



Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability

Western Australia

**ANNUAL WORK REPORT
2008**

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146 – 160 Colin Street, West Perth, Western Australia.

This report covers the 2008 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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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

For the greater part of 2008, Kerry Allan-Zinner chaired the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability, and I'd like to begin this report by acknowledging Kerry's outstanding work for Council since April 2003. Kerry stepped down and I was appointed by Minister O'Brien in November 2008, and Jane Eacott was elected by Council as Deputy Chair in January 2009.

In 2008 we farewelled several Council members. In addition to Kerry, we also said goodbye to Lindy Gulland, Keith Hayes, Mike Mulroy and Suzi Vincent. Thanks to each of these members for their unique and valuable contributions to our work. Sadly we also lost Alan Boers, who passed away in March 2008. Alan was only on Council for a short time but had been a respected long time community advocate for people with disability for many years, particularly in the areas of access and tertiary education. We also welcomed new members Yolanda Berg, Samantha Jenkinson and Trevor Paterson to Council during 2008.

During 2008, two Ministers held the Disability Services portfolio. The Hon Sheila M^cHale MLA was our Minister from early 2007 until the state election in September 2008 when we welcomed the Hon Simon O'Brien MLC into the role. We would like to acknowledge the work of both Ministers towards achieving improved outcomes for people with disabilities, their families and carers in Western Australia.

Minister O'Brien's previous experience as opposition spokesperson on disability has given him significant understanding of disability issues which has enabled a smooth transition period. The Minister first met with Council in November 2008 and we look forward to a productive and positive relationship.

Each year, in November, Council undertakes a planning process to help determine priorities for the work plan for the year ahead. In addition to this planned work, Council also responds to reactive issues and other opportunities as they arise. Council Executive also meets regularly with the Minister and with the Chairperson and Director General of the Disability Services Commission. There are details of progress and outcomes regarding both the planned and reactive work of Council, and a summary of issues from these meetings further into this report. However, I would like to highlight a few key areas of focus for Council during 2008 in my report.

An area of concern often raised by people with disabilities and their families and carers is the under-representation of consumers at key industry decision-making tables. Council responded to these concerns through the development of a comprehensive briefing note which was presented to the Minister in late 2008. The briefing note provided several recommendations to support increased and

appropriate involvement of consumer representatives at all levels of decision-making, especially at a policy and funding level.

Council has had a particular interest in the area of health and medical care for people with disabilities for some time, and developed a number of recommendations for the then Minister in 2007. During 2008, we followed through with several actions including a submission to the Commission's Health Resource and Consultancy Team community consultation and with involvement in the planning of the Fiona Stanley Hospital.

During 2008, Council members sat on a number of disability sector committees. I represented Council on the Disability Services Sector Health Check Implementation Steering Committee which met regularly from June 2007 to December 2008 to oversee the implementation of the 67 recommendations of the Sector Health Check report. It was interesting and sometimes challenging and a great opportunity for Council to be directly involved in such significant and far reaching deliberations.

Two of the initiatives recommended by the Sector Health Check were the development of a long term Western Australian State Disability Plan, and the development of a Sector CEO Round Table. Council has advocated strongly for unfunded disability agencies to be recognised as an integral part of the sector and was very pleased that two seats at the CEO Roundtable were allocated to organisations not funded by the Commission.

Council has also had significant input into the early development of the State Disability Plan, now known as *Disability Future Directions 2025*. Council members took part in the forums and in interviews and discussions with staff developing the plan and we look forward to seeing the plan developed further during 2009.

The Council Chairperson was a member of the committee overseeing the review of the Western Australian Disability Services Act during 2008, with both Kerry and I participating over the course of the year. Council also contributed a written submission to the review.

At a national level, Jane Eacott attended the Roundtable on the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Jane's commitment to and understanding of the UN Convention meant that we were kept up to date with the progress of the Convention as it moved towards ratification by the Australian Government. Many thanks to Jane for so ably representing Council regarding the Convention and in other ways during 2008.

Other members also had involvement on a range of committees and these are detailed further in this report. Many thanks to all Council members for bringing to Council their experience, expertise and passion for "making a difference".

I'd also like to thank the Commission, our regular observers from the Commission and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the disability peak bodies and other organisations for providing up to date information which helps us to provide timely and accurate advice to the Minister. This support is vital and very much appreciated.

