P W d W A

# People With disabilities Western Australia

## Annual Report 2020-2021

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Individual and systemic advocacy led by people with disabilities in Western Australia.

### List of Acronyms

* AAT = Administrative Appeals Tribunal.
* A F D O = Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.
* AGM = Annual General Meeting.
* AWA = Advocacy WA.
* CEO = Chief Executive Officer.
* COVID-19 = Corona Virus 2019.
* DFO = Diversity Field Officer.
* DoC = Department of Communities.
* DRC = Disability Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.
* DSP = Disability Support Pension.
* DSS = Department of Social Services.
* ILC = Information, Linkages, and Capacity Building.
* IT = Information Technology.
* NDS = National Disability Services.
* NDIA = National Disability Insurance Agency.
* N D I S = National Disability Insurance Scheme.
* P W d W A = People With Disabilities (WA) Inc.
* SDA = Specialist Disability Accommodation.
* SECCA = Sexuality Education Counselling and Consultancy Agency.
* SSCLS = Sussex Street Community Law Service.
* Strategy = Western Australian State Government’s Disability Strategy.
* WA = Western Australia.
* WAIS = Western Australia’s Individualised Services.
* Y D A N = Youth Disability Advocacy Network.

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### About Our Organisation

#### Our Vision

People with disabilities are empowered in an inclusive society that values human rights.

#### Our Mission

Individual and systemic advocacy led by people with disabilities in Western Australia.

#### Our Values

##### Inclusive

We recognise the right to equal access and opportunity with dignity and empathy.

##### Integrity

We do what is right.

##### Courage

We are unafraid to show strength and unity in advocating for the rights of people with disabilities, creativity, and perseverance in pursuing our goals.

### Chair Report

This is the last report I will submit as Chair of People With disabilities WA Inc. (P W d W A), as my time elected as Chair of the Board has reached its conclusion. One thing that has remained very important to me, as we have grown as an organisation, is ensuring the voice of people with disabilities is never lost. We are all part of an organisation that ensures we are truly representative and that the disabled voice is the strongest voice.

This was enabled through a revision of our Rules of Association in March. We are now one of the few not-for-profit organisations that can provide a small sitting fee to Board members in recognition of their time and lived experience. We also made some key changes to the annual general meeting process, including how we recruit to key positions on the Board. You will note that our Annual General Meeting (AGM) this year does not include election to specific positions, as this work will be undertaken internally at the Board’s first meeting.

This year, the P W d W A Board have refreshed our strategic plan in collaboration with the staff and through an experienced facilitator. The new plan will set our direction for the next five years and continues our focus on individual and systematic advocacy. We continue to strive to increase our visibility and membership growth where possible.

P W d W A have continued our core work of providing high quality individual advocacy to the Western Australian community and remained active with systemic advocacy submissions.

The highlight of the year was our first P W d W A Self- Advocacy Conference, run for and by people with disabilities. I would like to thank Katrina Bercov from Evolve Events and Training, Samantha Jenkinson for her oversight of the conference committee, and the members of the conference organising committee, Simon Chong, Jackie Green, Adam Hewber, Kirsten Whent, and Jamin Dix. On the day, the work of Vanessa Jessett (Organisational Development and Communications Officer), and Brendan Cullinan (Chief Executive Officer, CEO) was critical to its success.

We continue to have a highly engaged Board, maintaining responsible and strong governance. Since the last AGM, we have said goodbye and thank you to Adam Hewber, for his reliable commitment for five years, and Bob Johnson. We thank them sincerely for their time and engagement. I would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Erika Webb for her support and guidance as she concluded her role as secretariat to the Board after eight years of great service.

Lisa Burnette.

Chair.

### Chief Executive Officer Report

The 2020-2021 year has seen many great challenges and achievements for P W d W A.

COVID-19 continues to throw up many challenges which as a sector we have been pro-active in addressing, with P W d W A continuing to be an active member of the State government’s COVID-19 Disability Task Force. The ongoing threat of COVID-19 has meant that as an organisation we need to continue to be flexible and adaptable to ensure that we are able to provide support during periods of lock down which occurred during the year. The funding support from Lotterywest greatly boosted our remote working capability enabling the purchase of laptops for all team members.

