

Women with Disabilities WA Inc

ABN: 88 362 290 380

Newsletter – January 2015

Dear Members,

Women With Disabilities WA Inc is delighted to report that we were successful in receiving a grant through the Disability Services Commission's Community Inclusion and Participation Grants Program. Women with Disabilities Making our Lives Count: Past, Present and Future, Subiaco, \$35,770: Women with disability will tell their stories through a range of art forms, including writing, spoken word, pictures, visual arts and multimedia resources, with an art show held to share the stories with the community. Part of the grant will be used to make our resources and information more accessible via Easy English to women with intellectual disabilities and women with disabilities who have English as a second language.

We are very excited about these projects. Watch this space for more information! A number of other excellent projects were funded, please see the DSC link for more information.

<http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/about-us1/about-us/count-me-in/community-inclusion-and-participation-grants/>

WWDWA Inc is now a deductible gift recipient, which means that donations to us over \$2 are now tax deductible. We will be putting up information on our website shortly on how to donate to us, or you can contact us by phone or email. You can search for more information on our charity and tax status at <http://www.abr.business.gov.au> and <http://www.acnc.gov.au>

At our recent Annual General Meeting members voted on changes to our Constitution to bring it in line with current laws. These changes have been approved and an updated copy of the constitution is on our website.

The forums are continuing to run, and I look forward to seeing members at them. This year is going to be our busiest and most exciting so far, join us for the ride!

Rayna Lamb – WWDWA 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.

22 February 2-4 pm – Women with disabilities and human rights – Kerrie Duff (This forum was to be held in September last year, and had to be cancelled)

22 March 2-4 pm - Health and Disability Service Complaints Office Focus Group – the experiences of women with disabilities when making complaints about services

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

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WWDWA INC'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2015

Zel Iscel - Chairperson (continuing)
Ingrid Moore - Secretary (continuing)
Jackie Greene - Treasurer (new - welcome on board, Jackie!)
Leone Lawrence - Committee Member (continuing)
Melanie Hawkes - Committee Member (continuing)
Monica McGhie - Committee Member (continuing)

SENATE PASSES MOTION FOR NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

On 11 February 2015, the Senate unanimously passed the motion (moved by Senator Siewert) for a National Inquiry into Violence and Abuse Against People with Disability in Institutional and Residential Settings. This is an extraordinary day for people with disabilities everywhere, but especially women and girls with disabilities, who experience, and are at risk of, multiple forms of violence, particularly in institutional and residential settings.

Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) commends the Senate for listening to the voices of people with disabilities; for recognising the urgency of the issue, and for its commitment to ending the epidemic that is violence against people with disabilities in institutional and residential settings.

WWDA has worked on this issue for more than 20 years. Today, newly elected WWDA President Rayna Lamb said "Today the Senate has recognised the need for a national inquiry into violence perpetrated against people with disabilities in institutional and residential settings. It has acknowledged that this issue is not just a 'state' issue, and is not restricted to just a handful of disability service providers. The Senate has listened to, and respected the voices of people with disabilities from around Australia. It has shown great leadership in committing, through a Senate Inquiry, to working with people with disabilities to end the epidemic that is violence against people with disabilities in institutional and residential settings. The Senate is to be commended for recognising that violence against people with disabilities cannot, and will not, be tolerated any longer."

WWDA Executive Director Carolyn Frohmader, who has led this work for more than 19 years, today said: "WWDA is deeply indebted to Senator Rachel Siewert for her leadership and support on this national issue. WWDA, and our allies, are looking forward to working with Governments, through this national Inquiry, to find practical, coordinated solutions to end this epidemic once and for all. Today, WWDA pays

tribute to those WWDA members who are no longer with us but who have been such an important part of our journey to end violence against women and girls with disabilities. We also take this opportunity to pay special tribute to our member and friend, Juliette Anderson, for her advocacy on behalf of all people with disabilities who have experienced violations of one of their most fundamental human rights - the right to live their lives free from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation."

Web: www.wwda.org.au

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WWDA.Australia>

PEER SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE IN THE NDIS HILLS TRIAL SITE

My Supports is a peer based service that is provide by people with a lived experience of disability, for people living and experiencing disability. If you live in the NDIS Hills trial site and would like My Supports or my personal attention to navigate the NDIS process and provide ongoing supports please come and talk to us at My Supports. By working with you we can help you to make the most of the opportunities that lay ahead. Call 9274 7575 or go to <http://mysupports.com.au/> for more information.

LOW COST PHONES AND PHONE PLANS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Jeenee Mobile provides \$35 Smart Phone Packs to people with disabilities valued at \$840—includes a 24 month plan, individualised smartphone with one button access to 24/7 specialised support from trained consultants. Their phones and tablets are customised to meet the wide range of accessibility needs of individual people with disabilities, including those with coordination difficulties, and people with intellectual disabilities.

Jeenee Mobile runs on the Optus 4G network. The plans are funded by the sale of SIM card packs.

You can apply for a donated mobile connection at <http://www.jeenee.org.au/makeadifference/>

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.

