



Independent advisor to the Western Australian Minister for Disability Services
Keeping government informed

Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability



Annual Work Report 2020

Contact Details

Address: 5 Newman Court
Fremantle
Western Australia 6160

Postal Address: PO Box 494
West Perth
Western Australia 6872

Telephone: 0435 046 248

Email: advisory@dsc.wa.gov.au

Website: www.macd.wa.gov.au

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5 Newman Court, Fremantle WA 6160

This report covers the 2020 calendar year, following a decision by Council to align its planning and reporting timelines.

The terms Council or MACD have been used interchangeably throughout this report and refer to the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability (Western Australia).

This Report is available in alternative formats upon request - please contact the Council office.

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Executive Report

The role of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability (MACD) is to keep government informed about major issues affecting the lives of Western Australians with disabilities, their families and carers. There are many such issues, so each year we decide on our priority areas and plan how to address them. These priority areas are worked through systematically throughout the year and, in addition, Council also addresses other issues that arise regularly and require action. In this Executive Report, I will highlight some aspects of our work during the year; however, the Annual Work Report provides more detail of the work of Council, both planned and reactive.

An exciting line up of speakers helped set the tone for our work in 2020 at the first MACD members' training day. I thank the speakers: Dan Volaric from the Public Sector Commission, Marion Hailes-MacDonald Department of Communities, and The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Disability Services for their generosity of time. Members learned important information about key issues, procedures and best practice governance for government boards and committees.

Coming into 2020 we knew it would be a big year, with the commencement of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and the consultation on the State Disability Strategy and Action Plans, together with the Department of Communities' move to Fremantle, where we now meet. We knew it would be big, but little did we realise just how big and how many changes we would endure before years' end.

As did the rest of the world, MACD faced the challenges brought about by the rapid global spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our baptism into the use of new (to some of us) technologies to facilitate online meetings changed for a while, the way we conducted our business, and the way we related to and communicated with each other. The topics to be addressed by Council were reprioritised to allow us to meet the quickly emerging demands and issues. Thankfully, we were able to resume our face to face meetings by July because, I believe, that is still the best way to have open and productive conversations.

I must thank my Deputy Chairperson Andrew Thompson, for taking the helm while I struggled to get myself home from my cruise ship to which docking, and disembarkation was denied for a time due to the pandemic outbreak. Through all the chaos, myself and two friends who are also wheelchair users, made it to the airport in the nick of time to catch our plane home to Perth where we self-isolated for weeks. Never had I imagined myself Chairing meetings from my home office.

Through it all, and it must be down to the good old Aussie fighting spirit, we had a very productive and successful year. I am so proud of the Council for rising so well to the challenge. So, I say a very big thank to all members and the staff for so quickly adapting to our new work arrangements to ensure our work was still delivered to Minister Dawson, while maintaining safe personal hygiene, distancing and work practices.

Retired members

Piper Marsh retired from Council mid-year after four years of representing the neuromuscular conditions perspective of disability. Piper added a depth to the Council's knowledge base that enriched the advice we provided to the Minister for Disability Services. Piper reminded us of the value of not accepting new ideas or news at face value and would question and follow through until she either had a satisfactory answer or had shown that there was no satisfactory answer and therefore, more work was needed in a specific area.

Andrew Thompson retired in December after three terms with Council. Andrew is a strong advocate who has much experience and knowledge of disability. He gave and continues to give generously to a cause he truly believes in. His passion and enthusiasm, mixed with a strong determination, drives him to seek significant outcomes at the highest level that would truly improve the lives of people with disabilities. Over the past six years, Andrew has been a rock-solid member of Council and support to me for which I am grateful. He was our Deputy Chair for three years and Chair for one year. On behalf of everyone who lives with a disability or those whose lives are affected by disability, thank you Andrew.

Tony Vardaro retired after three years on Council. Members learned much from Tony's many years of lived experience and from his workplace experiences. The old-fashioned and outdated institutions played a significant role in Tony's childhood driving him to seek an end to all types of institutionalised care and improved employment prospects for people with disabilities.

Finally, I would like to thank our dedicated staff, Executive Support Officer Peta Kenworthy and Executive Assistant Claire Burlinson who provided professional executive support, keeping me and my fellow Council members on track with current tasks and issues. Thanks to both for the administrative support as well as the vital assistance provided at Council meetings.

