



Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability

Western Australia

**ANNUAL REPORT
2004 – 2005**

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The terms Council or MACD have been used interchangeably throughout this report and refers 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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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The financial year 2004 - 2005 was a year of change including the Minister, four new Council members and Council staffing. Council had established a strong working relationship with the Hon Minister Sheila McHale MLA with significant outcomes being achieved in her time as Minister. We thank her for her commitment to people with disabilities and their families. Following the State Election in February 2005 we welcomed the Hon Minister Bob Kucera APM JP MLA who displayed a strong interest in his new role as Minister for Disability Services.

It was also a year of bedding down the outcomes of the 2004 access consultation and work regarding awareness in the educational system.

As you will see from this report the Council has been active in a number of important areas and is ready to pursue new strategies for the 2005 - 2006 financial year. These will include major consultations early in 2006 where we will offer consultations in person and on line so that we get as much input as possible. These consultations will give the Council a base line of needs from which to make recommendations to the Minister.

The Council's work could not make inroads without the assistance of the Disability Services Commission (DSC). The Council would like to sincerely thank DSC who have invited Council members to be on relevant committees, have been guest speakers at Council meetings and have provided advice on numerous occasions. The Chair of the Council is also a voting member of the DSC board and this offers a flow of information between the Board and the Council.

The Council will also be finding ways to be more involved nationally by working more closely with other State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies (DABs) and the National Disability Advisory Council (NDAC) through its Western Australian members who will be invited to attend Council meetings at least twice a year.

Finally, a major interest area for the Council is systemic advocacy. Although the Council is not an advocacy body, it does have a systemic advocacy role so we invite anyone with an issue affecting people with disabilities, their families and carers to contact a Council member or the Executive Officer at any time.

My thanks to the Council members for contributing their time, knowledge, experience and skills and to Council staff, David Granville and Gail Ambrose for their very professional assistance throughout the year.



Norma Josephs
Chairperson

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The 2004 - 2005 year has seen Council continue its work on previous priorities of Access, Awareness and Advocacy. There was a slight shift in the priorities identified at the annual planning meeting in February 2005, with Access and Awareness still requiring work and several issues grouped under a priority of Assistance. To examine these priorities in depth, working groups were established to examine these issues.

Council has been involved in several initiatives in partnership with the sector which stemmed from some of Council's previous activities. These were:

- "You're Welcome WA" Access Initiative.
- "Open Your Mind - Count Us In" Community Awareness Campaign – with some Council members taking part in the advertisements.
- Companion Card.
- Schools Resource Package.

Several recommendations from the 2002 Review of the Disability Services Act 1993 were implemented within this financial year. Amendments relating to Council were:

- Change of name of the Council.
- The Minister and Council, to develop a Two-Year Strategic Plan for the Council.
- A requirement for the Council to consult widely in respect to its functions.
- Nominations for Council membership from the community and for two positions to be filled by people with recent experience in regional and rural communities.
- Council to invite the Commission to attend meetings as an observer.
- The Minister to have the authority to extend the tenure of the Chairperson for a further third term.

The office staff also undertook the extensive organisation of hosting the annual meetings of the National Disability Advisory Council and State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies in September 2004 at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle.

Staffing for the Council experienced changes in April 2005 as David Granville, the Executive Officer, was seconded to the Office of the Minister for Disability Services and I took over his role in an acting capacity. I would like to thank David for his dedication and work for the majority of the financial year and to the Council members for their commitment to the work of Council throughout the year.

This Annual Report captures the information and advice provided to the Minister during the 2004 - 2005 financial year and other activities undertaken to fulfil the Council's legislative mandate.

Gail Ambrose
Acting Executive Officer

OVERVIEW OF THE COUNCIL

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Council is an independent body constituted under the Disability Services Act 1993 to provide advice to the State Minister for Disability Services (the Minister) on matters affecting or likely to affect people with disabilities, their families and carers.

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 disabilities, carers and service providers. The Chair of the Council is also a member of the Board of the Disability Services Commission.