Individual advocacy continued to be the core focus of our work with nearly 750 individuals seeking access to this service during the year. Workforce capacity to meet demand continues to be a challenge in this area. The source of this work continues to be self- referrals with the main issues for support being National Disability Insurance Scheme (N D I S) access and or planning, government payments, and abuse, neglect, and violence.

P W d W A continued to play a key role locally and nationally in systemic advocacy by producing or coproducing numerous submissions on a broad range of issues during the year which are detailed later in this report.

We continue to be an organisation that is led by and for people with disability and as a member-based organisation, it was pleasing to see P W d W A’s membership grow by nearly 20% in the past financial year. Continued growth and engagement with our members will be a strong focus of P W d W A.

P W d W A welcomed the announcement in May for the extension of the Disability Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC) until August 2023. While there have been no public hearings held in Western Australia (WA), P W d W A has supported 66 individuals to engage with the Commission in the past financial year.

In November last year, P W d W A held its inaugural and very successful state conference. Exploring the theme “Celebrating Self-Advocacy”, the conference was hosted as a partnership between P W d W A and Evolve Events and Training. Over the two days, 182 distinct delegates registered attending sessions based on the themes of collaboration, challenges, choice, and celebrations.

P W d W A was vocal in expressing its concerns along with the disability sector and the disability community about the proposed N D I S reforms that included independent assessments. Later in this report we outline the systemic action we implemented to voice these concerns. It was pleasing to see that these concerns were acknowledged with the plans for independent assessments scrapped. I acknowledge the support of the Hon. Don Punch MLA, Minister for Disability Services, and the work of Senator Jordan Steele-John in supporting this campaign.

The ongoing high level of governance of P W d W A was further enhanced during the year with the approval by members of a revised constitution, and the development of a revised Strategic Plan to guide the organisation over the next five years. P W d W A’s focus will remain on the delivery of professional and timely advocacy support, build community capacity particularly around self-advocacy, and to grow and engage with our members.

P W d W A continued to deliver or contribute to a range of projects and work collaboratively across the sector. We thank our consortium partners, Advocacy Western Australia (AWA) and Sussex Street Community Law Services Inc. (SSCLS), who we work with in delivering individual advocacy services. On broader sector issues, P W d W A continues to be an active member of the Disability Advocacy Coalition of Western Australia. We play an active role with the WA State Disability Strategy delivering community awareness forums across the state and have been a member of the State government’s Plastic Straws Working Group where with input from our members we have assisted in the drafting of regulation exemptions for people with disabilities.

P W d W A is fortunate to have very close and supportive relationships with our funding providers and I would like to acknowledge and thank the Department of Social Services (DSS), and in WA, the Department of Communities (DoC), and Lotterywest for their ongoing support and guidance.

The P W d W A staff has continued to provide exceptional support in a very busy environment throughout the year, whether that be for individual or systemic advocacy, or our community project work. I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the staff for their significant contribution, professionalism, and support not only for the people who contact us, but also for each other.

The Board continues to provide strong leadership under the Chair of Lisa Burnette, and I acknowledge and thank all Board members for their commitment and support in advocating for the rights and empowering people with disability. Unfortunately, Lisa will be standing down as Chair and as a Board member at this year’s AGM. On behalf of the P W d W A Board, our members and staff, I sincerely thank Lisa for the tireless hours of commitment and passion over the past six years and look forward to her ongoing involvement in a different capacity.

Looking forward to 2021-2022, there are some significant challenges for the disability advocacy sector. Demand for advocacy support continues to exceed the sector capacity with people seeking support unfortunately, in some instances having to wait to access services. The ever-increasing demand for advocacy, and how P W d W A in collaboration with sector partners builds and maintains capacity and capability to meet this demand, will be the focus of our discussions on our future funding from both the Federal government (DSS) and the State government (DoC) with our existing funding agreements concluding at end of June 2022.