Finally, sincere thanks to Council's staff: Acting Executive Gail Ambrose whose hard work, dedication and understanding of the issues and the sector are absolutely invaluable to our work, and Liaison Officer Kerry Ryan, for providing both administrative support to Gail and individual assistance to Council members.

Jackie Softly
Chairperson

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

This report outlines the work that was undertaken in the calendar year of 2008. Previous Annual Reports from the Council covered a fiscal period as is the usual format. The Council itself is not required to prepare an Annual Report (including financial statements) as this is reported on in the Disability Services Commission's Annual Report, the Council's funding body. It was determined that an 'Annual Work Report' would be prepared on a calendar reporting period as this was more conducive to the way that the Council undertook its work.

As is the normal process, we farewelled old associates and welcomed new members onto the Council. It is always difficult to say farewells and this year was particularly difficult for me to say goodbye to a person I had worked so closely with over many years, Kerry Allan-Zinner. Kerry had been a member for 5 ½ years and held positions of Chair and Deputy Chair. We sincerely thank Kerry and departing members for their dedication and contribution and wish them well in their future endeavours.

2008 was a very important year as we saw the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Council was involved in several interstate meetings/forums prior to the ratification. Jane travelled to Sydney and Melbourne to attend national events on the convention to represent the Council.

In July the State and Territory Disability Advisory Council network met in Darwin for the annual two day meeting. This meeting was my 5th and possibly one of the most engaging meetings in terms of extensive discussion on issues – see page 17 for agenda items.

The Council worked on various issues throughout the year which included items from the Annual Work Plan identified in November 2007 and reactive issues that came about within the sector and from members and their networks. These are listed throughout this report.

Council provided input into the National Disability Employment Strategy Consultations, the Disability Services Sector Health Check Report and the Fiona Stanley Hospital Development consultation process.

Access to public transport continues to be an everyday issue affecting many people. Council has undertaken various actions to advocate for improvements over the years. Among our actions during 2008 was a physical access audit of Perth CBD railway stations and the development of a detailed report of the findings to the Minister.

I would like to thank all Council members for their dedication and hard work throughout the year and express my gratitude to the Chair and Deputy Chair, Kerry and Jackie, for their leadership and support. Thank you to Kerry Ryan for her support in the office to the members and myself.

Gail Ambrose

Acting Executive Officer

OVERVIEW OF THE COUNCIL

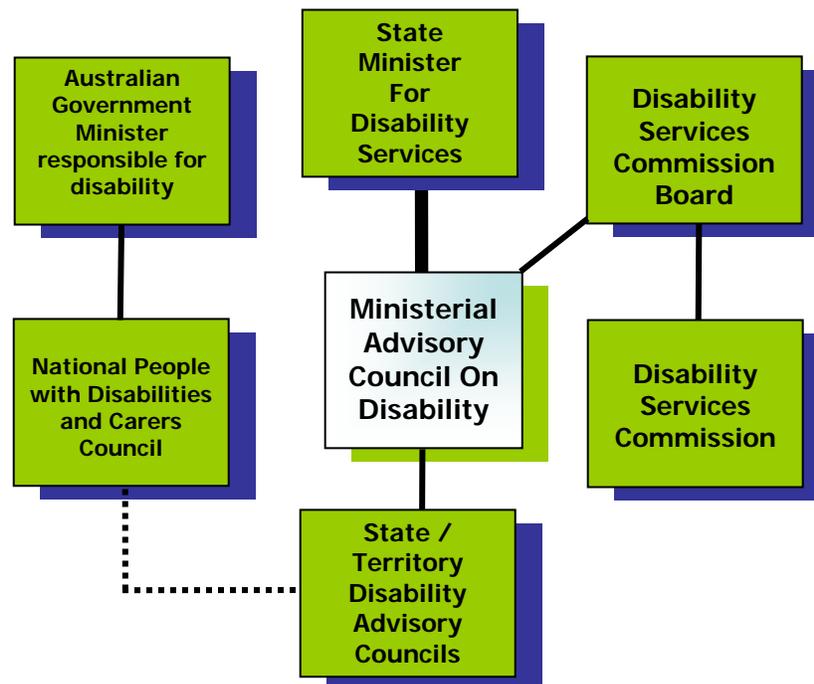
PURPOSE AND ORIGIN

The Council is an independent body constituted under the Disability Services Act 1993 to provide advice to the State Minister for Disability Services 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. The Council's functions are outlined in Part 3 Section 23 of the Act as below:

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 Council (DAC). As a DAC the Council liaises with other state and territory DACs and has links to the National People with Disabilities and Carers Council who in turn advises the Australian Government Minister responsible for disability services.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability produced its first Strategic Framework for the period of 2003 – 2006. In 2007, a Council working group met to discuss the review of the 2003 – 2006 Strategic Framework. The initial framework has assisted the Council to deliver a strategic approach to its work over that time period. However, as the Council carries out its work on an annual basis using an annual operational plan, the working group recommended that this Strategic Framework be used as an ongoing overarching document and hence would **not** have a defined period.

This Strategic Framework will be used to assist the Council to provide valuable information and advice to the Minister for Disability Services. The framework content outlines “What we are going to do” and “How we are going to do it”.

The revision and development of the new framework ensures that it reflects current issues and trends and provides overarching strategies and clear links to the functions of the Council, all in user friendly language.

The framework includes the following five Focus Areas:

- **Focus Area 1 - Getting Everyone’s Input**
This focus area describes how the Council will consult with people with disabilities, 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 disabilities, 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 disabilities, 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 detail visit our website and go to ‘Publications’ www.macd.wa.gov.au

HOW WE WORK

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

By identifying current issues and establishing annual priorities, Council is able to inform and advise the Minister for Disability Services on contemporary and emerging disability issues.

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. These issues are canvassed through sector and member networks and relationships.

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. The Minister may also request the Council to examine issues of importance.

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
- Public consultation
- Member Reports – members monitor an area and report regularly back to Council
- Watching Brief
- In partnership with other stakeholders

REPORT ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES FOR 2008

2008 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

In November 2007, the Council conducted a planning session for work to be undertaken in 2008 and developed the following Annual Work Plan:

Issue	Action/Outcome
Under-representation of consumers at key industry decision-making tables - "Nothing about us without us"	Briefing Note developed and presented to the Minister
Employment services	Submission to the National Disability Employment Strategy Consultations
Portability of funding when moving interstate	Raised and discussed at the Joint National Disability Advisory Council meeting in Darwin in July 2008
Health and Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Monitored and commented on Sector Health Check Report recommendations and Health Resource and Consultancy Team consultations▪ Involvement in the Fiona Stanley Hospital Development consultations
Access to Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Access audit undertaken by members at Perth CBD railway stations▪ Report developed and submitted to the Minister
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Monitored and promoted awareness of the Convention and the ratification process.
Immigration	Raised and discussed at the Joint National Disability Advisory Council meeting in Darwin in July 2008
Unfunded Agencies	Discussed strategies with the Commission to include unfunded groups/organisations as part of the sector

Watching Briefs

1. Curriculum Support Package
2. Continence Management
3. CSTDA IV
4. Disability Assistance Package rollout
5. Fiona Stanley Hospital development
6. Western Australian Human Rights Act

OTHER WORK

Council provides input on a range of issues that are not included in the planned priorities. Written submissions and comment were provided on the following items throughout 2008:

- **Reconciliation Action Plan 2008-2010** - Disability Services Commission
- **Health Resource and Consultancy Team Consultations** - Disability Services Commission
- **Community Living Plan** - Disability Services Commission
- **Review of the Disability Services Act** - Review Steering Committee
- **Pension Review** – Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- **State Disability Plan** (Disability Future Directions 2025) - Disability Services Commission

MEETINGS

The following meetings were attended by Council members and staff throughout 2008:

- MACD - monthly
- Minister for Disability Services – bi-monthly
- MACD Chair, Deputy Chair, Executive Officer and Disability Policy Adviser – bi monthly
- MACD and Disability Services Commission Board Chairpersons – bi-monthly
- MACD and Carers Advisory Council Chairpersons – March 2008
- State and Territory Disability Advisory Councils April 2008 - Council Chair, Deputy Chair and Executive Officer via Teleconference
- MACD members and Disability Services Commission Board members – June 2008
- State and Territories Disability Advisory Councils, Darwin, Northern Territory - July 2008
- MACD members and the Carers Advisory Council members – August 2008.
- Disability Coalition (disability peak bodies) - Executive Officer

The Council Chairperson as a Disability Services Commission Board member undertook the following activities throughout 2008:

- Monthly DSC Board
- Special DSC Board held at various agencies
- Country Board visit
- Reference Networks

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Items of discussion at the Council meetings are outlined throughout this report.

