**Media Release – 8 December 2021**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**New Chair for People With disabilities WA (PWdWA)**

Leading disability advocacy organisation People With disabilities WA (PWdWA) has announced the appointment of a new Chair to its Board.

Mr Tom Monks has been appointed Chair after previous Chair Ms Lisa Burnette stepped down at the November 2021 Annual General Meeting following six years of involvement with PWdWA.

Mr. Monks is the director and solicitor of Tom & Co Legal, a Perth based law firm practising in the area of family, commercial and immigration law. In addition to the main practise areas, Mr Monks regularly provides pro bono assistance in family law and NDIS review. Mr. Monks has 44 years of lived disability experience and over 25 years of experience and involvement in the disability sector in Australia and overseas.

“I am extremely excited and honoured to be the Chair of an organisation that is led by and for people with disabilities,” said Mr Monks. “I look forward to working with the Board, our staff and disability advocacy sector partners to ensure the voices and rights of people with disability are heard and acknowledged. “

Mr. Monks acknowledged the significant contribution of outgoing Chair Ms Burnette during a period of significant growth and change.

Joining returning Board members Janine Neu, Simon Glossop, Kat Johns Georgina Hook, Lara Moore and Nihil Iscel who was appointed as Deputy Chair, are new members Tom Oliver, Shazzy Tharby, Yhana Lucas, and Danielle Loizou-Lake.

PWdWA is the lead member-based, non-legal disability advocacy organisation representing the rights, needs and equity of all Western Australians with disability through individual and systemic advocacy. PWdWA vision is that people with disabilities are empowered in an inclusive society that values human rights.

PWdWA offers free individual and systemic advocacy to any person with a disability, along with engaging in projects to make positive systemic change in the community.

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