P W d W A looks forward to the challenges ahead as we strive to achieve our vision where people with disabilities are empowered in an inclusive society that values human rights.

Brendan Cullinan.

CEO.

### Our Board

* Lisa Burnette, Chair.
* Janine Neu, Deputy Chair.
* Adam Hewber, Treasurer – resigned May 2021.
* Simon Glossop, Treasurer – May 2021.
* Simon Chong, Secretary.
* Bob Johnson, Resigned January 2021.
* Georgina Hook, Board Member.
* Kat Johns, Board Member.
* Lara Moore, Board Member.
* Samantha Connor, Board Member.
* Tara LeFlohic, Board Member.
* Erika Webb, Secretariat – resigned June 2021.

### Our Staff

* Samantha Jenkinson, Executive Director (resigned July 2020).
* Brendan Cullinan, Chief Executive Officer (from August 2020).
* Brianna Lee, Systemic Advocacy Projects Manager.
* Lisa Hook, Individual Advocacy Service Manager.
* Michele Frost, Senior Individual Advocate.
* Catherine Everett, Individual Advocate.
* Chris Chambers, Individual Advocate.
* Dr Amber Arazi, Member Engagement Project Officer.
* Claire McCormick, Individual Advocate.
* Elisha Johnson, Individual Advocate.
* Glenda Bye, Individual Advocate.
* James Cresswell, Individual Advocate.
* Jessica Eastaugh, Diversity Field Officer (resigned September 2020).
* Kerry Kessner, Individual Advocate.
* Leia Robinson, Individual Advocate.
* Mark Hutson, Regional Outreach Advocate.
* Neisha Walker, Individual Advocate (resigned October 2020).
* Oliver Offer, Disability Royal Commission Advocate.
* Rachael Cox, Individual Advocate N D I S Appeals (resigned February 2021).
* Renata Krollig, Administration Officer.
* Suresh Rajan, State Disability Strategy Project Officer.
* Tahnee Gilmour, Self-Advocacy and Peer Support Project Officer.
* Tania Stefanoska, Diversity Field Officer (from September 2020 – January 2021).
* Vanessa Jessett, Organisational Development and Communications Officer.

### Our Achievements

* Provided 15 submissions into a range of topics including N D I S, DSP, Justice, Violence, Neglect and Exploitation.
* Increased our membership by 20%.
* Developed a new five-year Strategic Plan.
* Increased our social media reach on Facebook by 75%.
* Delivered inaugural People with disabilities WA Conference- Celebrating Self- Advocacy.
* Provided education and mentoring to small and medium sized business to build their confidence about disability inclusion in their workplace.
* Provided high quality individual advocacy support for people across Western Australia.
* Delivered online and face to face session on N D I S Planning, Discrimination Complaints, Disability Support Pensions and Self Advocacy.
* Provided individual advocacy support for people to make submission to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

### Our Submissions

* N D I S Discussion Paper: Support Coordination.
* Disability Royal Commission: Restrictive Practices Issues Paper.
* Review of the Disability Standard for Education 2005.
* National Disability Strategy Position Paper.
* Public consultation for the National Disability Services (NDS) and N D I S outcomes Frameworks.
* Future conduct of elections operating during times of emergency.
* 2020 Review of the Disability (Access to Premises – Building) Standards 2010.
* Disability Royal Commission: Quality and Safeguards Issues Paper.
* N D I S Access and Eligibility Policy with Independent Assessments.
* N D I S Planning Policy for Personalised Budget and Plan Flexibility.
* Joint Standing Committee on the N D I S: Inquiry into Independent Assessments.
* Disability Royal Commission: Promoting Inclusion Issues Paper.
* Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs: Purpose, Intent and Adequacy of the Disability Support Pension.
* Revised Code of Inspection Standards for Adult Custodial Services.
* National Employment Strategy.

### Individual Advocacy

P W d W A provides independent non-legal advocacy that is issues based and client directed to people with a disability in WA.

P W d W A works as part of a consortium with Advocacy WA (AWA) and Sussex Street Community Law Services (SSCLS) in delivering individual advocacy services.