ORIGINS

The Council was formally constituted under the Disability Services Bill of 1992 and continued in the Disability Services Act of 1993. It was renamed the Ministerial Advisory Council for Disability Services in the 1998 Review of the Disability Services Act 1993 and renamed again in the 2002 review, to Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability.

An advisory body existed prior to 1992. However, it had a more limited focus than the current Council, being purely focused on issues relating to people with an intellectual disability.

Under the initial Commonwealth State Disability Agreement in 1993, the Council was funded to provide advice to the Australian Government Minister responsible for Disability Services. Under the current Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement this has altered and the Council is funded to provide information and advice to the National Disability Advisory Council, rather than direct to the Australian Government Minister.

Though the context within which the Council operates has altered over time the rationale for an independent body to advise the Minister has remained the same. Advice provided by the Council is intended to more freely reflect the interests of people with disabilities, their families and carers and focus on the broad policy issues affecting the disability community in Western Australia.

The 1998 and 2002 Reviews of the Disability Services Act 1993 included feedback on the effectiveness, its functions and whether there was a need for continuation of the Council. In general terms the feedback was supportive of the need for an independent advisory body.

State

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability was established in accordance with Part 3 and Schedule 5 of the Disability Services Act 1993. Part 3 Section 23 follows:

Part 3 — Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability

23. Council's functions

- (1) The functions of the Council are —
- (a) to advise the Minister, or such other person as the Minister directs, on the development and implementation of policies, services, programmes and activities that —
 - (i) affect people with disabilities;
 - (ii) inform the general public, or any section of it, about people with disabilities and that promote the acceptance by the general public, or any section of it, of the principles in Schedule 1;
 - (b) to recommend to the Minister, or such other person as the Minister directs, ways to improve the standards of disability services other than disability services provided by carers; and
 - (c) as directed by the Minister from time to time, provided that all such directions by the Minister are tabled in each House of Parliament on the first possible date after their issue.
- (1a) The Council is to undertake public consultation in accordance with the procedure specified in the regulations before it advises, or makes a recommendation to, the Minister under subsection (1)(a) or (b).
- (2) The Council may do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for, or in connection with, its functions.
- (3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (2), the Council may request any public authority to provide it with information for the purpose of performing its functions and any such request must be complied with.

Commonwealth

In accordance with the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) Part 6 (7), the Council assumes the role of a Disability Advisory Body (DAB). As a DAB the Council liaises with the National Disability Advisory Council who in turn advises the Australian Government Minister responsible for disability services.

STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Recommended changes to the Disability Services Act 1993 included Council developing a strategic framework. This strategic framework would ensure that the Council maximised the effectiveness of its representation of the needs of people with disabilities, their families and carers in Western Australia and assist Council in meeting the functions as specified within the Disability Services Act 1993.

With endorsement from the Minister for Disability Services the Council undertook a process to develop a strategic approach to its work.

A consultant facilitated a structured process that resulted in the development of a Strategic Framework designed to guide Council's work for the 2003 – 2006 period.

The Strategic Framework was broken into the following five Key Result Areas:

- **Quality of Consultation Processes**

This Key Result Area describes the manner in which all stakeholders are engaged in knowledge sharing with the Council as per the recommendation in the Review of the Disability Services Act.

- **Engagement across all Government and Funded Agencies**

This Key Result Area describes how it is intended to engage with other government agencies (and their funded services) to bring about improved outcomes for people with disabilities, their families and carers.

- **Disability Awareness**

This Key Result Area describes the manner in which the Council facilitates increased community awareness of people with disabilities, their families and carers.

- **Relationship with the Minister**

This Key Result Area describes the manner in which the Council interfaces with the Minister and the Minister's office.

- **Council Effectiveness**

This Key Result Area describes the manner in which the Council manages its procedures and responsibilities.

2004 - 2005 KEY PRIORITIES

In the early part of 2004 - 2005, Council continued with 2004 priorities, Access, Awareness and Advocacy. In February 2005 Council conducted a planning meeting to review and identify priorities for 2005. Three Working Groups were set up to examine these issues further. These priorities were in addition to the normal reactive issues that arose throughout the course of the year.

