



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

# Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability



## Annual Work Report 2016



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*This report covers the 2016 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

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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.

In the lead up to the end of the NDIS/WANDIS trials we knew that there would be a scheme for people with disabilities in Western Australia to belong to, but we did not know what it would be and from where it would be governed or how it would be funded. We only knew that the Western Australian Government was working hard to try to achieve a State-based scheme which ideally would maintain a local face-to-face service that is cognisant of the complex needs of people living across the length and breadth of such a large state.

In order for the State Government to know what needed to be included in a proposed scheme - what the people who were to be most effected by the scheme wanted, Council was asked to research what Western Australians considered were the crucial aspects to an 'ideal' disability scheme for support services. They were asked two main questions: what they wanted kept from the old or current scheme, and what they wanted included from the State and Federal schemes that were being trialled.

In March, the Hon Helen Morton MLC Minister for Disability Services stood down and new Minister for Disability Services, the Hon Donna Faragher MLC commenced.

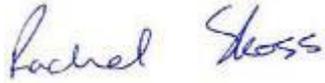
We continued to monitor and stay abreast of issues as they unfolded on both sides of the disability reform trials via guest speakers, members and staff attendance at various meetings, quarterly updates from the WA trial sites, functions and information sessions.

Rebecca Harris, the Director Equal Opportunity, Public Sector Commission (PSC) attended a meeting to seek Council's opinion and input to the PSC's Employment Strategy for people with disability.

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.

At the start of the year we welcomed four new members to Council. They are David Carrington, Barbara Oosterhuis, Carole Kagi and Anthony (Ant) Pursell. Cindy Evans resigned in April and Helen Wright retired in November.

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Skoss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue shadow effect behind the text.

**Dr Rachel Skoss**  
Chairperson  
June 2017

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## About Us

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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.

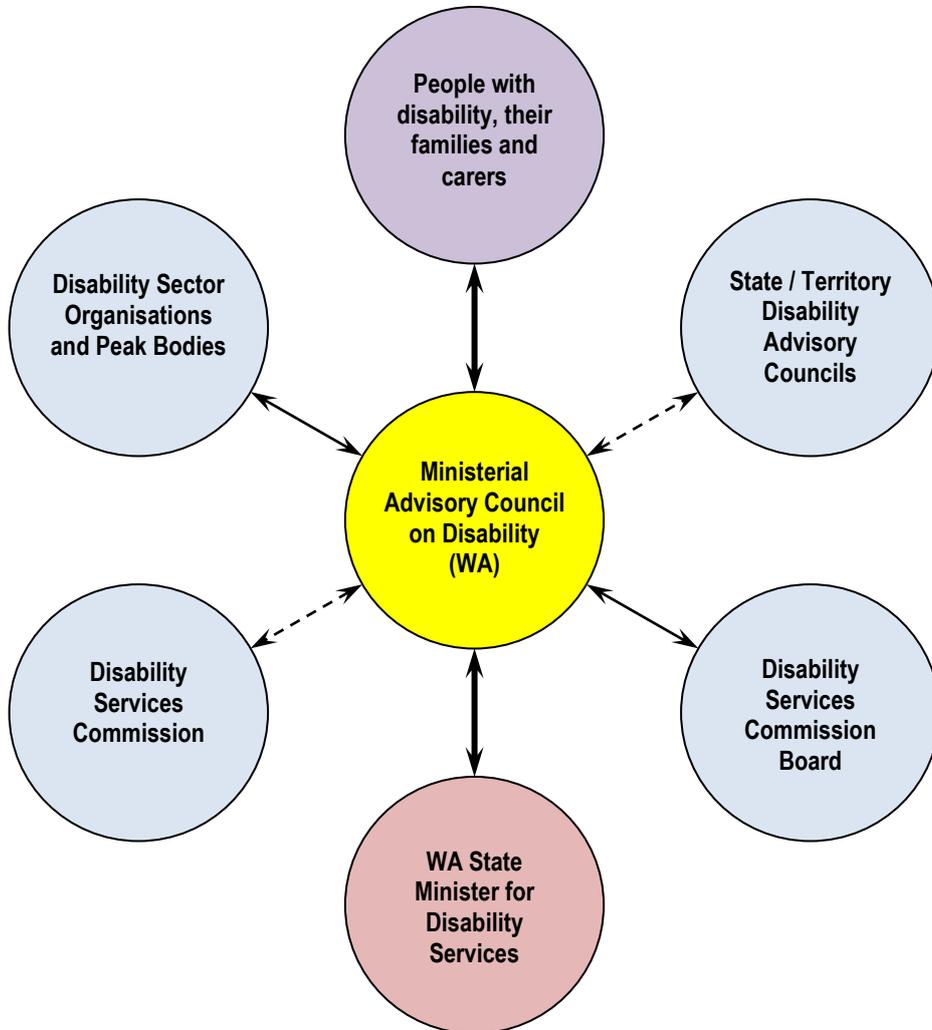
Council is comprised of 14 members selected and appointed by the Minister. Membership must reflect the spectrum of people with a disability and includes people with disability, family members, carers, advocates and service providers.