In the past financial year, P W d W A Advocates have provided advocacy to 746 individuals with 979 issues. The P W d W A advocacy service includes providing rigorous information and toolkits to empower individuals to self-advocate, making supported referrals, or providing individual advocacy support to ensure people’s voices are heard and their rights are upheld.

#### Issue Type:

The table below contains the primary issue type presented followed by the number of people seeking information.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary issue type on presentation to service** | **Information** |
| Abuse, neglect, violence | 52 |
| Access to non-N D I S services | 12 |
| Child protection | 3 |
| Community inclusion – social and or family | 26 |
| Disability services | 47 |
| Discrimination and or rights | 23 |
| Education | 19 |
| Employment | 22 |
| Equipment and or aids | 0 |
| Finances | 22 |
| Government payments | 84 |
| Health and or Mental health | 34 |
| Housing and or Homelessness | 48 |
| Legal and or Access to justice | 32 |
| N D I S – Internal review | 53 |
| N D I S – Access and or Planning | 106 |
| N D I S – Support implementing plan and or Accessing services | 44 |
| Other (including N D I S Appeals) | 28 |
| Physical access | 4 |
| Transport | 4 |
| Vulnerable and or isolated | 0 |

The table below contains the primary issue type presented followed by the number of people seeking advocacy.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary issue type on presentation to service** | **Advocacy** |
| Abuse, neglect, violence | 32 |
| Access to non-N D I S services | 1 |
| Child protection | 2 |
| Community inclusion – social and or family | 5 |
| Disability services | 14 |
| Discrimination and or rights | 29 |
| Education | 4 |
| Employment | 1 |
| Equipment and or aids | 0 |
| Finances | 5 |
| Government payments | 25 |
| Health and or Mental health | 5 |
| Housing and or Homelessness | 18 |
| Legal and or Access to justice | 17 |
| N D I S – Internal review | 34 |
| N D I S – Access and or Planning | 53 |
| N D I S – Support implementing plan and or Accessing services | 18 |
| Other (including N D I S Appeals) | 37 |
| Physical access | 1 |
| Transport | 0 |
| Vulnerable and or isolated | 1 |

Due to the ongoing high level of demand for advocacy support, P W d W A, like other disability advocacy organisations, operates with a waitlist to manage its services. P W d W A with its consortium partners, has received funding from DoC until the end of 2021 to identify and implement strategies to effectively manage this waitlist.

Therefore, P W d W A has at times prioritised advocacy for issues that met one of the following criteria:

* Involves abuse and neglect.
* A person will be made homeless within the next month and there are no other support services suitable to assist.
* There are serious safety risks if the issues are not addressed.
* The individual or their supports will reach crisis if they do not receive advocacy quickly.

#### Disability Type:

* Physical Disability 197 (26%).
* Autism 130 (17%).
* Psychiatric Disability 105 (14%).
* Neurological Disability 92 (12%).
* Intellectual Disability 86 (12%).
* Not Stated and or Inadequately 55 (7%).
* Acquired Brain Injury 26 (3%).
* Sensory and Speech 14 (2%).
* Developmental Delay 12 (2%).
* Specific Learning and or A D H D 12 (2%).
* Vision Impairment 11 (1%).
* Deaf and or Hard of Hearing 6 (1%).

The Disability Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC)

The DRC Advocate has continued with the ongoing responsibility of delivering individual advocacy, coordinating education sessions, and organising and providing community outreach and information sessions to ensure people are aware of the DRC and to provide support to engage with the DRC. P W d W A welcomed the extension announcement of the DRC until August 2023.

Over the last year our DRC Advocate has:

* Supported 66 individuals to engage with the DRC.
* Conducted outreach support to several organisations to raise awareness and direct people to make submissions independently.
* Developed a submission template and other resources to support people to make submissions independently.
* Conducted surveys of our members and developed several responses to various issues papers.

