



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

Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability



Annual Work Report 2018

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

May 2019

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This report covers the 2018 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 more detail of the work of Council, both planned and reactive.

In my first year as Chairperson, I congratulate Steph Coates who was elected to the position of Deputy Chair at our February meeting. Steph has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the disability sector, particularly about occupational therapy and equipment. As former Deputy Mayor of a local government council, she is also well informed of the significance of local government community development initiatives in the lives of people with disabilities.

August saw the Council commence working between meetings in a shared online workspace. For several members this was a new experience and I'm proud of the way that they all embraced the technology and opportunity to work even more collaboratively on our projects.

As a group we discussed what an ideal world would look like. The common themes that emerged were inclusivity, supporting people to have a life worth living, and the gradual reduction of the need for organisations such as MACD and advocacy services. We felt that these services could decrease with engagement within the community for people, common courtesy and a breaking down of the fears, barriers and prejudices that often affect the lives of people with disability.

At the beginning of the year we revisited four main guiding documents:

- Disability Services Act 1993 and Schedule 5
- National Disability Strategy 2010 – 2020
- Heads of Government Agreement between Commonwealth and Western Australian governments on the National Disability Insurance Scheme; and Bilateral Agreement between Commonwealth and Western Australia
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Council's aim for all projects as always, was for strong, practical and principled advice for the Minister for Disability Services that focuses on the short, medium, and long-term timeframes. We strove to provide practical advice that reflected a society where people with disability can live lives worth living and that have the same value as all members of society.

Sub-committees were established to focus on three key areas: Housing, Employment and Transport for people with disabilities. Council provided Minister Dawson with 12 advice briefing notes over the course of the year.

In 2018, members met with the following people and organisations to research projects, to establish new relationships and to strengthen existing connections:

- Professor Peter Newman, Curtin University
- National Disability Insurance Agency (Perth office). A Commonwealth Government Observer started attending our meetings.
- Carers Advisory Council
- Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), Access and Inclusion Officers from local government areas
- Dr Michael Fotheringham, Australian Housing Urban Research Institute (AHURI)
- Disability Health Network (WA)
- Disability Services Commission Board
- Department of Transport (WA)
- Department of Communities (WA)
- Department of Human Services (Cmwlth) Advisory Forums for Community, Multicultural and Indigenous

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 Carol Franklin, Grace Mills, Joan Foley, Kane Moyle, Peter Batini and Tony Vardaro to Council and congratulated Carole Kagi and David Carrington on each being appointed by the Minister for a second term.

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
December 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.

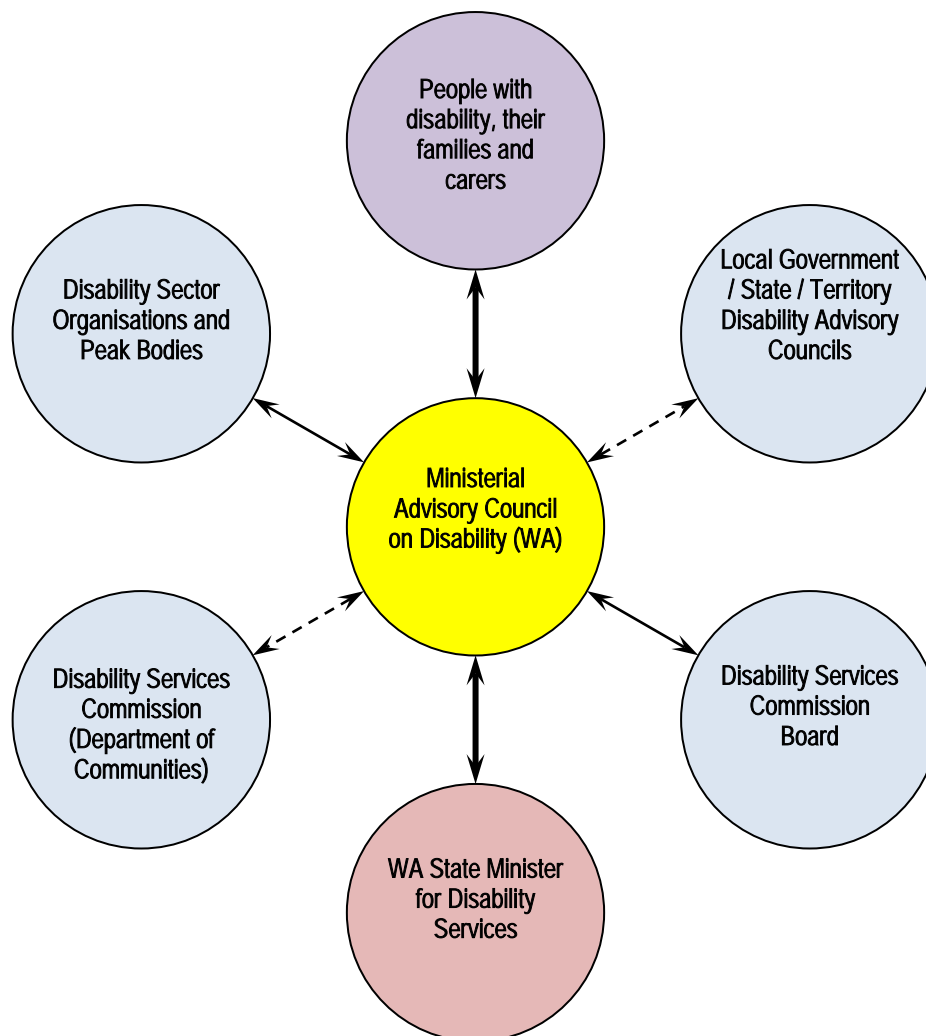
Council is comprised of 14 members selected and appointed by the Minister. Membership must reflect the spectrum of people with a disability and includes people with disability, family members, carers, advocates and service providers.