Kerry Allan-Zinner
Chairperson

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

7 December 2020

About Us

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability is an independent body constituted under the Disability Services Act 1993 to provide advice to the State Minister for Disability Services on matters affecting or likely to affect people with disability, their families and carers. The Council was established in accordance with Part 3 and Schedule 5 of the Act.

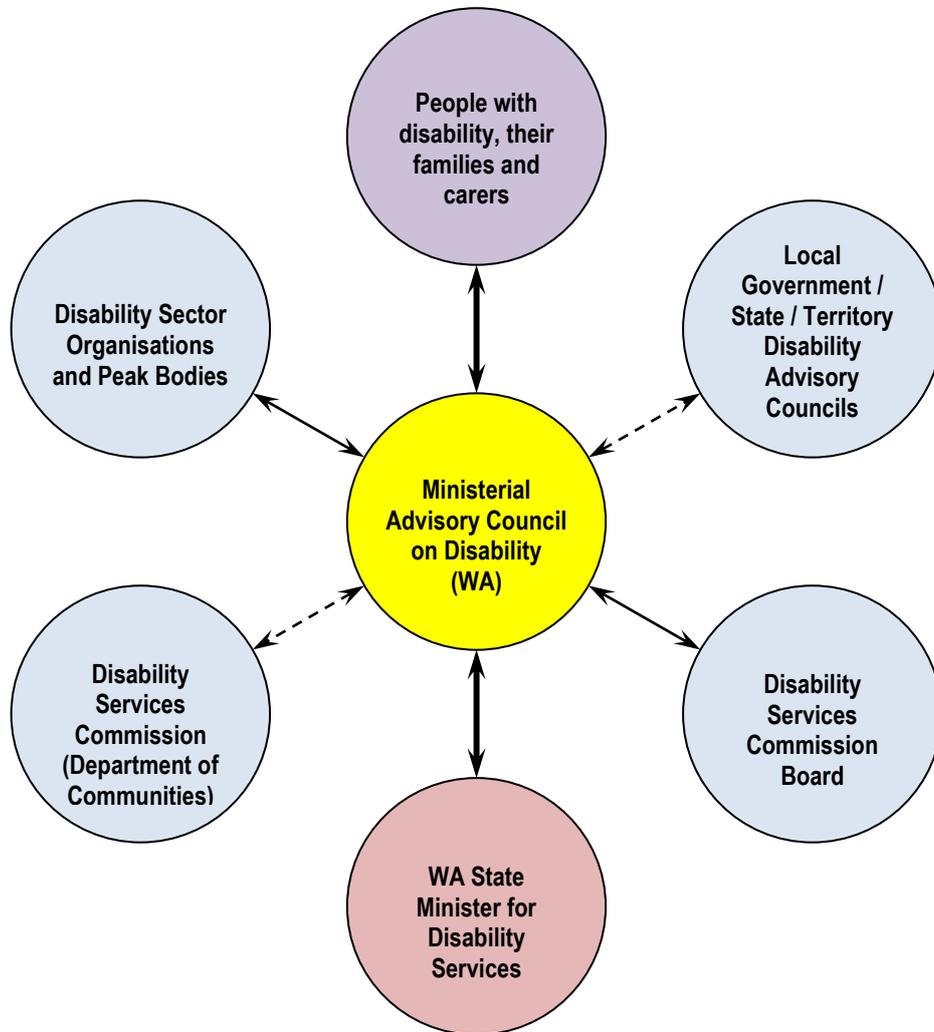
Council is comprised of 14 members selected and appointed by the Minister. Membership must reflect the spectrum of people with a disability and includes people with disability, family members, carers, advocates and service providers.

The Council's Strategic Framework assists the Council to deliver a strategic approach when providing valuable information and advice to the Minister. The framework includes the five Focus Areas:

- **Focus Area 1 - Getting Everyone's Input**
This focus area describes how the Council will consult with people with disability, their families and carers, advocates and the wider community of Western Australia as required by the State Disability Services Act 1993.
- **Focus Area 2 - Connecting with Government and the Community**
This focus area describes how the Council will connect with Government and the community of Western Australia to create positive changes for people with disability, their families and carers.
- **Focus Area 3 - Increasing Awareness**
This focus area describes how the Council will work to increase community awareness regarding people with disability, their families and carers.
- **Focus Area 4 - Working together with the Minister**
This focus area describes how the Council works together with the State Minister for Disability Services and Ministerial staff.
- **Focus Area 5 - How the Council works**
This focus area describes how the Council manages its role.