### Individual Advocacy in Action

#### Case Studies

##### N D I S Access

David was diagnosed with a psychosocial disability and a terminal health condition. David’s sister, Emma, initially supported him to submit an N D I S access request. N D I S declined his access on the basis that his terminal illness was not permanent as they had not ruled out transplantation surgery.

After attempting to seek further medical evidence from the appropriate specialists, David’s condition worsened significantly to the point where he was at severe risk of losing his life. As a result of the complex process, David and his family were fatigued by the barriers to accessing the health system and having no supports in place.

Our advocate supported David and Emma to submit a new N D I S access request. The advocate worked with David’s General Practitioner to gather medical evidence; draft, finalise and submit an N D I S access request; escalated the priority of the access request with the NDIA; and respond to further questions posed by the

N D I S.

After thoroughly negotiating with the N D I S, David was granted access to the

N D I S and has started the planning process. Names changed for privacy.

##### Reasonable and Necessary

An individual contacted P W d W A because they wanted to live independently away from family. The individual is 23, has a neurological disability condition characterised by global muscle weakness, breathing and swallowing problems, and requires the use of a wheelchair to mobilise. The individual requires one-to-one physical support to complete all functional transfers, personal care tasks and community access, and has been using N D I S services for several years.

The internal review for additional funding to provide one to one support was rejected. The request was not considered to be reasonable and necessary due to lack of evidence, despite the clear need for supports.

Our advocate worked with the individual through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) process and was able help the individual to apply for Legal Aid, N D I S assistance and gather relevant information and evidence. Our advocate attended the AAT case conferences and supported the individual to self-advocate.

The individual, through the AAT Appeals process, was able to demonstrate that the additional core supports and Supported

Disability Accommodation (SDA) housing were reasonable and necessary. They are now progressing towards living independently in the community. Names changed for privacy.

#### Jack and Sally’s story

Jack contacted P W d W A for advocacy on behalf of himself and his partner, Sally, to move their relationship to the next level; they wanted to live together. The couple have been in a relationship for a number of years and both have intellectual disability. The couple only wanted to work with one support provider to ensure they have continuity of support.

Sally’s support provider believed Jack and Sally would not cope on their own without their support. The couple wanted to choose their own support provider.

Each of the couple’s N D I S plans needed to go to early review so the couple could have the supports in place which they required to live together.

Our advocate listened to what Jack and Sally wanted and was directed by them. They attended meetings with community stakeholders to ensure Jack and Sally’s voices were heard. Our advocate provided Jack and Sally with referrals, such as Sexuality Education Counselling and Consultancy Agency (SECCA), to help them transition from single life to coupled life.

Jack and Sally were able to choose their own support provider, and moved in together with all the supports in place and updated N D I S plans.

#### Centrelink and or DSP

Don has a double amputation and was at risk of homelessness. He was denied access to the Disability Support Pension (DSP) due to a lack of medical evidence. Don asked for advocacy to appeal the decision made by Centrelink.

Our advocate referred Don to the DSP Information Tool Kit developed by P W d W A and encouraged Don to review the documents while he was placed on the waitlist.

Don was supported to engage a welfare rights service to obtain legal advice about what further evidence he should collect. Our advocate was able to support Don to collect the evidence needed and submit it to Centrelink for an appeal. Don’s access to the DSP was granted on appeal. Names changed for privacy

### Systemic Advocacy

P W d W A’s systemic advocacy funding is through the National Disability Advocacy Program. Some of the key areas we have worked on over the last 12 months include:

* N D I S.
* Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation.
* Access and Inclusion.
* Employment.
* Social Security.
* Justice.

Our strong relationships with government, the disability sector, and National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) enable us to proactively raise systemic issues and influence longer term change. We continue to be invited to meetings, and sit on advisory committees and reference groups, which acknowledges our role as a lead member-based disability organisation in WA. This includes the State Disability Taskforce on COVID-19 where we work to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are recognised in the State government’s response.

We have also responded to over a dozen consultations and enquiries through submissions. This includes three submissions to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC), and submissions to the Senate Inquiry into Independent Assessments. All our submissions are available to be viewed on our website.