- The Council meets on the last Friday of each month (excluding December).
- A representative from the Disability Services Commission attends as an observer, as recommended in the 2002 Review of the Disability Services Act 1993.
- A representative from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs attends as an observer, in accordance with the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement.
- The State Minister and Ministerial staff attends twice a year.
- Guest Speakers are invited to provide briefings on current and emerging issues.
- The Disability Services Commission's Director General and staff provide briefings to Council on specific matters.

MEETINGS WITH THE STATE MINISTERS 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.

The Council advises the Minister on strategic issues as well as reactive 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 2008 the Council provided information to the Minister on the following matters:

- Council's 2008 Annual Work Plan – Minister's endorsement
- Council membership
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Roundtable Discussion in Melbourne – 21 February 2008 – Jane Eacott
- DSC Health Resource and Consultancy Team Consultations
- Carer's Bonus
- Review of the Disability Services Act 1993
- CEO Roundtable - Unfunded Agencies
- Development of unfunded agencies distribution list
- State and Territory Disability Advisory Councils meeting in Darwin on 9-10 July 2008
- Update on MACD Annual Work Plan
- Access Audit on CBD Perth Railway Stations

The following reports were submitted to the Minister:

- Disability Services Sector Health Check Report – Council submission
- Under-representation of consumers at key industry decision-making tables - "Nothing about us without us"

Minister's attendance at Council meetings with all members

Hon Minister Sheila M^cHale and Ms Rachel Nilon, Disability Policy Adviser - 27 June 2008

Items discussed:

- Minister stated the excellent relationship that exists with Federal Ministers responsible for disability
- Update on the CSTDA IV
- No Fault Insurance Scheme currently being considered for acquiring a disability relating to an accident
- The effects on children born with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Recent announcement that the Companion Card is now free and current members will be reimbursed
- Work on a national ACROD parking program
- Funding allocation for services to people in rural areas and possible incentives to attract and retain staff in these areas
- Client satisfaction with LAC data in the SHC report
- Turnover of LACs and the attraction and retention of staff across the disability sector

The Minister advised that she will be retiring from politics and stated that this will be her last meeting with the whole Council. She wished to acknowledge the Council's contribution to her under a collective effort and offered thanks for the guidance and advice provided to her over six years as the Minister for Disability.

Hon Minister Simon O'Brien MLC and Mr David Granville, Disability Policy Adviser - 28 November 2008

Items discussed:

- The Minister valued an ongoing relationship with the MACD and acknowledged the important role of the MACD on behalf of the sector
- Spoke on the importance of obtaining advice from various sources within the sector
- Developing processes of communication and conducting regular meetings with the MACD
- MACD meeting within the community at a range of venues e.g. local shire offices or disability organisations
- Awareness raising of the MACD and members' skills
- Independence of the MACD and the use of networks to gain feedback on issues

- International disability conferences
- Employment for people with disabilities
- Recent COAG discussions
- Discussion on staff awareness in government health and medical services

The Minister, on behalf of the government, the community and the disability sector, offered thanks and appreciation to the retiring MACD Chairperson Kerry Allan-Zinner. The Minister was saddened that this farewell coincided with his first attendance at a MACD meeting. He thanked Kerry for her contribution as a Council member, Deputy Chair and Chair and wished Kerry all the best for her future.

The Minister announced Jackie Softly's appointment to the position of Chairperson of the MACD and offered his congratulations.

MEETINGS WITH THE DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION BOARD CHAIRPERSON

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 bi-monthly meetings with the Commission's Board Chairperson, Director General and Manager Strategic and Executive Services. The Council Chairperson is also a Board member with full voting rights and undertakes many activities in this role.