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.

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## Report on Council Activities in 2016

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### Annual Work Plan

In January 2016, the council conducted a planning session to develop its Annual Work Plan that included Priorities, Watching Briefs and member representation on External Committees.

Council had a challenging and exciting year that was largely taken up with the consultation and engagement project about the NDIS coming to WA. Due to the enormity of this project, some of our other projects were deferred to 2017.

### Priorities

#### National Disability Insurance Scheme

##### NDIS in WA Consultation and Engagement

For nearly two years Western Australia (WA) benefited from a comparative trial of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). We learnt a lot from people accessing services and supports in the trial areas, what is working well and what could be improved.

While the NDIS in WA would be nationally consistent in terms of eligibility, reasonable and necessary supports and portability across the country, it needs the flexibility to respond to local needs and be accountable to the WA community.

WA is a vast state, unique in its geography, diversity and disability service history. Some of this has been tested through the trials, but there is more that needs to be considered as we look to roll-out the NDIS state-wide.

For this reason, the Hon Donna Faragher, Minister for Disability Services asked the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability (MACD) to seek feedback on what Western Australians expected from the NDIS.

To stimulate discussion around key topics relevant to implementation of the NDIS, MACD published discussion papers on its website. It was intended that these papers would guide discussion, not constrain it. The discussion paper topics were: Planning; Information, Linkages and Capacity Building; WA Disability Sector; Employment; Information and Advocacy; Psychosocial Disability; Regional and Remote Communities; and Early Childhood Intervention.

On 27 July 2016, the first of regional and metropolitan public forums was held in Albany. More forums followed in Geraldton, Carnarvon, Margaret River, Manjimup, Mandurah, Kalgoorlie, Esperance, Broome, Kununurra/Halls

Creek, Northam, Maylands, Wanneroo, Gosnells, Beaconsfield, Karratha, Narrogin, Katanning and Bunbury. Locations were planned wherever possible so that the majority of people lived within an hours' drive from their nearest forum. During these forums, the engagement attracted much media and social media attention including radio interviews and newspaper articles.

There was no “wrong door” for feedback. People and organisations could provide ideas, comments or feedback by phone, in person, email, via workshops, through online surveys attached to each discussion paper or by written submissions. People were also invited to share their feedback with us directly.

All information, opinions and ideas received throughout the engagement was themed and included in a 130-page report to the Minister for Disability Services. MACD anticipates that this report or an abridged version, in various accessible formats, will eventually be released for publishing on our website.

## **Health**

Listening to the voice of people with disabilities

Council sought to discover, in partnership with the Disability Health Network, to what degree and how effectively the health sector hears and understands the needs of people with disabilities and to make recommendations for improvements where necessary.

