



Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability

Western Australia

**ANNUAL REPORT
2005 – 2006**

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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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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Chairperson's Report	1-2
Executive Officer's Report	3
Overview of the Council	
◆ Purpose and Origin	4
◆ Council Relationships	4
◆ Mandate	5
Operational Guidelines	
◆ How we work	6
◆ Meetings	7-8
◆ Strategic Framework	9
Report on Council Activities for 2005-2006	
◆ Advice to the State Minister for Disability Services	10
◆ 2005 – 2006 Key Priorities	11-12
◆ Other issues considered by Council	13
◆ Consultation – Transitional Issues	14
◆ Meetings	15
◆ State / Territory and National Network	16
◆ Guest Speakers at Council Meetings	17-18
◆ Visits	18
◆ Networking Events	19
Council Membership and Staff	20-24

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Throughout the 2005 – 2006 financial year several Ministers held the disability portfolio. Although this was sometimes a challenge for Council in developing strong working relationships with Ministers, it was also seen as an opportunity to increase the awareness of disability widely across government.

The Hon Minister Bob Kucera held the disability portfolio from March 2005 to October 2005 and the Hon Minister Margaret Quirk from November 2005 to May 2006. Hon Ministers Mark McGowan and John D'Orazio also held the portfolio for short periods. We thank the Ministers for their commitment to people with disabilities and their families and carers and for their many achievements in the time they held the disability portfolio. We look forward to working with Hon Minister Tony McRae who was appointed as Minister for Disability Services on 26 May 2006.

The earlier part of the financial year saw Council continue its strategic work through internal working groups focussing on access, awareness and advocacy. Although the groups concluded in November 2005 these areas are incorporated in Council's mandate and underpin Council's ongoing work. Council also examined and provided advice on several reactive issues throughout the year. These are detailed later in this report.

Planning was undertaken in November 2005, where Council's work plan for 2006 was developed. The main themes that emerged from the meeting, related to the transitional stages in the lives of people with disabilities. The age group of 15 to 30 was recognised as a priority and consultations were planned for in early 2006.

The project titled '**Moving on Up**', included consultations in Perth and five regional centres. People were able to tell the Council about the challenges they faced when moving out of home, moving schools or leaving school to enter the workforce, training or university. The issues are to be summarised in a report and will be presented to the Minister.

The Council continued to work closely with other State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies (DABs) and the National Disability Advisory Council (NDAC) through several teleconferences and at the face to face meeting held in Hobart, Tasmania in July 2005.

I completed my term on 23 June 2006, 3 months earlier than my expiry term, because of overseas commitments. The Deputy Chair, Kerry Allan-Zinner, was appointed as Acting Chair. I leave the Council after nearly six years, knowing that I have handed the privileged position over to a very competent and passionate leader and I wish Kerry all the best in her future endeavours with the Council.

For Council to provide well informed and up to date advice to the Minister, its relationship with other stakeholders is paramount. To the Commission, peak bodies and others who have added value to our work throughout the year, we offer great thanks. My thanks must also go to the Council members for contributing their time, knowledge, experience and skills and to Council staff, Gail Ambrose and Dee Tartt for their very professional support throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Norma Josephs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Norma Josephs
Chairperson

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

In the early part of the 2005-2006 financial year, Council continued its work on the identified priorities from the 2005 planning day. The access, awareness and advocacy working groups examined a variety of issues within these focus areas and examined other issues that arose over the year

A major project for Council this year was the "Moving On Up" consultation on transitional issues. Most important was the development of the interview form that would guide the Council members in the interviews. Many other basic tasks were required to carry out the state-wide consultations such as sourcing venues, advertising and travel arrangements. Once this was complete the Council members took over, as they were responsible for conducting the interviews and speaking one-on-one with participants. Time taken for the interviews ranged from 30 mins to 4 hours. This project will continue into the 2006-2007 financial year and upon completion will be presented to the Minister.

In June 2006 several members retired from Council, including the Chairperson Norma Josephs. I would like to thank Norma for her valued work and input over the five and a half years that she was a member of Council with two and a half years as Chairperson. Early next financial year five new members will be appointed to Council resulting in full membership of 14.