Awareness

Working Group Members: Kerry Allan-Zinner (Chair), Dr Lindy Gulland, Sarah Liddelow and Claire Anderson.

1. Education / Disability Discrimination Act 1992 - Education Standards.
2. Tourism.
3. Professional Groups / Private sector.
4. Main Roads / Architecture.
5. Awareness of the differing needs within the disability sector and the perceived rivalry between different interest / disability groups.
6. Local Government.

Access

Working Group Members: Beth Walker (Chair), Hilary Rumley, Keith Hayes and Melanie Hawkes.

1. Universal Design consistency.
2. Local Government focus - Disability Access and Inclusion Plans.
3. Greater focus on under-represented groups.
4. Companion card.

Assistance

Working Group Members: Jasbir Mann (Chair), Jackie Softly, Kerry Allan-Zinner, Dr Lindy Gulland and Keith Hayes.

1. Resources and support:
 - Systemic Advocacy
 - Welfare Reform / Disability Support Pension
 - Involving the corporate sector in funding disability – philanthropy
 - Unfunded agencies / Family groups
2. Financial cost of disability:
 - Unmet need
 - Changed circumstances
 - Continence Aids and Assistance Scheme
 - Funding of aids and equipment

REPORT ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

ADVICE TO THE STATE MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

The Council advises the Minister on strategic issues as well as immediate 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. To ensure effective and efficient outputs the Council has developed a three year strategic framework.

The Council provides advice to the Minister through briefing notes or in person at regular meetings. During 2004 - 2005 the Council provided information to the Minister on the following matters:

- Companion Card.
- International Day of People with a Disability.
- Rottneest Island Redevelopment.
- Access Report "One Small Step..." - progress of report recommendations from Council's 2004 consultation on access.
- Airnorth - DDA exemption.
- National Disability Advisory Council and State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies Joint Meeting.
- Changed circumstances / needs of individuals with a disability.
- Contingence Aids and Assistance Scheme.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION

Although the Council's mandate extends beyond the Commission we have a strong working relationship with the Commission Board and staff.

The Council Chairperson is a Board member with full voting rights and undertakes many activities in this role. Throughout 2004 - 2005 these were:

- Monthly DSC Board meetings.
- Special DSC Board meetings held at Local Government Authorities.
- One Country Board visit.
- Three metropolitan Reference Network meetings.
- Chairperson of the Commission's Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

MEETINGS

The Council meets monthly except in December, when it is in recess, and meets regularly with the Minister and the Disability Services Commission. Council also liaises and attends meetings with the National Disability Advisory Council, State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies and other significant stakeholders as required. The following meetings were attended in 2004 – 2005:

- Minister for Disability Services.
- Full Council - monthly.
- Council Working Groups - monthly.
- Chair's of the Council and the Disability Services Commission Board - monthly.
- Council and Disability Services Commission Board members - bi-annual.
- Hosting of the Annual Joint Meetings of the National Disability Advisory Council and State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle in September 2004.
- Three teleconference meetings with State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies and the National Disability Advisory Council - Council Chair and Executive Officer.
- Disability Coalition (peak bodies) - monthly – David Granville / Gail Ambrose.
- Disability Services Commission's "You're Welcome" Steering Committee – Norma Josephs, David Granville / Gail Ambrose.
- Companion Card Steering Committee and Working Group – Melanie Hawkes.
- Schools Resource Package Steering Committee – Dr Lindy Gulland.
- Strategic Planning - Norma Josephs, Kerry Allan-Zinner, Jackie Softly.
- Joint DSC and Tourism WA Accessible Tourism Reference Group – Kerry Allan-Zinner.

Observers at Council Meetings

State Government

An observer from the Disability Services Commission attends Council meetings as recommended in the 2002 Review of the Disability Services Act 1993.

Australian Government

An observer from the Australian Government's Department of Family and Community Services attends Council meetings in accordance with the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement.