For further details visit our website and go to 'Publications' www.macd.wa.gov.au

The Council undertakes its work through consultation with the community through the members' community networks and linkages and through formal consultation processes. The diagram below shows the links and flow of information gathering:



Description of diagram for screen readers:

The diagram above includes three circles in a central vertical position and four other circles (two to either side). The top circle represents people with disability, their families and carers with an arrow to the Council in the centre, followed by a downwards pointing arrow to the WA State Minister for Disability Services. This represents the flow of information and advice coming from the community through the Council and onto the Minister. The other four shapes depict secondary links to Local Government, State and Territory Disability Advisory Councils, Disability Sector Organisations and Peak Bodies, the Disability Services Commission Board and the Department of Communities, Disability Services.

Report on Council Activities in 2020

Annual Work Plan 2020

Every year, members focus on topics or issues that are current and relevant to the broader community of people with disabilities, their families and their Carers. Council members become aware of issues via connections with their personal and professional networks within the disability sector.

Some topics that we address are requests from Minister Dawson and he was very clear that he wished Council to focus on Employment, Housing and Transport for people with disabilities, while at the same time bringing to him immediate notice of any issues with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Western Australia. He is extremely keen to rectify problems with the NDIS to ensure it works well in WA. Members worked tirelessly in sub-committees to provide pieces of advice to Minister Dawson that included:

- Auslan and Tactile Auslan Services
- Employment for people with disability in the small and medium business sector
- Mainstream marketing of privately owned universally accessible residences and commercial properties
- MyGov Identification requirements and website accessibility
- Support for children with disabilities in schools
- Officially recorded causes of death of people with disability and their right to a post-mortem investigation
- Vulnerable students and the Burden of Proof
- Community Visitors Scheme for Disability in Western Australia

Priorities in 2020

1. Employment for people with disabilities
2. Housing for people with disabilities
3. Transport for people with disabilities
4. National Disability Insurance Scheme in WA
5. State Disability Strategy and Action Plans

Watching Briefs

The following items were listed as Watching Briefs. The Council received updates on the activities for each area below and monitored the impacts that these activities had on people with disability, their families and carers.

- NDS WA Accommodation and Housing Subcommittee
- NDS WA Access and Inclusion Subcommittee

- NDS WA Disability Employment Services Subcommittee
- NDS WA Finance and Sustainability Subcommittee
- NDS WA Workforce Subcommittee
- Supported Accommodation for those with disabilities over 65 years and not eligible for NDIS
- Mental Health
- State Disability Strategy and Action Plans
- Support Coordination within NDIS plans
- On-demand passenger transport levy
- Department of Communities' Homeless Strategy

External Committee Representation

Council's representation on various committees/working parties in 2020 included the following:

- The Department of Human Services' Community Advisory Forum
- The Department of Human Services' Multicultural Advisory Forum
- The Department of Human Services' Indigenous Advisory Forum
- Curtin University DAIP Implementation Committee
- MetroNet Working Group
- Optus Stadium Access User Group
- All States and Territories Disability Advisory Councils
- Transitional Governance Advisory Group to NDIA
- State Disability Plan Reference Group
- Department of Communities, Accessible Parking Review Reference Group
- Kings Park and Botanical Gardens Authority, consultative reference group

The Council is an Associate Member of the National Disability Service and may be invited to attend as observers, these sub-committees:

- Accommodation and Housing
- WA Access and Inclusion
- Disability Employment Services
- Clinical and Allied Health
- Finance and Sustainability
- Workforce

Meetings

Council members participate in a range of meetings within the sector. Several are standing meetings and meetings that provide an opportunity for Council to have input into a range of strategies and initiatives. It also allows the members to network and raise awareness of the Council within the community.

Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability

The Council meets on the last Thursday of each month, except December. Items of discussion at the Council meetings are outlined throughout this report.

Below is an overview of those who attend regular Council meetings:

- Council members and support staff.
- The Minister, the Minister's Chief of Staff and the Minister's Policy Adviser are invited to attend throughout the year.
- NDIA representatives attend in Observer capacity and provide a substantial connection to the NDIA.
- The Council Executive meets with the Minister for Disability Services on a regular basis.
- The Department of Communities, Disability Services Assistant Director General and staff provide briefings to Council on specific matters when requested.
- The Council's Chairperson meets on a regular basis with the Chair of the Disability Services Commission Board and is a member of the Board.

