

Women with Disabilities WA Inc

ABN: 88 362 290 380

Newsletter – April 2014

Dear WWDWA Inc members,

Some of you may have heard about the taxi driver who was recently charged with sexually assaulting women with disabilities who were passengers in his Maxi Taxi.

Sexual assault is a very difficult thing to talk about. Especially for women with disabilities. But as hard as it is, we need to talk about it. We need to talk about how it affects us. We need to talk about what could have been done to prevent the assaults, we need to talk about what would make us feel and be safer. Often the solutions that are provided by service providers and the able-bodied community are ones that just make us feel more isolated and vulnerable.

So this is the time for us to speak up, not as individuals, but as a group, as many voices with different experiences, but with the same desire to feel safe in our lives in our community. But we need to talk to each other before we can have an effective voice, for so many of us it is too frightening and overwhelming to do it on our own.

WWDWA Inc Members, how would you like to have this conversation? Would you prefer to have a forum about this, or have a survey you can answer without giving your name, or contact WWDWA Inc privately to give your thoughts and ideas? Or is there some other way you would feel comfortable in telling us your story? What would make you feel safer when travelling by taxi?

What do you want us to tell government departments, service providers and the community?

Rayna Lamb
Coordinator

Monthly Forums held for women with disabilities at Subiaco Arts Centre, 180 Hamersley Road, Subiaco. Wheelchair accessible with ACROD parking and close to accessible public transport. See page 4 of the newsletter for more information about the forums and a map to the venue.

11 May – 2-4 pm – Find out more about the Royal Commission Into Child Sex Abuse in Institutions and how you can get involved. See more info on page 5. A counsellor will be available on the day.

1 June - 12-4 pm – Discussion about the experiences of women with disabilities using disability employment services. Lunch and afternoon tea included. (Please note that this forum will start at midday)

RSVP to Rayna on 9244 7463 or email rayna@wwdwa.org.au by Friday prior to forum.

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Coordinator: Rayna Lamb
Phone: 08 9244 7463
Email: rayna@wwdwa.org.au

Mailing Address: C/- EDAC 320 Rokeby Road
SUBIACO 6009
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/WWDWA>
Website: www.WWDWA.org.au

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Other Instruments of Enlightenment

Four poems by Samantha Jenkinson – WWDWA Inc Member

12 months ... Feeling Good

F...k you all!

Yeah that's right, you heard me!

You walking past with the smug look on your face,
you don't know despair,
anger,

loneliness,

you don't know the loss of your own body,
rejection of friends,
end of a career.

Being late for work is as bad as it gets for you!

I hate your mediocrity,

morality,

superficiality,

mobility.

F...k you all!

God that feels good,

feels alive!

F...k you all!

Four years ... Finding an old photo

Two feet standing

taking the weight of possibilities.

Can they move forward?

I can't remember.

Did they move forward?

Briefly,

a short walk towards immobility,

but at that point it was only chance.

The face is turning with an uncertain look.

Half a smile,

is that meant to be funny?
Are you serious?
That happens to me!
Move those feet while they're still able.
Shift the weight,
wriggle the toes.

What does it feel like?
You know but you can't tell me.
I felt it once.
In your shoes.

Seven Years ... Woman on Wheels

It must be my beauty, my grace, my intelligence.
It scares them all off, they don't know what to say.
A woman of means with her own chair for transport,
isn't a sight that you see everyday.

A swirl of colours meet the eye,
the sound of laughter leaves you high.
Too late, I've passed you by.

