurance Scheme and National Injury Insurance Scheme
- National Disability Strategy
- Education
- Training
- Employment
- HACC Program
- Advocacy

## **External Committee Representation**

Council's representation on various committees/working parties in 2015 included the following:

- Consultative forum on Health and Older Australians, Disability and Carers (Department of Human Services)
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Implementation Committee (Curtin University)
- Carers' Recognition Act Reference Group (Disability Services Commission)
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Implementation Steering Committee (Disability Services Commission)

- Disability Employment Services Sub Committee (National Disability Service WA)
- Positive Behaviour Framework Guiding Committee (Disability Services Committee)
- Emerging Technology Partnership Group (Independent Living Centre)
- Clinical and Allied Health Sub Committee (National Disability Services)
- WA National Disability Insurance Scheme Reference Group (Disability Services Commission)

## 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 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.

These guests attended Council meetings in 2015:

- **Lee Ugle**

Former MACD member Lee Ugle has lived experience of cerebral palsy. He told the members of this fight to remain a non-wheelchair user amid claims from others that he would be safer in a chair. He related the story of finding a suitable mobility scooter that he could manage with one hand and the accidents he had with unsuitable scooters that people told him that he 'would get used to'. Lee also spoke of the difficulties he has encountered in hospitals when medical staff did not speak directly to him and ask for his opinion. Lee is now in his 70's and continues to live independently and looks for public speaking opportunities to spread his positive message.

- **Kerry Stopher, Director Engagement NDIS Perth Hills Trial Site and Mary Ashe, Assistant Director Engagement NDIS Perth Hills Trial Site**

Kerry spoke to the members about the National Disability Insurance Agency disability reform trial that was being conducted in the Perth Hills trial site.

- **Robyn Massey, Executive Director, Disability Reform, Disability Services Commission**

Robyn provided a background and an update on the WA NDIS My Way trials and answered members' questions.

- **Julie Waylen, State Manager, National Disability Services (WA)**

Julie spoke about her first six months as the Western Australian State Manager of the National Disability Service and explained further about what NDS does and encouraged the Council to connect more with NDS. Julie briefly discussed the challenges, pros and cons faced by service providers with the two disability reforms trials in WA.

- **Wendy Murray, Executive Director, Strategy, Disability Services Commission and Debbie Whiting, Senior Policy Officer, Strategy, DSC.**

Wendy and Debbie attended to discuss their review of the Disability Services Commission's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). MACD was invited to participate in the consultation to inform the review. Copies of the consultation questionnaire and the RAP had been circulated to the members previously. Ms Murray provided some background about the RAP and opened the floor for discussion by asking what 'reconciliation' means to the members, and is reconciliation important to the disability sector, and why?

- **Pauline Bagdonavicius, Public Advocate, Office of the Public Advocate**

Ms Bagdonavicius spoke about the purpose of the Office of the Public Advocate which is part of the Department of the Attorney General and went into more detail about the statistics of who her office assists and the various formats in which, they can assist families to support their vulnerable loved ones. These formats are Enduring Power of Attorney, Enduring Power of Guardianship and Advanced Health Directive.

## 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 2015, the Council provided information to the Minister on the following matters:

- Multipurpose vehicles to supplement maxi taxis
- Disability research
- Education: Inclusion and Access
- Family carers as paid support workers (stage 2)
- Health promotion
- Public sector employment
- Public transport
- Travel visas for support workers (Commonwealth Government)
- Accessibility to the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (Commonwealth Government)

## 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 to discuss topics relevant to both the Council and the Board.

## 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 provided 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 2015:

- WA Disability Workforce Innovation Network meeting
- Sundowner to meet Canadian disability worker Peter Sproule
- Sundowner at Developmental Disability
- NDIS Progress Update
- Disability Expo
- Disability Employment Services Provider Forum
- Inaugural Cerebral Palsy Symposium
- Disability at Work Conference
- WA Disability Health Framework Consultation Forum
- National Disability Employment Framework – Families and Carers
- National Disability Employment Framework – Service Providers
- Changing Places Forum
- Partnerships in Deaf Education
- Official opening of WA's first Disability Justice Centre
- If this is the right thing to do, then why is it so hard? Managing human conflict in Human Service Organisations.
- NDS (WA) CEO's forum
- NDS (WA) Annual General Meeting
- People with Disability (WA) Annual General Meeting
- Disability Diversity Conference, Pushing the Boundaries of Disability Support
- Therapy Focus Annual General Meeting
- National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions (Department of Health)
- NDS (WA) 2016-17 Pre-Budget Submission launch
- Universal Design Workshop, Curtin University
- NDS (WA) opening of new office in Lindsay Street, Perth

## 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](http://www.macd.wa.gov.au).

Dr Rachel Skoss (Chair)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term 1/1/2014 – 31/12/2015
Mr Stuart Jenkinson (Deputy Chair)	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 1/1/2014 – 31/12/2015
Ms Alison White	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 9/8/2013 – 8/8/2015
Mr Andrew Thompson	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 1/1/2015 – 31/12/2016
Mr Angelo Cianciosi	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 9/6/2014 – 12/6/2016
Ms Cindy Evans	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 8/3/2014 – 7/3/2015
Mr Darren Lomman	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 9/8/2013 – 8/8/2015 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – 9/8/2015 – 25/9/2015 Darren resigned one month into his second term due to sudden increased personal commitments.
Ms Eloise Bolam	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 1/1/2014 – 31/12/2015
Ms Helen Dullard	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term 1/1/2014 – 31/12/2015
Ms Helen Wright	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 1/1/2015 – 31/12/2016
Mr Jethro Hepton	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 9/8/2013 – 8/8/2015
Ms Penny Fogarty	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term 1/1/2014 – 31/12/2015
Mr Tom Armington	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 9/8/2013 – 8/8/2015
Ms Wendy Dimer	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 9/8/2013 – 8/8/2015

### Council Staff

Ms Peta Kenworthy  
Ms Roslyn (Lyn) Creed

Executive Support Officer  
Executive Assistant