Throughout 2008 four meetings were held and the following items were discussed:

Council Items

- 2007 Issues - Ministerial Briefing Notes
- Council's Annual Report 2006-2007
- Council's 2008 Annual Work Plan
- Council input into policy
- Count Us In Awards
- Terminology of 'carers' in verbal and written formats
- Council input into Commission activities
- Council membership recruitment
- Accessible venues
- Commission's media policy
- Meetings with the Carers Advisory Council
- Local Area Coordination Interactive Workshops
- Development of unfunded agencies distribution list
- Joint meeting of State and Territory Disability Advisory Councils - Darwin
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

DSC Items

- Chief Executive Officers' Roundtable discussions
- Health experiences consultancy
- Community Living Plan update
- Functional/structural review of the Commission update
- Review of the Disability Services Act 1993 update
- Chairs Forum update and the 2008 Chairs program
- Reconciliation Action Plan presentation and launch
- Board Governance Framework
- CSTDA update
- Board Chairpersons' lunch feedback
- Caretaker Conventions prior to the state election
- Farewell to the Hon Minister Sheila M^cHale MLA function
- Access and Inclusion update
- Non government organisation's Chairs' Forum

NATIONAL MEETINGS

Joint Meetings of the State Territory Disability Advisory Council Network (DACs) and the National Disability and Carer Ministerial Advisory Council (NDACMAC)

The Council does not directly advise the Australian Government Minister responsible for disability services. As per the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) the Council liaises with the DACs and NDACMAC on matters of broader national significance.

Under the current CSTDA, each State and Territory DAC receives funding from the Australian Government to assist them in their advice provision role. The role assigned to the Disability Advisory Councils 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
- consult with the National Disability Advisory Council on matters of broader national significance

Joint meetings of the State and Territory DACs are held throughout the year between the Chairpersons and Executive Officers. In 2008 one teleconference and one face to face meeting were held to discuss current and emerging issues.

Teleconference Meeting on 29 April 2008

Items discussed:

- Updates from each DAC of current / recent activity
- National Disability Strategy Forum in Melbourne
- Proposed face-to-face meeting between DAC Network
- Consultations on emerging National Disability Employment Strategy
- Consideration of Australia 2020 Summit initial report
- CSTDA update
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Update
- Disability Discrimination Act Access to Premises Standard Update
- DAC Network face to face meeting in July hosted by the Northern Territory DAC

Face to Face Meeting on 9 – 10 July 2008

The face to face meeting is hosted by a state or territory on a rotational basis. In 2008 the meeting was hosted by the Northern Territory Disability Advisory Council and held in Darwin. All states and territory DACs were represented through their Chair, Deputy Chair and/or Executive Officers. As the new National Advisory Council had not been announced at the time of meeting the adviser to Parliamentary Secretary Bill Shorten and representatives from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs attended the meeting.

Items discussed

- State and Territory reports/highlights 2007
- State and Territory DAC focus areas
- FaHCSIA Representatives joined the meeting
- National Disability Strategy and update on the NDACMAC
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Consulting with 'hard to reach' people with disability
- Supported accommodation options
- Disability Investment Group
- Victorian housing Regulation on Access and VDAC Strategic Plan
- Where to next?

GUEST SPEAKERS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2008

Council regularly invites guest speakers to meetings to inform members on priority areas, emerging issues or new initiatives and/or policy. This also provides an opportunity for Council to provide comment on the subject area. The following lists the speaker and subject area they presented on:

- **Mr Ben Sgherza, Disability Consultant**
Access to Community Life for People with Disabilities – Role of the private sector

- **Ms Anne Donaldson, Director Office of Health Review (OHR) and Ms Helen Lawrence, Senior Legal Officer OHR**
Amendments to the OHR Legislation

- **Ms Joan McKenna Kerr, Chair of the Sector Health Check Implementation Committee and Dr Ron Chalmers, Director General, Disability Services Commission**
Sector Health Check Implementation Process

- **The Hon Fred Chaney AO.**
Reconciliation Action Plan Presentation

- **Ms Taryn Harvey, Project Officer, Disability Services Commission**
Disability Future Directions 2025 (15 year State Disability Plan)

- **Ms Caroline Bulsara, Project Coordinator**
Evaluating costs, accessibility of care and availability of support networks for catastrophically injured persons and those involved in their care in Western Australia

- **Mr Eddie Bartnik**
Community Living Plan

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

Council members are asked to represent the Council on various committees/working parties. Council representation on external committees for 2008 are outlined below:

- **Review of the Disability Services Act 1993**
Kerry Allan-Zinner / Jackie Softly

- **Sector Health Check Implementation Committee**
Jackie Softly

- **Count Us in Business Strategy Committee**
Kerry Allan-Zinner (Jane Eacott proxy)

- **You're Welcome WA Access Initiative State Reference Group**
Jane Eacott and Gail Ambrose

- **NDS WA Disability Workforce Planning Committee**
Suzi Vincent

- **DSC Carers Recognition Act Reference Group**
Jane Eacott (Jackie Softly proxy)

- **Catastrophic Injury Research Project Steering Panel**
Leah Ciancio / Samantha Jenkinson

NETWORKING EVENTS

Throughout the year the Council members and staff attend various events including public forums, launches, awards and consultations. These events provide opportunities for members to network, gather information, participate in discussion and increase the profile of the Council. Most importantly these events assist the Council to provide valuable, relevant and timely advice to the Minister.

