



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

Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability



Annual Work Report 2017

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*This report covers the 2017 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 (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 provides comprehensive detail of the work of Council, both planned and reactive.

At the start of this year we knew it would be an exciting time with a State Government Election in March and the Bilateral Agreement for the rollout of the WA NDIS signing by the State and Federal Governments on 31 January 2017.

Following the elections on 11 March 2017, a new government was formed under the leadership of Premier Mark McGowan. Premier McGowan declared that his government was not obligated to the bilateral agreement that was signed by Premier Barnett and Prime Minister Turnbull. The new minister for Disability Services, The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC commenced consulting with key stakeholders to understand and shape the funding model that would best support people affected by disability in Western Australia. Until a decision was reached, it was business as usual and we all worked with the signed bilateral agreement.

On 1 July 2017, Machine of Government (MoG) changes took effect in WA that saw the Disability Services Commission amalgamate with the Department of Housing, the Department of Child Protection and part of the Department of Local Government to form the new Department of Communities. Modifications were made to the organisational structure within Disability Services and until legislation is amended, Disability Services will retain the Disability Services Board of which, the MACD Chairperson is a member.

Councillor David Carrington who works for the Department of Communities (Housing) received Ministerial clearance to retain his position on Council. It was determined that as he does not work in the Department's Disability Section, no conflict of interest exists.

Research projects were conducted throughout the year that resulted in advice being provided to the Minister for Disability Services about Health, Public Infrastructure and Transport.

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 four new members to Council. They are Stephanie Coates, Justin Mortley, Justine Colyer and Juanita Spedding. Tom Armington, Wendy Dimer and Jethro Hepton retired in June. James Davies and Angelo Ciancesi resigned and Stuart Jenkinson, Eloise Bolam, Barbara Oosterhuis, Ant Purcell and Dr Rachel Skoss (former Chair) retired at the end of the year.

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.

Andrew Thompson
Chairperson
June 2018

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.

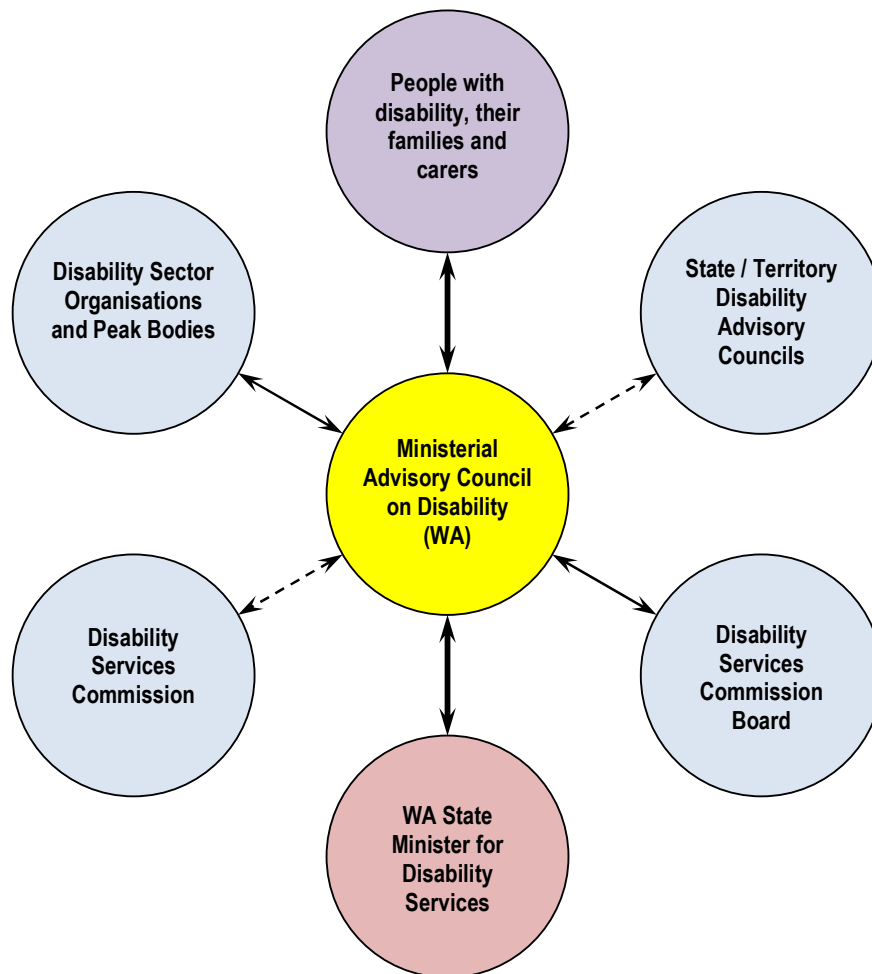
Council is comprised of 14 members selected and appointed by the Minister. Membership must reflect the spectrum of people with a disability and includes people with disability, family members, carers, advocates and service providers.

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 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 2017

Annual Work Plan 2017/18

Additional to the Priorities, Council had planned to host a public forum to look deeper at the issues surrounding Housing options for people with disabilities. This has been deferred to 2018. Also, in 2018 Councillors will learn first-hand what it is like to go through the planning process for individualised supports and services.

Priorities

1. NDIS in WA Report

MACD's state-wide NDIS in WA consultation and engagement project of 2016 resulted in this report. Minister Dawson considered it along with other consultation when researching which funding model for people with disabilities would best service the Western Australian community. It remained on the Annual Work Plan in anticipation of further actions being required.