Ten years ... Tolerance (The Mermaid poem)

Is there anything you would change?
he asked

her hand touched the wheel
tread worn smooth
callus's against rubber
scars of pushing forward
looking backward

light
ceiling
light
white walls
white uniforms
hands under her head
hands under her arms
hands taking care, taking over
moving, wiping, dressing
turning on the hospital spit

eyes
watching
wondering
curious yet unasking
seeing metal and wheels
asking the companion, carer,
intelligent other
to translate into chair speak

her voice hidden
unheard

sand
pebbles
cracks in the pavement
walls the size of steps
feet missing obstacles
allowed through blindness
her chair not agile enough
her reach not long enough
tripped up
before starting

Is there anything you would change?
she asked

her hand touched the leg
unmoving and numb
yet skin still soft
warm blood pumping
possibilities flowing

sensual
mysterious
a mermaid
her tail in the shape of legs
her song a lure of difference
fireworks burning in her brain
bursting into brilliance
her true self shining
past metal and flesh
raising her voice
clear and intense
to life

Is there anything you would change?
he
she
they asked
You
she said
Because you don't know all women in wheelchairs become Mermaids

Contribute to our newsletter!

Do you have something you would like to see in our newsletter?
We would love to print your poem, short story, article, or information that would be relevant and interesting to other women with disabilities. Please email or post your contributions to WWDWA Inc (see our contact details at the bottom of page 1).

National Injury Insurance Scheme: Motor Vehicle Accidents Community Consultation

The National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS), intended to be a complement to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), will provide lifetime care and support to people who sustain a catastrophic injury from a motor vehicle, workplace, medical treatment injury or general accident. The focus of this Consultation is on identifying the best way of providing lifetime care and support for all newly acquired catastrophic injuries due to motor vehicle accidents

Making a Submission

Interested parties are invited to comment on the NIIS for Motor Vehicle Accidents Consultation.

Closing date for submissions: Friday, 23 May 2014

Address written submissions to:

General Manager
Social Policy Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Email: niisris@treasury.gov.au

For enquiries please call Leesa Croke (02) 6263 3800 .

<http://www.treasury.gov.au/ConsultationsandReviews/Consultations/2014/National-Injury-Insurance-Scheme-Motor-Vehicle-Accidents>

Royal Commission Into Child Sex Abuse in Institutions – Update

Commissioners and staff from the Royal Commission Into Child Sex Abuse in Institutions will be in Perth for two weeks from 28 April to run public hearing and private sessions. To find out more about the Royal Commission and about the hearings call the Royal Commission on 1800 099 340 or go to their website at <http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/resource-centre/people-with-disability>

Davina Dressler from the Commission's Community Engagement Team, will be speaking at WWDWA Inc's May forum about the Royal Commission and the various ways women with disabilities can be involved. There will be a counsellor available on the day. Davina will be speaking and answering questions for the first half of the forum, and the second half we will be showing more films from last year's International Day of People With Disabilities.

Share your experiences of dealing with Disability Employment Services

Women With Disabilities Australia has been asked by the Federal Government to do a report on the experiences of women with disabilities who have dealt with Disability Employment Services. They have given WWDWA Inc funding to run a discussion forum for women with disabilities here in Perth so we can have our thoughts and experiences on Disability Employment Services included in the report. See page 1 of the newsletter for more information. If you are unable to come to the forum but would like your voice heard in the report, please contact WWDWA Inc via phone or email.

Lunch and afternoon tea with gluten-free and vegetarian options will be provided.

Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment

Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment is different to a Department of Transport (DoT) licensing test. It focuses on the impact of a person's disability or medical condition on commencing or returning to driving. Assessments are conducted by a registered Driver Trained Occupational Therapist in a supportive environment, and aim to ensure that people are safe and able to drive, where possible.

There are currently two OT Driver Assessment service providers in WA.

ILC Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment (OTDA) Servis (Not For Profit)
The Niche, 11 Aberdare Road, Nedlands
Phone: 93810600

OT Services Group (Private)
2 Gracechurch Crescent, Leeming
Phone: 93321783

Volunteers

In order that forums and other events that we have can run smoothly, we rely on the support of volunteers.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the physical tasks of setting up venues and supporting women who need assistance during the forums.

If you know women who would be interested in helping out please let Rayna know.

General Forum Information

The cost for attending the forums is a \$2 gold coin donation. This goes towards paying for speakers and other forum related expenses. Please bring a plate of nibbles/biscuits for afternoon tea. Tea/coffee and cold drinks are provided.