Council members and staff attended the following events throughout 2008:

- Sector Health Check Information Session
- Involving People in Research Symposium
- WACOSS Seminar - Developing Social Inclusion
- Options for Accommodation Support Seminar
- Foundation Stones for Achieving Quality
- 2008-2009 State Budget for Disability Services
- Disability Services Commission's Reconciliation Action Plan Launch
- Living in the West Conference 2008
- Ready to Work Forum
- Morning tea farewell for the Hon Minister Sheila M^cHale MLA
- National Disability Services - Home and Community - Overcoming Exclusion
- Working in the West 2008
- National Disability Strategy Consultation
- Count Us In Awards
- Disability Future Directions 2025 workshop
- Board Christmas Function
- Sector Health Check - Final Information Session

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Membership of the Council is drawn from interested persons who have experience, skills or knowledge of disability. The profiles provided below were members who sat on Council during 2008:

Ms Kerry ALLAN – ZINNER (Retired 11/08) *3^d Term 1/10/2006 – 24/11/2008*
Chairperson

Kerry Allan-Zinner is Principal Trainer for “Another Angle Consulting and Training” specialising in disability awareness, access, communications and inclusive communities with formal contracts that include Independent Standards Monitoring, Health Resource and Consultancy Team and Lecturer at Curtin and Notre Dame Universities.

Kerry has personal experience of a physical disability (Cerebral Palsy) and has a high profile as an advocate for people with disabilities in WA. She is a parent of three children, and more recently a stepmother to three adolescent boys.

In 2003 Kerry was awarded a Prime Ministers Centenary Medal and winner of the Individual Category in the State Government “Accessible Communities Awards” in December 2003.

Kerry frequently holds positions on review panels and working parties within the disability industry, women’s interest groups and the private sector. Kerry also brings to council expertise in access, disability standards, education, employment, legal, women and children issues.

Ms Yolanda BERG

1st Term 4/8/08 – 30/12/09

Ms Berg is a young woman with Down syndrome. Ms Berg completed high school and is currently studying at TAFE. She is currently employed as a Clerical Assistant part-time with the West Australian Newspaper Ltd.

Ms Berg has held several executive committee positions with the Subiaco Social Club for Recreation and Sport Network and has been involved in several media and promotional activities. She has represented Western Australia in State and National Special Olympics Games in bowling and basketball.

She has experience of living with a disability and knowledge in the areas of inclusion, youth, sport and recreation and is considered to have an extensive network which will be useful to the deliberations of the Council.

Mr Alan BOERS (Deceased 03/08)

1st Term 18/6/07 – 17/6/2009

Mr Boers has been at the forefront of University disability educational standards for the last decade, specializing in accessibility issues. He holds a Bachelor of Philosophy and is working towards a degree in Women's Studies. Alan currently works at Murdoch University as an invigilator for students with disabilities and as an advocate for people with disabilities within the community.

In his 12 years at Murdoch University, Mr Boers was the first student elected to TEDCA (Tertiary Education Disability Council of Australia) and the founding chair of ANSWD (Australasian Network of Students with Disabilities). Mr Boers was also a member of the Accommodation Blueprint Steering Committee, a member and chair of the City of Canning Disability Access Advisory Group and a member of the South East Metropolitan Regional Advisory Forum.

Mr Boers' personal experience of disability stretches back to the age of six when he was diagnosed with mitochondrial cytopathy/myopathy, a degenerative neuromuscular condition. He will bring to council extensive knowledge of access, housing, education (tertiary), women's issues and other areas of disability.

Ms Leah CIANCIO

1st Term 18/6/07 – 17/6/2009

Ms Ciancio entered the field in late 1999 and has varied experience as a friend, colleague and advocate of people with disabilities in WA and in particular the role of families in the lives of people with intellectual disability.