OTHER ITEMS CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL

In addition to the Working Group issues, the following items were discussed and / or examined further by Council during the financial year:

- International Day of People with a Disability - promotion and coordination of events.
- Changed circumstances / needs of individuals with a disability.
- Airnorth – DDA exemption and monitoring requirement.
- Number of people with disabilities employed within the Commission.
- Report from Council's Access consultation drop-in day.
- New Council Member orientation strategy.
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 / Building Code of Australia.
- Electric vehicles.
- Peak Bodies and Advocacy organisations.
- Reference Networks.
- Disability Services Commission's Strategic Planning.
- Access difficulties experienced from city road works on Wellington Street.
- Accommodation Think Tank Coordination Committee.
- 2005 - 2006 State Government Budget.
- 2005 - 2006 Australian Government Budget.
- Post School Options – reduction in funding.
- Disability Industry Plan.
- Taxi Issues.
- Carers and Workcover Liability for paid staff working in / from private homes.
- Participation in community events / expos by the Disability Sector.
- "Open Your Mind - Count Us In" Community Awareness Campaign.
- "You're Welcome WA" Access Initiative.
- Schools Resource Package.
- Rottnest Island Redevelopment

GUEST SPEAKERS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council regularly invites guest speakers to Council meetings to inform members on priority areas, emerging issues or new initiatives / policies. The following lists the subject area and speakers for 2004 - 2005:

- **Accommodation Blueprint** - Judith Davis, Chairperson of Accommodation Blueprint Steering Committee and Jenni Perkins, Director Policy Planning and Information, Disability Services Commission.
- **Changed needs from a funding perspective** - Penny Bird, Director Service Purchasing and Development, Disability Services Commission.
- **Review of Local Area Coordination Program** - Dr Ron Chalmers, Director Country Services Coordination, Disability Services Commission.
- **Issues for indigenous people with disabilities** - Rhonda Murphy, Senior Policy Officer, Disability Services Commission and Professor Neil Thompson, Edith Cowan University.
- **Health Resource and Consultancy Team** - Robyn Massey, Manager Country Services Coordination, Disability Services Commission.
- **National Disability Administrators Research and Development Program** - Dr Ruth Shean, Director General, Disability Services Commission.
- **Changed needs from an individual's perspective** - Carol Franklin.
- **Employment options in Carnarvon** - Penny Bird, Director Service Purchasing and Development, Disability Services Commission.
- **Changed needs from an agency's perspective**- Gordon Trewern, Chief Executive Officer, Nulsen Haven.
- **Think Tank on accommodation and related support services** - Dr Ron Chalmers, Director Country Services Coordination, Disability Services Commission.
- **Minister for Disability Services** - The Hon. Bob Kucera, APM JP MLA.
- **Schools Resource Package** - Jacqueline Burns, Principal Officer Community Education, Community Access and Information Branch, Disability Services Commission.
- **Indigenous people with disabilities in rural areas** - Dr Ron Chalmers, Director Country Services Coordination, Disability Services Commission.
- **Systemic Advocacy** - Kaye Regan, Chief Executive Officer, People With Disabilities (WA) Inc.
- **“Open Your Mind - Count Us In” Community Awareness Campaign - Update and Evaluation** - Jenni Perkins, Director Policy Planning and Information, Disability Services Commission.
- **Systemic Advocacy** - Su-Hsien Lee, Joint Chief Executive Officer, Developmental Disability Council of WA (Inc).

JOINT MEETINGS OF THE STATE AND TERRITORY DISABILITY ADVISORY BODIES (DABS) AND THE NATIONAL DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (NDAC)

The joint meetings of the National Disability Advisory Council and the State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies are an annual event. The hosting of the meetings is rotated between the states each year. On the 2nd and 3rd of September 2004 the Western Australian Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability hosted this event at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle.

2 September 2004 DAB Meeting

Agenda items:

- Functions of the DABs in the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement.
- People who have an intellectual disability within the criminal justice system.
- Progress of deinstitutionalisation across Australia.
- Portability of Attendant Care.
- Presentation of Western Australia's Rural and Regional Initiatives.
- Presentation - Planned Individual Networks (PIN).