Staffing for the Council stabilised in 2005-06 with Dee Tartt acting in the position of Liaison Officer and myself acting in the Executive Officer position for the entire year. I thank Dee for her support and dedication provided to Council and myself throughout the year.

I would like to thank all Council members for their enthusiasm, commitment and hard work in striving to implement change at government level to improve the lives of people with disabilities. In particular, I express my gratitude to the Chair and Deputy Chair, Norma and Kerry, for all the support and encouragement they provided to me over the year.

I look forward to continuing to work for Council and to the new challenges we face in 2006-2007.



Gail Ambrose
Acting Executive Officer

OVERVIEW OF THE COUNCIL

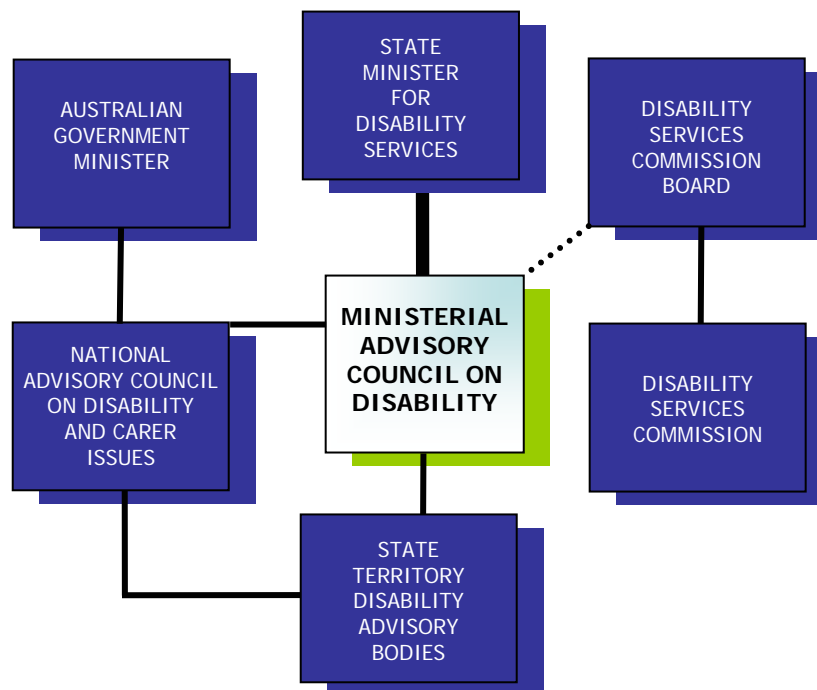
PURPOSE AND ORIGIN

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.

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.

COUNCIL RELATIONSHIPS



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 Third 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.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

HOW WE WORK

In identifying current issues and establishing annual priorities, Council is then in a position to inform and advise the Minister for Disability Services on contemporary and emerging disability issues.

Council operates by way of an 'issues model'. It operates on two levels usually referred to as planned and reactive.

Planned Issues

The priorities established at the planning meeting in November of each year set the direction for work to be progressed by Council in the subsequent year. The intent is to identify and research known issues and are generally identified based on current and/or emerging issues.

Reactive Issues

Council examines issues as they occur. This may include issues that emerge throughout the year that are not included in the planned priorities. Council members and members of the public are welcome to submit matters of concern to the Council. The Council will then determine if further examination or action is required.

Process

Council determines the process it will use to address both planned and reactive issues. Issues may be examined using the following methods:

- Issue based model - whole Council level.
- Working Groups / Committees – internal and external.
- Minister's request.
- Public consultation.
- Member Reports – members monitor an area and report regularly back to Council.
- Watching Brief.
- In partnership with other stakeholders.

MEETINGS

Council Meetings

- Full Council meets on the last Friday of each month (excluding December).
- An observer from the Disability Services Commission attends Council meetings as recommended in the 2002 Review of the Disability Services Act 1993.
- 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.
- The Director General and Commission staff provide briefings to Council on specific matters.
- The Minister and Ministerial staff attends Council meetings throughout the year.
- Guest Speakers provide briefings to Council on current and emerging issues or where Council requires information.

