

Women with Disabilities WA Inc

ABN: 88 362 290 380

Newsletter – October 2014

Dear members,

2014 has been a year of changes. The NDIS and My Way have started in the Midland area and there has been ongoing discussion by the Federal Government about changes to the Disability Support Pension, just to name a couple that will affect most people with disabilities. I know many of us are feeling very uncertain and worried about these changes and how they will affect women with disabilities. WWDWA Inc is a small organisation that is not funded or resourced for individual advocacy, but we are able to collect information from our members on their experiences and make sure government departments and the community are made aware of what needs to change to improve the lives of women with disabilities. The main issues this year for our members have been housing, income support, access to appropriate support and prevention of violence and abuse. We have and will work hard at making sure that the voices of women with disabilities are heard through consultations, submissions to government and meetings with ministers and other people and organisations who can help us get our voice heard. Members personal details are always kept private. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you want to share your own experiences on these issues or any others.

The September forum, Human Rights and Women With Disabilities, to be run by Kerrie Duff had to be cancelled without notice due to illness, but we will be running it in early 2015.

Two of the most important forums this year have been the June forum on the experiences of women with disabilities using Disability Employment Services, and the August forum on Sexual Assault and Taxi Drivers and what we would like to see change to improve the safety of us all when taking taxis. These forums were very well attended, and the reports from these forums will be available before the end of the year.

Thank you to our committee, volunteers and everyone who has supported WWDWA Inc during 2014. Of course, most importantly, thank you to our members. Our work is a group effort, and 2014 is another year for us all to be proud of. We are all steadily working towards a better world for all women with disabilities.

I hope to see you all at either the Annual General Meeting or at the November forum. If not then, see you all next year. WWDWA Inc has some great plans – watch this space!

Rayna Lamb, Women With Disabilities WA Inc 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.

26 October 2-4 pm – WWDWA Inc's 2014 Annual General Meeting – in the Gallery

30 November 2-4 pm – Getting the most out of your smartphone – in the Undercroft

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

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WA ID Photo Card

To provide the Western Australian community with an additional secure form of photographic identification, a photo card is now available. The new photo card has the same level of integrity as a drivers' licence and is recognised by DoT as a form of photographic identification. It's a voluntary card that will assist people who do not hold a driver's licence or passport in conveniently proving their identity. The photo card will be of great benefit to young people, persons with disability and senior citizens who do not hold a driver's licence or passport, in being able to prove who they are. The identity card will enable senior citizens that no longer drive but annually renew their driver's licence for identity purposes to simplify their life and get a five year photo card instead. The photo card replaced the proof of age card, new proof of age cards are no longer being issued. Current proof of age card holders who lose or damage their card, will be able to replace that document until 31 December 2014. A photo card provides anyone aged 16 years or over with a recognised form of personal identity, primarily for use in accessing licensed premises in Western Australia. Find out how to obtain a photo card, or order a replacement.

How to Apply:

To apply for a photo card, applicants will need to visit a Driver and Vehicle Services or Department of Transport centre or agent (some Australia Post shops) with an approved combination of five original documents to verify their full name, date of birth and current residential address.

For more information visit:

www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/proof-of-identity.asp

or call 13 11 56

DNew Mental Health Advocacy Group

Consumers of Mental Health Western Australia - Coordinating, promoting and supporting the consumer voice in mental health and the wider community

9321 4994

www.comhwa.org.au

Now Available: Submission To The Senate Inquiry Into Domestic Violence

This joint submission to the 'Senate Inquiry Into Domestic Violence In Australia', has been written by Carolyn Frohmader (Women With Disabilities Australia) with contribution from Jess Cadwallader (people With Disability Australia) for and on behalf of Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA); First People's Disability Network Australia (FPDNA); People With Disability Australia (PWDA); Children With Disability Australia (CDA); and the National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA).

The Submission addresses the terms of reference for the Senate Inquiry, and examines: a) the prevalence and impact of domestic violence; b) factors contributing to the levels of domestic violence; c) the adequacy of policy and community responses to domestic violence; d) the effects of policy decisions on the ability of people with disability to escape domestic violence; and, e) how the Federal Government can eliminate violence against women.

The Submission includes twelve recommendations, including for example, the urgent need for the Australian Government to commission and fund a National Public Inquiry into Violence Against People with Disability in Institutions, with a specific focus on the gendered nature of such violence, and the multiple forms of violence perpetrated against people with disability in such settings.

This Joint Submission from National Cross-Disability Disabled People's Organisations (DPO's) into the 'Senate Inquiry into Domestic Violence in Australia', is now available on WWDA's website in both PDF and Word formats. <http://wwda.org.au/>

Self Advocacy and Peer Support WA presents their annual International Day of People with Disability Event!

Poetry, Real Life and Freedom - come down to the Northbridge Piazza on Wednesday December 3rd, international Day of People with Disability from 2 pm to 5 pm for entertainment, art, poetry, cheers, a soapbox And.... Rudely Interrupted.... International pop band. All done by and for people with disability. This our day so we are taking it and making it ours. Join us!

To become involved or for more information about Self Advocacy and Peer Support WA go to <http://selfadvocacyandpeersupportwa.weebly.com/> If you would like to perform at the event or would like to help organise it please contact Samantha Jenkinson on sam@wheelycreek.net or phone 0412 887 674

Come and DisCo in December!

DisCo is an exhibition with a difference – the lead artist is a woman with a disability, and the title is derived from the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Disability Convention). The thirty five works are taken from stories from people with disability about each article of the Convention – the body of work is a reminder of our national scorecard around disability rights. The event will be held from December 1 (opening) to December 10, at the Niche.

A tandem event, to be held on Wednesday December 10, will see leading Western Australians with disability and other critical thinkers explore 'Dangerous Ideas in Disability'. This event will challenge traditional and current 'disability sector ideals' – no idea is too daring or provocative. A number of disability leaders will take to the stage for discussion and debate on the most confronting and controversial topics in the disability sector today.

Text or call Samantha Connor on 0400 890 571 or email yellowsubmarinedownunder@gmail.com for more details in November.

Resource: Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society

This publication is addressed to people who, every day in every part of the world, contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, and it ultimately aims at enabling more people to access and make claim to their human rights through effective use of United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms.

Download at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/CivilSociety/Pages/Handbook.aspx>

Female Taxi Drivers In Perth

Women and people with disabilities are often hesitant to take taxis due to the fear of inappropriate behaviour or sexual assault from male taxi drivers.

There are two female taxi drivers here in Perth, both currently working for Swan Taxis.

Zoe - 0433 489 811 - South of the river

Noeline - 0401 950 884 - North of the river

They both drive Maxi Taxis and do wheelchair work, group bookings and airport bookings. If they are unable to take your job themselves they can recommend other taxi drivers that are trustworthy.

What is the future of women's human rights?

Welcome to Imagining Equality, an online media project exploring the art, voices, and stories of women from around the globe. Go to: <http://imaginingequality.imow.org/>

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.