3 September 2004 DAB / NDAC Meeting

Western Australian Council Report by Norma Josephs

- Developed Strategic Framework 2003 – 2006.
- Current priorities that Council have been working on or involved in are:
 - Access – Consultation and Report
 - Awareness – Community Awareness Campaign
 - Advocacy – Council's involvement in "Speaking Out" video
- Issues related to Wills for people with disabilities.
- Amendments to State Legislation currently in Parliament.
- Observers at Council meetings from both State and Australian Governments.

Agenda items:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census - Presentation on disability and accessibility in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.
- National Portability Policy.
- Young people in Nursing Homes.
- Welfare Reform.
- Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement – Reporting and Research Program.
- Advocacy and the need for a national strategy and debate on the critical impact of advocacy.
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 – Access to Premises Standard.
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) Guest speaker – Maryanne Diamond, Chief Executive Officer of AFDO.

NETWORKING EVENTS

For Council to provide valuable, relevant and timely advice to the Minister it needs to be aware of all issues that affect people with disabilities, their families and carers. To facilitate this, Council members and staff have attended the following public forums and events throughout 2004 - 2005:

- 2004 “Making a Difference” Awards.
- People with Disabilities (WA) Inc. Annual General Meeting.
- ACROD WA Annual General Meeting.
- “International Day of People with a Disability” 2004 events.
- Disability Services Commission Lunchtime Forums.
- “Living in the West” 2004 Conference.
- Developmental Disability Council of WA (Inc) - Annual General Meeting.
- Review of Education Services for Students with a Disability forum.
- Ministerial launch of the Stepping Stones Triple P Program.
- 2004 Accessible Communities Awards.
- Minister’s end of year function.
- Disability Services Commission Board end of year function.
- Australian Government Welfare Reform Forum.
- “You’re Welcome WA” Access Initiative forum.
- Disability Services Commission Strategic Planning Forum.
- Launch of Disability Services Industry Plan of WA 2005 - 2010.
- Wayfinding Symposium - Keith Hayes / Dr Lindy Gulland.
- Deohaeko Support Network videoconference - Jackie Softly.
- Launch of “The Elements” Accessible Project Home by LandCorp and National Homes - Melanie Hawkes.
- Visit to the Subiaco Sustainable Demonstration Home - Access Working Group members.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Membership of the Council is drawn from interested persons who have skills, experience or knowledge of disability.

Ms Norma JOSEPHS (Chairperson)

3rd Term 01.12.04 – 30.11.06

Ms Josephs holds a Bachelor and Masters of Social Work as well as a Certificate in Health Care Management. Canadian work experience was predominantly in the rehabilitation field where she was involved in a number of innovative accommodation options and was a founding member of the Head Injury Association and the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Societies of British Columbia. Australian experience includes five years in Human Resource Management at the Water Corporation and six years in the disability field. Ms Josephs is currently the Director of the Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors. Ms Josephs has an eye condition and receives services through the Association for the Blind.

Ms Kerry ALLAN – ZINNER (Deputy Chair)

2nd Term 01.04.05 - 31.03.07

Ms Allan-Zinner is currently a Disability Awareness and Communications Consultant. Ms Allan-Zinner is contracted as a Lecturer at Curtin University in “Communicating with People with Disabilities” and Disability Education Training with various government and non-government agencies.

Ms Allan-Zinner has recently been appointed as Chair of the Board of the Cerebral Palsy Association of WA (CPAWA). She has held varied positions within CPAWA which have included Director and Deputy Chairperson of the Board, Chairperson of the Children’s Services Committee of Management and Member of the Commercial Enterprises Committee of Management. Ms Allan-Zinner has extensive community service and disability awareness experience and has addressed many and varied events as a presenter. Ms Allan-Zinner is also an Independent Service Standards Monitor for the Disability Services Commission. Ms Allan-Zinner has personal experience of a physical disability and is also a mother of three children.

Ms Claire ANDERSON

1st Term 01.01.05 – 31.12.06

Ms Anderson has personal experience of a neurological disability and is currently self-employed as a Life Coach, professional speaker and trainer.

In 2004 Ms Anderson was awarded the Enhanced Access Award in the Individual category for demonstrating a commitment to improving access within the community for people with a disability. In 2004 Ms Anderson released her autobiography,

Invisible Opponent and won the 2005 People with Disabilities (WA) Inc Media Award for excellence in multi media.