Guest Speakers at Council meetings

The Council Executive invites subject experts to meetings to inform members on priority areas, current and emerging issues or new initiatives and/or policy. This also provides an opportunity for Council to provide comment on the subject area.

The Department of Communities consults with Council to obtain feedback on emerging issues and projects.

Our visitors this year were:

- Marion Hailes-MacDonald, Assistant Director General, Department of Communities, Disability Services
- Caron Irwin, Acting Assistant Director General, Department of Communities, Strategy and Partnerships
- Nous Group representatives
- Mayor Brad Pettitt, City of Fremantle
- Kristabel Rosario, Department of Communities
- Megan Kershaw, Department of Communities

State Minister for Disability Services

The Council advises the Minister on strategic issues as well as issues as they arise. Identification of issues, in accordance with the Council's legislative mandate, is carried out by close and continuous liaison with the disability community whose opinion is sought, where appropriate, on issues under consideration.

The Council provides advice to the State Minister for Disability Services through written briefings and at regular meetings with the Council Executive and the whole Council.

Disability Services Commission Board

Although the Council's mandate extends beyond the Department of Communities (Disability Services) we have a strong working relationship with the Board and staff. The Chair of the Council is also a member of the Disability Services Commission Board and brings a consumer representative viewpoint.

The Council Chairperson meets regularly with the Board's Chairperson, Bruce Langoulant to discuss topics relevant to both the Council and the Board.

The Council Chairperson attends visits to rural and regional areas with the Board to meet with service providers, families and carers.

Networking Events and Other Meetings

In 2020, we endeavoured to cover as many meetings and events as we could through a mix of virtual online events and in the latter half of the year, live events. These events provided opportunities to network, gather information, participate in discussion and increase the profile of the Council.

Members report to each meeting about external committees or other activities they have undertaken throughout the month that are of benefit to the Council.

Among this year's reports were:

- Kings Park & Botanic Gardens consultation
- Consumer of Mental Health meeting
- Carers' Advisory Council planning meeting
- Disability Royal Commission requests for information
- Rare Diseases and the National Strategic Action Plan for Rare Diseases
- Disability Health Network Executive Advisory Group meeting
- Mental Health Advisory Council
- Nous Group consultancy for the State Disability Strategy and Action Plans
- Joint Chairs' meeting hosted by the Carers' Advisory Council
- Services Australia Community Advisory Forum

- Employment Champions, My Workplace, My Place
- Minister Dawson's Covid-19 Roundtable
- Leadership WA's Community of Practice – Conference for Employment after Covid-19
- NDS Future Proofing Your Workforce conference
- NDS Your Essential Briefing conference
- People with Disability WA Inaugural State Conference 2020, Celebrating Self Advocacy – Panel Member
- State Disability Strategy and Action Plans consultation and engagement sessions (multiple)
- NDS WA Connect event for sector CEOs
- Transitional Governance Advisory Group, chaired by The Hon Stephen Dawson, MLC Minister for Disability Services
- 2020 – 2030 State Disability Strategy and Action Plans Launch

Council Membership and Staff

Council Members

Membership of the Council is drawn from interested persons who have experience, skills or knowledge of disability. For member profiles visit the Council website: www.macd.wa.gov.au.

Ms Kerry Allan-Zinner, Chair	1 st Term: 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2020
Mr Andrew Thompson, Deputy Chair (Retired)	3 rd Term: 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2020
Ms Carol Franklin	2 nd Term: 1/01/2020 – 31/12/2021
Ms Danielle Newport	1 st Term: 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2021
Ms Erika Webb	1 st Term: 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2021
Ms Grace Mills	2 nd Term: 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2021
Ms Jasmyn Allen	1 st Term: 26/08/2019 – 25/08/2021
Ms Joan Foley	2 nd Term: 01/01/2020 – 31/12/ 2021
Ms Justine Colyer	2 nd Term: 25/07/2019 – 25/08/2021
Mr Kane Blackman	1 st Term: 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2021
Mr Kane Moyle	2 nd Term: 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2021
Ms Mary Butterworth	1 st Term: 26/08/2019 – 25/08/2021
Mrs Piper Marsh (Retired)	2 nd Term: 01/07/2018 - 30/6/2020
Mr Tony Vardaro (Retired)	2 nd Term: 01/01/2020 – 31/12//2020

Council Staff

Peta Kenworthy
Claire Burlinson
Judy Ambrocio

Executive Support Officer
Executive Assistant
Support to a member with special needs

