



Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability

Western Australia

Our Direction

Strategic Framework

Reviewed April 2007

This document is available in alternative formats upon request - please contact the Council office. Contact details are on page 9 of this document.

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About the Council

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability (the Council) was established in 1994 in accordance with the Disability Services Act 1993 as a means of keeping Government informed. The Council is an independent body that informs and advises the Western Australian State Minister for Disability Services about major issues affecting the lives of people with disabilities, their families and carers. The membership of 14 is drawn from the community with expertise in disability and includes people with disabilities, their families and carers, service providers and advocates.

The Council also liaises with other State and Territory Disability Advisory Councils (DACs), the National Disability and Carers Ministerial Advisory Council (NDACMAC) and other organisations. The Council's advice is based on consultation with the community and key stakeholders.

Background

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability produced its first Strategic Framework for the years 2003 – 2006, facilitated by consultants from the Kadmos Group.

In 2007, a working group of the Council 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 will be used as an ongoing overarching document and hence would **not** have a defined yearly period, for example 2007-2010.

Introduction

This Strategic Framework will be used as an overarching document 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”.

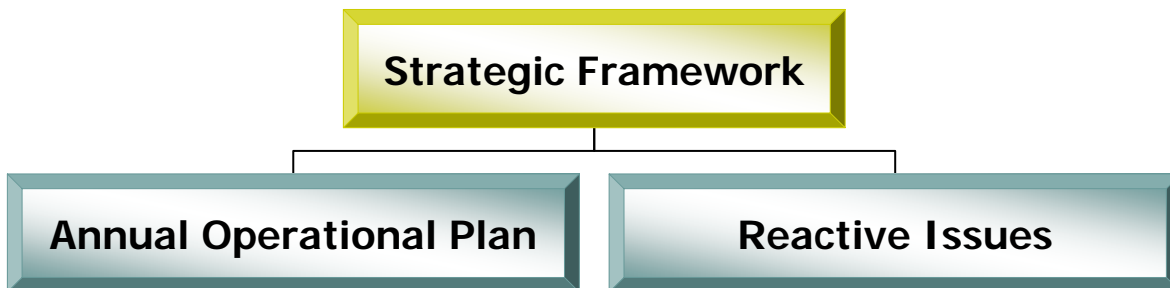
The revision and development of the new framework ensures that it reflects current issues and trends and provides overarching strategies and clear links to the functions of the Council, all in user friendly language.

The Council considers issues in two ways which are commonly referred to as planned and reactive.

The Council conducts an annual planning meeting in November of each year to identify a set of priorities based on current or emerging issues (planned). The priorities established in this process leads to the development of an annual operational plan which sets the direction of work to be undertaken by the Council in the following year.

Council also considers issues that may be brought to the Council’s notice (reactive) from Council membership and the community.

The following diagram shows our approach:



Focus Areas

Five Focus Areas have been developed from the functions of the Council as stated in the Western Australian Disability Services Act 1993. These areas describe “What we are going to do” and “How we are going to do it”.

**Focus Area 1
Getting Everyone’s Input**

**Focus Area 2
Connecting with Government and the Community**

**Focus Area 3
Increasing Awareness**

**Focus Area 4
Working together with the Minister**

**Focus Area 5
How the Council works**

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

What we are going to do

- Consult widely with the people of Western Australia.
- Collect people's input in ways that are as effective as possible.
- Collect people's input in ways that are accessible, so that all people with disabilities, their families and carers and advocates are able to take part.
- Consult in a purposeful, timely and well planned way.
- Be responsive and provide appropriate, meaningful and useful feedback to government and the community.
- Encourage government and the community to use this feedback to guide its approach to people with disabilities, their families and carers.

How we are going to do it

- We will use a number of different ways of getting input from people with disabilities, their families and carers, advocates and the wider community, so that everyone can contribute.
- We will use current technology and methods to gather input and provide feedback and information in the most effective ways possible.
- We will share the information on disability and carer issues with all levels of government, non-government organisations, National Disability and Carers Ministerial Advisory Council, Disability Advisory Councils and the community.

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

What we are going to do

- Assist government agencies and community organisations to include and address the needs and rights of people with disabilities, their families and carers when they are making laws and regulations and deciding how they will carry out their business.

How we are going to do it

- We will support the development of a whole of government and community approach to making sure people with disabilities, their families and carers are always considered in planning and how they provide their services.
- With Ministerial approval, we will meet with other agencies and organisations to see if there are issues that we share and can work on together.
- We will maintain a strong working relationship with the Disability Services Commission and the peak bodies.
- We will keep track of the progress of ongoing issues.
- If appropriate, we will refer issues to other organisations so they are aware and can take action.

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

What we are going to do

- Support government and the community to become more aware and inclusive of people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- Promote people with disabilities as valued and contributing citizens.

How we are going to do it

- We will identify areas and issues that the government and the community should be made aware of.
- We will provide ideas and suggestions to the Minister for Disability Services to help improve community awareness.

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

What we are going to do

- Provide useful information and advice to the Minister and the Minister's staff as and when appropriate.
- Encourage the Minister and advisers to actively seek advice from the Council when they are considering issues and government priorities.

How we are going to do it

- We will stay focussed on both planned and reactive issues affecting people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- We will maintain regular communication with the Minister and the Minister's staff.
- We will make sure the Council's advice is timely, accurate and well researched.

Focus Area 5

How the Council works

This focus area describes how the Council manages its role

What we are going to do

- Follow the procedures and principles of the Disability Services Act 1993, the Disability Services Regulations 2004 and the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement.
- Focus our work on the areas that are most important and have the most impact on people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- Always represent, to the best of our abilities, the wide range of people with disabilities, their families and carers.

How we are going to do it

- We will meet regularly with the community to make sure we know what the most important issues are to people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- We will develop an annual operational plan of priority issues that are current and relevant to people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- We will consider and examine issues raised by people in the community as they occur.
- We will provide induction training and ongoing development opportunities to all Council members.
- We will provide assistance to Council members with disabilities so that they can fully participate in Council business.
- We will provide assistance to Council members who live in rural and remote locations so that they can fully participate in Council business.
- We will provide opportunities for ongoing professional development for Council staff members.
- We will use Council human and financial resources wisely.

Contact Details

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