Meetings with the State Minister for Disability Services

Regular meetings are held with the State Minister for Disability Services to provide advice on issues currently being considered by the Council.

These meetings are attended by the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Executive Officer. Other members of the Council who have particular knowledge on an item may also attend.

Meetings with the DSC Board Chairperson and the Director General, DSC

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

The Council Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Executive Officer attend monthly meetings with the DSC Board Chairperson and the Director General, DSC.

The Council Chairperson is also a Board member with full voting rights and undertakes many activities in this role.

MEETINGS

Meetings of State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies and the National Disability Advisory Council.

The Council does not directly advise the Australian Government Minister responsible for disability services. As per the CSTDA the Council liaises with the DABs and NDAC on matters of broader national significance.

Chairs of the DABs and NDAC meet annually, hosted on a rotational basis to discuss current and emerging issues. Several teleconferences are also conducted throughout the year.

Under the current Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA), The role assigned to the Disability Advisory Bodies (DABs) is to:

- provide advice to government regarding planning, delivery and evaluation of services;
- advise their state / territory Minister on progress against meeting the CSTDA objectives and priorities;
- advise on directions for research and development; and
- consult with NDAC on matters of broader national significance.

Each state and territory DAB receives funding from the Australian Government to assist them in their advice provision role.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

As per Recommendation 7 from the Review of the Disability Services Act 1993 in 2002, the Minister together with the Council are to develop a Strategic Plan for Council. The Strategic Framework was designed to guide Council's work and to assist in meeting the functions of Council as specified within the Disability Services Act 1993. It underpins Council's work and ensures that Council maximises its effectiveness in representing the needs of people with disabilities, their families and carers in Western Australia.

To ensure effective and efficient outcomes, the Council has developed a three year strategic framework (2003 – 2006) which is made up of 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.

REPORT ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES FOR 2005-2006

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.

The Council provides advice to the Minister through briefing notes or in person at regular meetings. During 2005 - 2006 the Council provided information to the Minister on the following matters:

- Systemic Advocacy
- Contenance Aids and Assistance Scheme (CAAS)
- Costs of Disability
- Taxi Issues
- Changed Circumstances/Needs
- Lack of reference to disability portfolio in media activities
- Proposed Medicare item for comprehensive health assessment of people with intellectual disabilities
- 2006 "International Day of People with a Disability" - 25 Year Anniversary – discussion on developing a national focus on activities.
- Airnorth's Second Exemption from the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.
- Rottnest Island access issues
- Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBO)

The following reports were submitted to the Minister:

- Costs of Disability – members case studies
- Rottnest Island access report – members case studies

2005 - 2006 KEY PRIORITIES

In the early part of 2005 - 2006, Council continued with the 2005 priorities of Access, Awareness and Advocacy. These priorities were in addition to the normal reactive issues that arose throughout the year (see Other items considered by Council).

Awareness

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

- Education / Disability Discrimination Act 1992 - Education Standards.
- Tourism.
- Professional Groups / Private sector.
- Main Roads / Architecture.
- Awareness of the differing needs within the disability sector and the perceived rivalry between different interest / disability groups.
- Local Government.
- Training in Tertiary Institutions.
- Commission's Community Awareness Campaign.

Access

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

- Universal Design.
- Companion card.
- Local Government focus - Disability Access and Inclusion Plans.
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs).
- Universal Design consistency.
- Subiaco Sustainable Demonstration Home.
- DDA Building standards.
- Taxi Issues.
- Greater focus on under-represented groups.
- Smartcard issues.
- You're Welcome Initiative.
- Access to DSC Building.
- Scooters travelling more than 10 kph.

2005 - 2006 KEY PRIORITIES

Assistance

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

- Resources and support:
 - Systemic Advocacy.
 - Welfare Reform / Disability Support Pension.
 - Involving the corporate sector in funding disability – philanthropy.
 - Unfunded agencies / Family groups.
 - Carers and Workcover Liability for paid staff working in/from private homes.

- Financial cost of disability:
 - Unmet need.
 - Changed circumstances.
 - Continence Aids and Assistance Scheme.
 - Costs of disability.
 - Funding of aids and equipment.
 - Philanthropy.

OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL

In addition to working on the planned priorities, the following items were discussed and / or examined further by Council during the financial year:

- Costs of Disability - Members Case Studies.
- Systemic Advocacy.
- Contenance Aids and Assistance Scheme.
- ACT's Community Attitudes on Disability – National Research Project.
- Airnorth's Second DDA Exemption.
- Access issues at Perth City Rail Station.
- Disability Industry Plan's Recommended Strategy no.23.
- Lockhart Review.
- Reference Networks.
- Disability Services Commission's Strategic Planning.
- Rottnest Island Access.
- Department of Community Development Child Care Licensing - Commission Exemption.
- 2005 - 2006 State Government Budget.
- 2005 - 2006 Australian Government Budget.
- Electric Scooter Issues.
- Business Service Visits.

CONSULTATION – TRANSITIONAL ISSUES

The Council is required to undertake public consultation in accordance with the Disability Services Act 1993, the Disability Services Regulations 2004 and the Council's Strategic Framework 2003-2006.

From issues identified at the November 2005 annual planning meeting, Council conducted a state-wide consultation on the transitional stages for people with disabilities focusing on the 15-30 years age group.

Following a successful consultation in 2004 on access, the Council undertook a similar process where various consultation methods were used. This included a "drop-in day" format in Perth and five country centres. This consultation method:

- allowed participants the opportunity to talk, one-to-one, about their experiences through various transitional phases in their lives, rather than in a large group format which may restrict many people from participating;
- allowed people to have the time and ease to discuss issues in depth one-to-one with a Council member.
- provided extended hours and flexibility for people to attend at their convenience;
- had been a proven method previously used by Council with success; and
- increased Council member's awareness of the varying issues.

The questionnaire was also provided via email, post, fax or telephone to people who were unable to attend but wanted to provide comment.

An interview form and a questionnaire were developed and included the four key areas identified as being the major times of transition that people with disabilities experience, plus a number of additional questions. The key areas were:

1. Education and Training
2. Employment and Alternatives to Employment
3. Independent Living
4. Community Participation and Relationships

The interview forms guided each interview and the questionnaire was sent to people to complete themselves. A variation in wording was the only difference between the two formats. Three different formats were developed to meet the varying perspectives. Questions were identical but rephrased to suit the participant's viewpoint. i.e. Person with a Disability, Family member/carer and Service Provider/Group.

The information will be collated and summarised in a report to be presented to the Minister in the next financial year.

MEETINGS

The following meetings were attended by Council members and staff in 2005 – 2006:

- Minister for Disability Services.
- Council - monthly.
- Council Working Groups - monthly.
- Chair's of the Council and the Disability Services Commission Board - monthly.
- Joint Council and Disability Services Commission Board - bi-annual.
- Annual Joint Meetings of the National Disability Advisory Council and State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies in Hobart, Tasmania in July 2005 - Council Chair and Executive Officer.
- Three teleconference meetings with State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies and the National Disability Advisory Council - Council Chair, Deputy Chair and Executive Officer.
- Disability Coalition (disability peak bodies) - monthly – Executive Officer.
- Disability Services Commission's "You're Welcome" Steering Committee – Executive Officer.
- 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.
- ACROD Sub-Committees (6) – Various Council members.

The Council Chairperson as a Disability Services Commission Board member undertook the following activities throughout 2005 - 2006:

- 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.

Joint Meetings of the State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies (DABs) and the National Disability Advisory Council (NDAC)

The joint meetings of the State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies and the National Disability Advisory Council are conducted annually. The hosting of the meetings is rotated between the states each year. On the 21st and 22nd of July 2005 the Council Chair and Executive Officer travelled to Hobart, Tasmania for this event.

21 July 2005 DAB Meeting

Items discussed:

- Value of Recreation and Leisure – NICAN Presentation.
- International Day of People with a Disability 2005.
- WA Community Awareness Campaign – DVD viewing.
- Welfare to Work.
- Progressing the “National Approaches to Research on Community Attitudes” research submission.
- Presentation – IABA Training and the Way Forward.
- Framework for the State and Territory Disability Advisory Bodies.