Ms Anderson was a category finalist in the Brownes Yoghurt Every Woman of the Year Awards in 2005 for overcoming adversity. Ms Anderson is currently a member of the Town of Victoria Park's Disability Access Committee and a member of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of WA.

Dr Lindy GULLAND

1st Term 01.01.05 – 31.12.06

Dr Gulland graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery degree from the University of Western Australia in 1983.

Dr Gulland has previously worked in various medical positions including the Family Medicine Program which encompassed hospital residencies, General Practice, Palliative care and the Alcohol and Drug Authority as well as conducting the Health in the Elderly Busselton Population Research Study in 1987. From 1987 until the end of 2000 Dr Gulland was employed, at managerial level, with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service.

Dr Gulland has personal experience of blindness as a result of complications related to Diabetes and is on the Board of The Association for the Blind of WA (ABWA), as well as being a member of the ABWA Consumer Advisory Committee.

Mr Keith HAYES

1st Term 01.01.05 – 31.12.06

Mr Hayes, M.Ed, B.Econs University of Western Australia WA has personal experience of vision impairment. His professional career was lecturing at TAFE in Economics, Business Studies and Community Services over a period of 25 years. Mr Hayes is currently an elected member to the Town of Victoria Park Council, with 13 years experience in local government. He has been Chair of the Town's Disability Advisory Committee since 1997.

Mr Hayes is currently a member of the West Australian Disabled Sports Association Management Committee, Blind Citizens Australia Transport and Access Committee and Main Roads Vulnerable Road Users Taskforce. He has previously been a member of the Management Committee of People With Disabilities (WA) Inc, the National Council of Disabled Peoples International (Australia), the Blind Citizens (Australia) and the Australian Government's Western Australian Disability Advisory Council.

Ms Melanie HAWKES

2nd Term 01.04.05 - 31.03.07

Ms Hawkes graduated from Murdoch University with a double major in Japanese and Communication Studies in 2000. Ms Hawkes is currently employed 2 days a week in Media and Public Affairs for the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and

was previously employed by Rocky Bay as Assistant Conference Coordinator for the "Women On Wellness" Conference in 2002.

Ms Hawkes is currently a member of the Rocky Bay Council, has delivered training sessions on Disability Awareness with Main Roads Western Australia and has considerable knowledge and personal experience in the areas of access and transport. Ms Hawkes has personal experience of a physical disability and uses a power wheelchair.

Ms Sarah LIDDELOW

1st Term 09.02.04 - 08.02.06

Ms Liddelow developed bone cancer in 1998 at the age of fifteen and as a result, her right leg was amputated. Ms Liddelow has been actively involved in the promotion and management of CanTeen since diagnosis, was the 2003 WA Divisional Secretary and currently holds a position on the Member Support Team. Past involvement includes being a Radio Lollipop volunteer at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and working with the Amputees in Action Youth Committee and as spokeswoman for the Red Cross, promoting the importance of giving blood.

In 2003 Ms Liddelow was awarded a Western Australian Youth Award for achievement in the face of adversity. Ms Liddelow is currently in her final year of a Bachelor of Psychology at Murdoch University. Continuing work includes providing mentoring for youth in disadvantaged circumstances and guest speaking to groups to promote the awareness of cancer and people with disabilities.

Mr Jasbir MANN

2nd Term 01.04.05 - 31.03.07

Mr Mann holds a Masters in Social Work from Curtin University and holds both a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Economics and a Bachelor in Social Work from the University of Western Australia. Mr Mann is currently employed part-time as Manager of Counsellors and Social Workers Inc. These roles and his previous job as an Advocacy Officer have exposed Mr Mann to issues such as housing, access, employment and transport that impact on the lives of people with disabilities and in particular for people from ethnic backgrounds.

Mr Mann is active at the federal level in issues dealing with welfare reform and particularly involved in matters relating to disability rights, the Disability Support Pension and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Mr Mann is also involved in disability reforms, rights and awareness in the ASEAN region.