While much feedback was received in 2016, this project will continue into 2017 to allow the Council to include any new committees that have been formed since the Health Department's recent reform that resulted in a new governance structure.

## **Employment**

Department of Social Services Employment Framework in Western Australia

This project has been rolled over to 2017 as the final document was received late in 2016. Council will analyse and consider within the Western Australian context, the Department of Social Services' Employment Framework.

## **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 2016 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)
- Emerging Technology Partnership Group (Independent Living Centre)
- WA National Disability Insurance Scheme Reference Group (Disability Services Commission)

The Council is an Associate Member of the National Disability Service and may be invited to attend as observers, these sub-committees:

- Accommodation and Housing
- WA Access and Inclusion
- Disability Employment Services
- Clinical and Allied Health
- Finance and Sustainability
- Workforce

## 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 are invited to 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

The Council Executive 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 2016:

- Simone Spencer, Executive Director Policy and Planning, Disability Services Commission
- Rebecca Harris, Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment (and A/Commissioner Public Sector Commission) together with Linda Delaney, Senior Project Officer, Diversity Public Sector Commission
- Peter Darch, Senior Project Officer (School to Employment Transition) National Disability Service WA
- Peter Darch, Contract Officer (Model Development, Disability Services Commission)

## **State Minister for Disability Services**

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.

In 2016, Council took a step away from its usual mode of activity where it would normally investigate a range of issues that would result in the provision of information and advice to the Minister for Disability Services. Instead, this year Council dedicated its efforts and resources to seeking information from the individuals, families, carers and service providers and other interested parties on what they consider should be and should not be included in the ideal disability scheme for Western Australia. More information about this project is on page 5, under Priorities.

## **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.

The Council Chairperson attends visits to rural and regional areas with the DSC Board to meet with service providers, families and carers.

## **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 2016:

- WA NDIS Reference Group meetings
- Esme Bowen, new Chair of the Carers Advisory Council
- Bruce Langoulant, Chair DSC Board

- 2016 National Disability Service WA State Conference
- DSC Positive Behaviour Forum
- Launch of the Me Myself Eye initiative at VisAbility
- DSC Chair's Forum
- Clinical Senate meeting
- National Disability Service/Centre for Applied Disability Research, Research to Action Conference
- WA Health Translation Network forum
- Early Childhood Intervention roundtable
- National Disability Service Pre-Budget Submission meetings
- Launch of the National Disability Service's 2017-2018 Pre-Budget Submission
- NDIS in WA Consultation and Engagement multiple meetings and public forums/community discussions/media interviews
- Information, Capacity and Linkages workshop with Professor Tim Stainton
- Met with Clickability founders
- CEO's Roundtable Committee
- Met with Samantha Jenkinson, People with Disability WA
- Met with WA Primary Health Alliance Pathways team
- Inspected the new Perth Busport and provided feedback to Transperth

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## Council Membership and Staff

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### 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)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Term 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Mr Stuart Jenkinson (Deputy Chair)	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 1/1/2014 – 31/12/2015 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
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 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – 13/6/2016 – 12/6/2018
Mr Anthony Pursell	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Ms Barbara Oosterhuis	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Ms Carole Kagi	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Ms Cindy Evans <i>(Resigned 7/4/2016)</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – 8/3/2015 – 7/3/2017
Mr David Carrington	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Ms Eloise Bolam	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Ms Helen Wright	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 1/1/2015 – 31/12/2016
Mr Jethro Hepton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – 29/6/2015 – 28/6/2017
Ms Piper Marsh	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – 24/6/2016 – 30/6/2018
Mr Stuart Jenkinson	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Mr Tom Armington	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – 29/6/2015 – 28/6/2017
Ms Wendy Dimer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – 29/6/2015 – 28/6/2017

### Council Staff

Ms Peta Kenworthy  
Ms Roslyn (Lyn) Creed

Executive Support Officer  
Executive Assistant