22 July 2005 DAB / NDAC Meeting

Western Australian Council Report by Norma Josephs

- New Minister for Disability Services appointed.
- Council priorities for 2005:
 - Access.
 - Awareness.
 - Assistance.
- Disability Services Commission’s Community Awareness Campaign – DVD viewing.

Items discussed:

- NDAC, State and Territory reports.
- Research & Development Projects under the CSTDA.
- Oakdale Services Tasmania – Ageing in Place Innovative Pilot Project.
- “A presentation of the draft Whole of Government Framework for Action in Tasmania”.
- Adaptable Housing Design / Building Code.
- New National Advisory Council on Disability and Carer Issues (NACDCI).

GUEST SPEAKERS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council regularly invites guest speakers to meetings to inform members on priority areas, emerging issues or new initiatives / policies. The following lists the subject area and speakers for 2005 - 2006:

- **Indian Ocean Territories** - Robyn Massey, Manager, Country Services Coordination, Disability Services Commission.
- **Welfare to Work - Disability Support Pension** - Carol Gillett and Selvina Bustelo, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.
- **Systemic Advocacy** - Jenni Perkins, Director Policy Planning and Information, Disability Services Commission.
- **Accommodation Think Tank** - Professor Daniela Stehlik, Chair Coordination Committee.
- **Futures Planning** – Eddie Bartnik, Director, Metro Services Coordination, Disability Services Commission.
- **Community Aids and Equipment Program – Overview** - Annette Wallman, Manager Individual Development Program, Disability Services Commission.
- **Overview of National Disability Advisory Council** - Chris Kerr, Interim Chair of (NDAC) - Discussion on relationship between DABs and NDAC.
- **Aboriginal Policy in Progress** - Jim Morrison, Aboriginal Senior Policy Officer, Disability Services Commission.
- **DSC Combined Application Process (CAP)** - Professor Sherry Saggars, Chair of the Independent Priority Assessment Panel (IPAP) for the Disability Services Commission.
- **Health Resource Consultancy Team (HRCT) Update** - Robyn Massey and Sharleen Chilvers, Disability Services Commission.
- **Taxi Issues** - Igbal Samnakay, Office of Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Policy Adviser Transport.
- **Opening the Gate Project** - Simone Flavelle, Disability in the Arts Disadvantage in the Arts Australia WA (DADAA WA).
- **Companion Card Update** - – Carlo Calogero, ACROD.
- **Health Resource Consultancy Team (HRCT) Feedback Mechanism** - Dr Ron Chalmers, Director, Country Services Coordination, Disability Services Commission.
- **Western Australian State Government 2006/07 Budget** - Dr Ruth Shean, Director General, Disability Services Commission.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

- **Commonwealth State and Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA)** - Jenni Perkins, Director Policy, Planning and Information Directorate, Disability Services Commission.
- **Direct Care Staff within the Commission** - Wendy Cox, Director Accommodation Services, Disability Services Commission.

We thank all guest speakers that have provided information to the Council over the year.

VISITS

Council members and staff visited the following services/sites throughout the year:

Perth City Railway Station – 21 November 2005

- Access audit

Business Services - 31 March 2006

- Goodwill Industries, Malaga
- Workpower Inc., Ecosystem Management Services, Noranda

Accommodation Services - 21 April 2006

Cerebral Palsy Association WA - Visit included on-site nursing home and off-site group home.

Council extends their gratitude to the above organisations for providing the opportunity for Council members and staff to visit their services.

NETWORKING EVENTS

Throughout the year Council attends various events such as award events, launches, public forums and consultations. Attendance at these events provides opportunities for members to network, gather information, participate in discussions and to increase the profile of the Council. For Council to provide valuable, relevant and timely advice to the Minister attendance at these events is essential.