Mr Mann brings to the Council expertise in systemic and individual advocacy, ethnic issues, housing, access and employment and has knowledge of issues related to people who have physical and psychiatric disabilities. Mr Mann also has personal experience of a neurological / physical disability.

Ms Hilary RUMLEY

2nd Term 01.07.04 – 30.06.06

Ms Rumley is currently a self employed Anthropologist and Disability Consultant. Ms Rumley holds a Bachelor of Arts Joint Honours Degree in Anthropology and Geography, Masters in Anthropology and a Diploma of Education. Ms Rumley has widespread research skills and has provided numerous academic papers and reports to varied organisations via her Consultancy.

Ms Rumley is a member of the Committee of Management of People With Disabilities (WA) Inc. and has been a member of the Sussex Street Community Legal Centre's Disability Discrimination Unit. Ms Rumley has previously been a member of the Western Australian Council of Social Service's Aboriginal Disability Forum. Ms Rumley's area of expertise is disability inclusion and discrimination, Aboriginal and women's interests. Ms Rumley also has personal experience of a physical disability, having been a permanent wheelchair user for the last 10 years.

Ms Jackie SOFTLY

1st Term 01.01.05 – 31.12.06

Ms Softly is the mother of a 21 year old man with an intellectual disability. Ms Softly is currently self-employed as a disability consultant and also undertakes contract work for the Disability Services Commission as an Independent Standards Monitor.

Ms Softly was a founding member of the Down Syndrome Association of WA in 1986. Her involvement with the Association has been ongoing and includes many years as a member of the Management Committee and as a Board Member for the Australian Down Syndrome Association, five years as Executive Officer and currently in a part time information and development role.

Ms Softly has also been employed as the Coordinator for the Kalparrin Centre for Parents of Children with Disabilities and as the City of Canning's Disability Access Officer.

Ms Softly has been an active advocate for her son and other people with a disability for many years. Her extensive community service and committee work includes representation on committees including the Western Australian Birth Defects Registry, Princess Margaret Hospital's Consumer Participation Committee, Activ Foundation Education Committee, Disability Service Plan Steering Committees for Princess Margaret Hospital and the Education Department of Western Australia. Ms Softly is on the Board of the Genetic Support Council of Western Australia and a member of the Consumer and Community Participation Joint Steering Committee of the University of Western Australia School of Population Health and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

Mrs Bethel WALKER

2nd Term 01.07.04 – 30.06.06

Mrs Walker is retired and is currently involved with various community committees in the Goldfields region. Mrs Walker has worked for the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder particularly in the area of access and in the coordination of various services to people who have a disability and seniors and has an in depth knowledge of Home

and Community Care services. Since her retirement in 1996 Mrs Walker has been involved, in a voluntary capacity, in a wide range of services to people with disabilities and seniors.

Mrs Walker holds a Certificate for Care of the Elderly and a Certificate for Management, Occupational (Health) Safety Training.

Mr Michael WRIGHT

2nd Term 01.04.05 - 31.03.07

Mr Wright is a qualified Social Worker and also holds a Masters of Applied Epidemiology from the Australian National University. He is currently working in the Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program in the Communicable Disease Control Directorate located within the Department of Health.

Mr Wright has extensive experience working in the health and welfare sectors. He has previously worked as a Policy Officer with the Western Australian Council of Social Services and as a Manager and Case Worker in a service that provided psychosocial support to Aboriginal people who were living with serious mental health issues.

Mr Wright brings to this role on the Council a depth of experience and knowledge of Aboriginal health and welfare issues. His contribution to the Council is important because of his knowledge and understanding of the unique cultural issues for Aboriginal people. Importantly, he has raised Council member's awareness of the importance of services provided to Aboriginal people needing to be culturally safe and secure. Mr Wright is also the grand parent of a child with a severe developmental disability.

RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr Toni Buti	October 2004
Ms Anne Jeavons	November 2004
Dr Eamon Shanley	July 2004
Ms Tracey Cross	October 2004
Mr Bevan Dellar	November 2004
Mrs Gaye Matthews	November 2004

STAFF

Mr David Granville	Executive Officer
Ms Gail Ambrose	Liaison Officer / Acting Executive Officer (May/June 2005)