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 Local Government, State and Territory Disability Advisory Councils, Disability Sector Organisations and Peak Bodies, the Disability Services Commission Board and the Department of Communities, Disability Services.

Report on Council Activities in 2018

Annual Work Plan 2018

Every year, members focus on topics or issues that are current and relevant to the broader community of people with disabilities, their families and their Carers. Council members become aware of issues via connections with their personal and professional networks within the disability sector.

Some topics that we address are requests from the Minister and this year, Minister Dawson was very clear that he wished Council to focus on Employment, Housing and Transport for people with disabilities, while at the same time bringing to him immediate notice of any issues with the NDIS in Western Australia. He is extremely keen to rectify problems with the NDIS to ensure it works well in WA. Members worked tirelessly in sub-committees to provide several briefing notes to Minister Dawson on various aspects of these topics.

The review of the Disability Services Act 1993 is due in 2020 and as this can be a lengthy process, supported by Minister Dawson and in consultation with the DSC Board, Council prepared to provide significant comment for the review.

Priorities in 2018

1. Employment for people with disabilities
2. Housing for people with disabilities
3. Transport for people with disabilities
4. Review of Legislation: Disability Services Act 1993

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 2018 included the following:

- The Department of Human Services' Community Advisory Forum
- The Department of Human Services' Multicultural Advisory Forum
- The Department of Human Services' Indigenous Advisory Forum
- Curtin University DAIP Implementation Committee, as requested

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 throughout the year.
- NDIA representatives attend in an Observer capacity and provide a substantial connection to the NDIA.
- The Council Executive meet with the Minister on a regular basis.

- The Disability Services Assistant Director General and staff provide briefings to Council on specific matters when requested.
- The Council's Chairperson meets on a regular basis with the Chair of the Disability Services Commission Board.
- Two joint meetings were held with the full DSC Board membership and the full MACD membership.

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.

This year Mary Ashe, Acting Director of Stakeholder Engagement and Relations at the NDIA attended to discuss the progress of the rollout of the NDIS in Western Australia and answered members' questions.

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 Commission 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 Commission 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.

This year brought a return to joint meetings between the Council and the DSC Board with one meeting on 29 May and another on 7 September. While remaining mindful of the different roles that each body plays, valuable

collaboration with the Board enhances the effectiveness of the Council to provide sound advice to the Minister for Disability Services that is based on solid consultation and engagement.

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 2018:

- Carers' Advisory Council information session
- Carers' Advisory Council meeting
- Disability Health Network Executive Advisory Council meeting
- Western Australian Local Government Association's Access and Inclusion Officers' meeting
- The Department of Human Services' Community Advisory Forum
- The Department of Human Services' Multicultural Advisory Forum
- The Department of Human Services' Indigenous Advisory Forum
- NDS WA, NDIS and Housing workshop
- Dr Michael Fotheringham, Australian Housing Urban Research Institute (AHURI) meeting

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.

Mr Andrew Thompson (Chair)	2 nd Term: 01/01/2017 – 31/12/2018
Ms Carol Franklin	1 st Term: 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2019
Ms Carole Kagi	2 nd Term: 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2019
Mr David Carrington	2 nd Term: 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2019
Ms Grace Mills	1 st Term: 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2019
Ms Joan Foley	1 st Term: 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2019
Ms Justin Mortley	1 st Term: 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2019
Ms Justine Colyer	1 st Term: 01/07/2018 – 30/06/2019
Mr Kane Moyle	1 st Term: 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2019
Ms Nita Spedding	1 st Term: 01/07/2018 – 30/06/2019
Mr Peter Batini	1 st Term: 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2019
Ms Piper Marsh	1 st Term: 24/06/2016 – 30/06/2018 2 nd Term: 01/07/18 – 30/06/2020
Ms Steph Coates (Deputy Chair)	1 st Term: 01/01/2017 – 31/12/2018
Tony Vardaro	1 st Term: 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2019

Council Staff

Ms Peta Kenworthy
Ms Roslyn (Lyn) Creed

Executive Support Officer
Executive Assistant