Ms Ciancio has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons 1st) Anthropology from the University of Western Australia (UWA). She received the Claire Mann Prize for Fourth Year Anthropology in 2001 and is currently completing her Doctorate in the UWA School of Social and Cultural Studies under an Australian Post Graduate Award. She has previously worked as a Recreation Officer for the Activ Foundation and as a Systemic Advocate for the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre, and continues to do consultancy work in the area of Recreation/the Arts and Disability.

Ms Ciancio has expertise in anthropology/qualitative research, project management and group facilitation. Often contributing to the disability sector voluntarily through Board and committee roles, she is currently on the Consortium of the Curtin/DDC-managed Personalised Residential Supports Project and is a member of the Prayer/Leadership Group of L'Arche Dreaming Perth. Previous committee work has included positions on the Boards of Planned Individual Networks (PIN) and Propelarts Inc (a Youth-Arts advocacy agency).

With knowledge and experience of a range of social justice issues, intellectual disability is Ms Ciancio's main focus area. Her father and uncle were Child Migrants from Malta, institutionalised as young boys; giving her unique lived experience of

the intersection of poverty, migration, mental health/transgenerational trauma and justice issues.

Mr Alexander CLARK

2nd Term 1/8/2008 – 31/7/2010

Mr Clark has personal experience of a hearing impairment which he has had for over 50 years.

Mr Clark is currently the President of the Dianella/Yokine Retirees, a position he has held for seven years, member of the Hearing Council of WA for the past six years and a member of the sub-committee promoting the captioning of television programmes for the deaf. Mr Clark received a WA Seniors Award for Community Participation in 2008.

Mr Clark brings to the Council expertise in hearing impairment and deafness and knowledge of issues experienced by seniors and the aged community. He also has expertise in access and transport issues.

Ms Jane EACOTT

2nd Term 1/10/2007 – 30/9/2009

Ms Eacott has an 18 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 thirteen years, initially with agencies and ultimately in the corporate sector. The arrival of their son brought a career change and experiences with and through her son introduced her to the disability field, initiating 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 organizations; 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 (Retired 11/08)

2nd Term 1/1/2007 – 31/12/2008

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. She is a member of the Association for the Blind of Western Australia Consumer Advisory Committee, a member of the External Advisory Committee for NDS (appeals for the Companion Card and ACROD Parking programs).

Dr Gulland brings to Council expertise in health and medical issues, education, access, aged, Welfare to Work, adaptive technology and sport and recreation.

Mr Keith HAYES (Retired 11/08)

2nd Term 1/1/2007 – 31/12/2008

Mr Hayes 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 has held the position of elected member to the Town of Victoria Park Council since 2001 and was recently elected as Deputy Mayor. He has also held the position of Chairperson 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. Additionally, Mr Hayes has previously been a member of the Management Committee of People With Disabilities (WA) Inc, the National Council of Disabled People International (Australia), the National Federation of Blind Citizens (Australia) and the Australian Government's WA Disability Advisory Council. Mr Hayes received the Community Contribution Award in the National Disability Awards of 2007.

Ms Samantha JENKINSON

1st Term 4/8/08 – 30/12/09

Ms Jenkinson graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work from Curtin University of Technology in 1993. She currently works in project management in the disability sector. Ms Jenkinson has a strong employment record in human services as a case manager, trainer and in policy analysis and development at state and national levels.

Ms Jenkinson has personal experience as a person with a disability living in the community with a young family and many years experience in advocacy and policy development in the disability sector. Her knowledge and experience is in the areas of housing, in-home support, person-centred planning, human rights, systemic

advocacy, service provision, inclusion, education, rehabilitation, women's issues and employment.

Ms Jenkinson is currently Chairperson of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, member of the Management Committee of Women with Disabilities Australia and has strong links with PWD(WA) Inc. and National Disability Services.

Ms Melinda MANNERS

1st Term 25/8/2006 – 24/8/2008

Ms Manners lives in Kalgoorlie and is currently on maternity leave from her Senior High School Education Support Centre Principal's position with the Department of Education and Training. She holds a Bachelor of Education (Honours) – Children with Special Needs and a Bachelor of Arts.