Council members and staff attended the following events throughout 2005 - 2006:

- ABI Week Headwest forum – speaker Christine Durham.
- 2005 Making a Difference Awards.
- Disability Symposium “The Way Forward”.
- Blind Citizens Australia 2005 National Convention.
- Having your say – Young People in Nursing Homes.
- “Voice Be Heard” Access Inclusion workshop.
- Developmental Disability Council Annual General Meeting.
- Launch of DSC’s Disability Research Network Website.
- ASeTTS Annual General Meeting Celebration.
- National Housing Conference 2005 “Building for Diversity”.
- “Living in the West” Conference ACROD WA.
- Accessible Communities Awards, Disability Services Commission.
- You’re Welcome presentation
- 2005 International Day of People with a Disability events.
- DSC Board Christmas Function.
- NAIDOC week presentation.
- Accessible Business Makes Cents Forum.
- Department of Employment and Workplace Relations - Exposure Draft Forum

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*

Currently on Leave of Absence

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.

Ms Jane EACOTT

1st Term 1/10/2005 – 30/9/2007

Ms Eacott has a 15 year old son who has a multi complex developmental disorder. She currently works in the private sector together with her husband in the reprographics (print & design) industry in the area of public relations and human resources.

In 1974, after a career in the film industry in Ireland and the United Kingdom, Ms Eacott came to Australia and worked in advertising/public relations for nearly thirteen years. The arrival of their son brought a career change and experiences with and through her son introduced her to the disability field and initiated her involvement in family based community groups and organisations.

Currently Chair of The Foundation for Social Inclusion Inc., Ms Eacott is a founding and current board member of Planned Individual Networks Inc. She also sits on a Department of Education and Training Advisory Panel and participates in other local Southern Districts community groups. Ms Eacott is an active advocate of Family Leadership, family based organisation self sufficiency and societal inclusion.

Ms Eacott brings to Council skills and knowledge in the field of family based organisations in the disability sector as well as direct connections with families and family groups; a sound background in corporate and general business sector with specific skills in strategic planning, public relations/communications and human resources.

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

2nd Term 9/2/2006 – 8/2/2008

Ms Liddelow developed bone cancer in 1998 at the age of fifteen and as a result, her right leg was amputated. Ms Liddelow graduated from Murdoch University with a Bachelor of Psychology in 2006. 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 22 year old man with an intellectual disability. She is self-employed as a disability and access consultant, with a particular interest in Disability Access and Inclusion Plans and Disability Awareness training and is an

Independent Standards Monitor.

Ms Softly was a founding member of the Down Syndrome Association of WA in 1986, continuing her involvement over the years as a member of the Boards of the State and National Associations, as Executive Officer and currently in a part time Information and Development role. She has also been Co-ordinator for the Kalparrin Centre for Parents of Children with Disabilities and 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 WA Birth Defects Registry, Princess Margaret Hospital's (PMH) Consumer Participation Committee, Activ Foundation Education Committee, Disability Service Plan Steering Committees, the Board of the Genetic Support Council of WA and the Consumer and Community Participation Joint Steering Committee of the UWA School of Population Health and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

Mr Anthony THOMAS

1st Term 1/10/2005 – 30/9/2007

Mr Thomas is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Strive Warren Blackwood Inc. based in Bridgetown which is an endorsed Disability Services Commission Alternatives to Employment, Accommodation Support and Community Services provider for the Warren Blackwood Region.

Mr Thomas has previously worked for the Disability Services Commission as Manager within the Accommodation Services Directorate. Previous to this he worked as a Social Trainer and in other various positions within the Disability Services Commission and as a Nursing assistant at Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital.

Mr Thomas is a service provider and lives in Bridgetown bringing both a service provider and rural perspective to Council.

Mr Thomas holds a Certificate in Training the Handicapped (Social Trainer). He is also a member of the following; ACROD Social Participation Committee, Bridgetown-Greenbushes Human Services Agencies Network, Warren Blackwood Human Services Network, Council of Regional Disability Services (CORDS) and the South West Regional Domestic Violence Committee.

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 IN 2005-2006

Mr Michael Wright	December 2005
Ms Norma Josephs	June 2006
Mrs Beth Walker	June 2006
Ms Hilary Rumley	June 2006

COUNCIL STAFF

Ms Gail Ambrose	Acting Executive Officer
Ms Dee Tartt	Acting Liaison Officer