2. Health

Every public hospital has a consumer or community advisory group that informs on best practice customer service for their patients and may investigate complaints. Council was interested to investigate how well the voice of people with disabilities is heard within the health sector mainly via representation on these advisory groups. This project experienced some delay while the Department of Health underwent a major reform and restructure resulting in new groups being established. Advice was provided to the Minister for Disability Services.

3. Employment and Training

The Australian Government's Department of Social Service's Draft Employment Framework was examined to understand how effective it may be in Western Australia.

Council is keen to discover gaps and investigate opportunities to provide immediately for better employment outcomes across WA State and Local Government organisations / capacity for improvement

4. Communication

The Council will explore how critical information about the NDIS is communicated to the community and where improvements may be made to help those most vulnerable to understand the Scheme within which they need to operate. Language, content and timeliness of messages will be considered. We will also look at ways of delivery to ensure everyone has the same opportunity to receive accessible information.

5. Housing

Moving Out

Many young adults like to spread their wings with a move out of the family home, often sharing a house with friends and eventually buying their own home. But for young people with disabilities the opportunities for this personal developmental and exciting experience may be limited due to a lack of age appropriate housing options.

This project will examine what opportunities there are available and make recommendations for strategies that may help to increase and improve their options; be it either supported accommodation or living independently.

6. Planning for Individual Supports and Services

In 2018, Councillors may be provided the opportunity of a group exercise to understand more about Individualised Funding and Person-centred Planning.

7. Transport

Transport remains an issue for people with disability. Matters such as access to modified vehicles, the cost of transport and the long-term future of service provider fleets were highlighted during a MACD community engagement process in 2016. Advice was provided to the Minister for Disability Services.

8. Planning and Design of public buildings in Western Australia

Council gathered good and bad examples of access to public buildings. These included but were not limited to government buildings, shopping centres, theatres, sporting venues, libraries, public transport stations. Advice was provided to the Minister for Disability Services.

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.

- NDS WA Accommodation and Housing Subcommittee
- NDS WA Access and Inclusion Subcommittee
- NDS WA Disability Employment Services Subcommittee
- NDS WA Finance and Sustainability Subcommittee
- NDS WA Workforce Subcommittee
- Supported Accommodation for those with disabilities over 65 years and not eligible for NDIS

External Committee Representation

Council's representation on various committees/working parties in 2017 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)
- 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
- The Minister, the Minister's Chief of Staff 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 A/Director General and staff provide briefings to Council on specific matters.
- The Council's Chairperson meets on a regular basis with the Chair of the Disability Services Board.

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 2017:

- Bruce Langoulant, Chair Disability Services Board
- Fiona Payne, Co-Lead Disability Health Network
- Tricia Dewar, Principal Disability Health Coordinator Department of Communities (Disability)
- Adam Johnson PhD Student with x and x researching the MARCIA project (Most Accessible Regional Council in Australia)

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.

Disability Services Board

Although the Council's mandate extends beyond the Department of Communities (Disability Services) we have a strong working relationship with the Board and staff. The Chair of the Council is also a member of the Disability Services Board and brings a consumer representative viewpoint.

The Council Chairperson meets regularly with the Board's 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 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 2017:

- Curtin University's Allied Health Team
- NDS Clinical and Allied Health Subcommittee Workshop on Workforce Development
- Mental Health Network Meeting by Australian Health Care & Hospitals Association
- Finding Different Ways Project overview
- NDS Hot topics: *The Future of Housing for People with Disability*
- Perth City Summit
- Brightwater's workshop *Homelessness and under diagnosis of cognitive disability in Aboriginal communities: considerations in an NDIS environment*
- WA NDIS Reference Group meetings
- 2017 National Disability Service WA State Conference
- NDIS Essential Briefing
- Shelter WA: *Mental Health, Housing and Homelessness event*
- DSC Board Christmas and Sector Networking event

Other meetings:

- Caroline Crosse, WISE Employment Services
- Bruce Langoulant, Chair DSC Board
- Esme Bowen, new Chair of the Carers Advisory Council

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 (Chair) - retired	3 rd Term 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Mr Andrew Thompson	2 nd Term – 1/1/2017 – 31/12/2018
Mr Angelo Cianciosi - resigned	2 nd Term – 13/6/2016 – 12/6/2018
Mr Anthony (Ant) Pursell - retired	1 st Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Ms Barbara Oosterhuis - retired	1 st Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Ms Carole Kagi	1 st Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Mr David Carrington	1 st Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Ms Eloise Bolam - retired	2 nd Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Mr Jethro Hepton - retired	2 nd Term – 29/6/2015 – 28/6/2017
Ms Piper Marsh	1 st Term – 24/6/2016 – 30/6/2018
Mr Stuart Jenkinson - retired	2 nd Term – 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2017
Mr Tom Armington - retired	2 nd Term – 29/6/2015 – 28/6/2017
Ms Wendy Dimer - retired	2 nd Term – 29/6/2015 – 28/6/2017
Mr James Davies – resigned	1 st Term – 1/7/2017 – 30/6/2019
Ms Stephanie (Steph) Coates	1 st Term – 1/1/2017 – 31/12/2018
Ms Justine Colyer	1 st Term – 1/7/2017 – 30/6/2019
Mr Justin Mortley	1 st Term – 1/7/2017 – 30/6/2019
Ms Juanita (Nita) Spedding	1 st Term – 1/7/2017 – 30/6/2019

Council Staff

Ms Peta Kenworthy
Ms Roslyn (Lyn) Creed

Executive Support Officer
Executive Assistant