Our systemic work is informed by the WA community, both through the trends and case studies seen in our individual advocacy work, and direct community engagement including community forums and surveys. We take a collaborative approach to all our systemic work, seeking opportunities to partner with other organisations to strengthen our responses. We wish to particularly acknowledge WA Individualised Services (WAiS) and the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (A F D O) with whom we have collaborated on several submissions over the last 12 months.

### Systemic Advocacy in Action - Independent Assessments

P W d W A engaged in several activities as part of a campaign to stop the introduction of independent assessments. We hosted a community forum and an online survey to enable people with disabilities to tell us what they thought about Independent Assessments. This information was included in our joint submissions with WAiS to the NDIA, and the Senate Inquiry into Independent Assessments. We collaborated on further submissions from a coalition of N D I S Appeals providers which also went to the NDIA and the Senate Inquiry. In response to our submissions, our CEO, Brendan Cullinan and Board Chair, Lisa Burnette, were invited to appear before the Senate Inquiry to give evidence in person.

We worked collaboratively with the Disability Coalition of WA to write to the Hon. Don Punch MLC, Minister for Disability Services, to raise our concerns about Independent Assessments. We also met with Minister Punch’s office to voice our opposition to the introduction of Independent Assessments.

We were relieved at the announcement that Independent Assessments had been scrapped and will continue to advocate for a fairer N D I S that meets the needs of people with disabilities.

### Projects

P W d W A has several projects that support our vision and mission. Project evaluations show we consistently deliver outcomes and meet our obligations within project budgets. In addition to the projects highlighted in this report, we secured funding for two new projects commencing in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Our approach to projects has been to seek out collaboration to drive greater impact. In addition to partnering on our own projects, we are part of reference and advisory groups for many other disability sector projects in the areas of housing, inclusion, codesign, and advocacy.

COVID-19 disrupted all our project activities this year. Lockdowns meant face-to-face activities were cancelled and project officers had to adapt quickly. Thanks to a grant from Lotterywest to upgrade our Information Technology (IT) systems, project officers were able to work remotely, and many face- to-face activities moved online.

#### Diversity Field Officer

**Funder: ILC Grant**

**Partners: AWA and A F D O**

The Diversity Field Officer (DFO) project is an education and mentoring program working with small to medium sized businesses to help them feel more confident about disability inclusion in their workplace. COVID-19 meant we had to adjust our targets for the project, but we still managed to engage 15 businesses to complete the program. Despite the challenges that COVID-19 brought, over 80% of businesses involved felt more confident about their ability to employ and support people with disabilities. A success of the project is our work with Mandurah

Boat and Bike Hire who organised upgrades to the local jetty and have incorporated accessible designs into their new boat.

A new Information, Linkages, and Capacity Building (ILC) Grant in partnership with AWA and Youth Disability Advocacy Network (Y D A N) to be delivered in 2021-2022 will allow us to expand on this project, upskilling young people with disabilities to work directly with businesses to build their disability confidence.

#### Empowered, Connected and Co-designed

**Funder: ILC Grant**

Partners: Health Consumers’ Council The Empowered, Connected and Co-designed

project aims to increase the capacity of people with disabilities to make choices and transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Throughout the year our Project Officer and lived experience facilitators delivered 14 information sessions and workshops to over 100 people on the topics of Self-Advocacy, N D I S, DSP and the Disability Royal Commission. Across all topics people told us they had improved understanding and more confidence to take action.

Over the next 12 months we will be focusing on rolling out information sessions and workshops to targeted regional areas.

#### Reaching Out for Advocacy

**Funder: Department of Communities**

**Partners: AWA and SSCLS**

The Reaching Out for Advocacy project focuses on raising awareness of disability

advocacy in regional areas including the Wheatbelt, Great Southern, and Southwest.

We were able to secure a 12-month extension to this project extending it through to June 2022. The P W d W A Regional Outreach advocate has set up regular monthly visits to Northam, Jurien Bay, Dandaragan, Moora, and Merredin. The visits have provided face-to-face advocacy to over 100 people and networked with local communities. Our advocate has been able to connect people to services, prevented homelessness, and supported N D I S and DSP applications.