Ms Manners has held positions on the City of Kalgoorlie / Boulder Access and Inclusion Plan Sub-Committee, the Curriculum Council Access and Inclusion Plan Committee, the Federation of Police and Citizens Youth Clubs management committee, the International Federation of Keystone Youth Organisation's executive committee, and has strong network connections with a variety of disability agencies in both Perth and the Goldfields region. She is currently writing curriculum and support materials for students with intellectual disabilities and is an Official Visitor at mental health units with the Council of Official Visitors.

Ms Manners provides both service provision and rural and regional (Goldfields) perspectives. She has extensive knowledge of special needs education, children and youth, access and sport and recreation.

Mr Michael MULROY (Retired 01/08)

1st Term 25/8/2006 – 24/8/2008

Mike Mulroy has worked within the disability sector for some 40 years, both in the UK and in Western Australia, where he has held a number of senior executive positions. He currently works part-time as Group Manager, Liaison and Service Development with Activ Foundation.

Mike's primary role is to engage families, carers and support groups throughout Western Australia with the aim to enhance current disability services and develop future services to meet the changing needs and aspirations of people with disabilities and their families.

Mike is married and is a parent of a 14 year old son with Cerebral Palsy, who has very high support needs. As a parent of a child with a disability, and detailed knowledge of the current disability systems operating within Western Australia, this places him in a unique and privileged position to understand the needs, aspirations, joys and frustrations of families coping with their care requirements for the family member with a disability.

Mr Trevor PATERSON*1st Term 4/8/08 – 30/12/09*

Mr Paterson is currently employed as National Disability Coordination officer auspiced by Edge Employment Solutions and has worked at managerial level with various employment providers in the Disability Employment Network. Mr Paterson will bring to council a service provider perspective with both state and national expertise of employment for people with disabilities.

Mr Paterson has assumed executive and membership positions on several committees, some include; ACE WA, National Disability Services, Post Secondary Education Disability Network, Career Advice Australia's Local Community Partnerships, DSC's Post School Options Working Party, Centrelink Area Consultative Committee and Curtin University's Transition, Accommodation and Employment for People with Disabilities Research Group. He has also held senior positions in working parties for the Working in the West Conference and WA Abilities Career Expo.

He will bring to Council expertise on employment, education/training, Vocational Education and Training system, post school options, accommodation, transition and youth issues.

Ms Jackie SOFTLY*2nd Term 1/1/2007 – 31/12/2008*

Deputy Chair (Jan – Nov 2008 and Chairperson Nov – Dec 2008)

Ms Softly is the mother of a young 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.

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 an Independent Standards Monitor, 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*2nd Term 1/10/2007 – 30/9/2009*

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.

Mr Lee UGLE*1st Term 31/12/2007 – 31/12/2009*

Mr Ugle has personal experience of a physical disability and has a multi dimensional view of disability, its challenges and barriers from having been born with Cerebral Palsy.

Mr Ugle has recently retired and is currently involved as a motivational speaker raising disability awareness in various settings. He has committee experience relating to employment and social/recreation issues and has also received multiple awards via his employment in a business service.

Mr Ugle brings to Council expertise in Indigenous issues, employment, access, education, accommodation, independent living, social and recreation and gender issues.

Ms Suzi VINCENT (Retired 09/08)*1st Term 25/8/2006 – 24/8/2008*

Ms Vincent lives in Karratha and is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Pilbara and Kimberley Care Inc. The agency is a provider of Alternatives to Employment, Post School Options, Intensive Family Support and Accommodation Support Funding and provides services to people with disabilities, including Aboriginal people and people living in remote areas, for home help, personal care, social and carer support, respite, transport, home nursing / therapy, home maintenance and modifications, palliative care and mental health services.

Ms Vincent provides both service provision and rural and remote perspectives and extensive knowledge and experience in a range of services provided to people with disabilities.

Ms Vincent has sat on various committees and boards and has strong networks within the Pilbara and Kimberley regions. She has a nursing background with post graduate nursing studies in palliative care, mental health and aged care and also holds a Diploma of Counselling. She has worked in Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland.

RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS IN 2008

Mr Alan Boers	March 2008
Mr Michael Mulroy	January 2008
Ms Suzanne Vincent	September 2008
Ms Kerry Allan-Zinner	November 2008
Mr Keith Hayes	November 2008
Dr Lindy Gulland	November 2008

COUNCIL STAFF IN 2008

Ms Gail Ambrose	Acting Executive Officer
Ms Kerry Ryan	Acting Support Officer