#### State Disability Strategy 2020-2030 – Community Awareness Project

**Funder: DoC**

P W d W A were previously involved in assisting the co-design of the State Government’s Disability Strategy 2020-2030 (Strategy) around 18 months ago. However, due in no small part to COVID-19 restrictions, the roll out of the Strategy to the whole state has been hindered. P W d W A was contracted by the DoC to deliver a community awareness program across the state that will increase awareness of the Strategy and its intent. The community sessions began in June 2021.

The Strategy is comprised of four pillars as follows:

* Participate and Contribute.
* Inclusive Communities.
* Living Well.
* Rights and Equity.

The Strategy designed to complement the Federal government’s disability system,

administered by the NDIA. The aim of the strategy is to make the whole of the state a very accessible and inclusive place thus ensuring that people with disability can achieve the four pillars of the strategy mentioned above.

Part of the first Action Plan that underlay the Strategy was to introduce an Office of Disability.

A copy of the Strategy is available at: [State Disability Strategy 2020-2030 (www.wa.gov.au)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/state-disability-strategy-2020-2030)

#### STATE CONFERENCE – Celebrating Self Advocacy

The P W d W A State Conference 2020 was an inaugural two-day consumer-led, disability-sector event held at the Bendat Centre in Wembley on 19-20 November 2020.

Unlike typical sector conferences, which are aimed at disability professionals, this event was led exclusively by people with lived experience of disability, mental health issues and neurological difference. Although workers and the wider community were invited to attend, the program was unique in its focus on the perspectives, voices and input of people with disabilities.

Exploring the theme “Celebrating Self-Advocacy”, the conference was hosted as a partnership between P W d W A and Evolve Events and Training. The two-day conference program was designed around the following streams:

* Collaboration.
* Working together and sharing.
* Challenges.
* Addressing challenges, seeking solutions.
* Choice.
* Empowerment and self-determination.
* Celebrations.
* Showcasing innovation and best practice.

Over the two days of the conference a total of 182 distinct delegates registered to attend (excluding staff and those presenters who were not also delegates), with most attending both days.

P W d W A acknowledges and thanks our funding partners:

* Department of Communities (DoC).
* Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.
* Lotterywest.

### Key Relationships

* Aboriginal Legal Service.
* Advocacy WA.
* Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.
* Blue Knot Foundation.
* Carers WA.
* Community Employers WA.
* Consumers of Mental Health Western Australia.
* Department of Communities.
* Department of Social Services.
* Developmental Disability Western Australia.
* Disability Advocacy Network Australia.
* Disability Leadership Institute.
* Disability Resource Centre.
* Evolve Events & Training.
* Explorability.
* Health Consumers’ Council WA.
* Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation.
* KIN.
* Leadership WA.
* Legal Aid WA.
* Linkwest.
* Lotterywest.
* McCusker Centre for Citizenship.
* Midlas.
* National Disability Insurance Agency.
* National Disability Services.
* Office of the Minister for Disability Services, Hon. Don Punch MLA.
* Relationships Australia.
* Self-Advocacy WA.
* Sexual Education Counselling and Consultancy Agency.
* Shelter WA
* Summer Foundation
* Sussex Street Community Law Services
* Western Australian Council of Social Service
* Western Australia’s Individualised Services
* Western Australian Association for Mental Health
* Women with Disabilities WA Inc
* Yorgum Healing Services
* Your Say Uniting Care West
* Youth Disability Advocacy Network

### Financial Summary 2020-2021

##### Income

Total: $3,004,535.68.

* DOC 55%.
* DSS 31%.
* NDIA 5%.
* Other Grants 5%.
* Non-Operating 4%.

##### Expenses

Total: $2,854,822.40.

* Salary and Wages 49%.
* Admin & Operation.
* Costs 19%.
* Consortium Expense 32%.

##### Key

* NDIA = National Disability Insurance Agency.
* DSS = Department of Social Services.
* DOC = Department of Communities.

End of Annual Report