

*Women With Disabilities Australia
(WWDA)*

National Disability Secretariat Program

Final Project Report

August 2007



*Winner Australian Human Rights Award 2001
Winner National Violence Prevention Award 1999
Nominee, French Republics Human Rights Prize 2003
Nominee, UN Millennium Peace Prize for Women 2000*

Introduction

Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) is the peak organisation for women with all types of disabilities in Australia. WWDA is run by women with disabilities, for women with disabilities. It is the only organisation of its kind in Australia and one of only a very small number internationally. WWDA is inclusive and does not discriminate against any disability. WWDA is unique, in that it operates as a national disability organisation; a national women's organisation; and a national human rights organisation. The aim of Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) is to be a national voice for the needs and rights of women with disabilities and a national force to improve the lives and life chances of women with disabilities. WWDA addresses disability within a social model, which identifies the barriers and restrictions facing women with disabilities as the focus for reform. More information about WWDA can be found at the organisation's extensive website:

Go to: www.wwda.org.au

WWDA receives operational funding each year from the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) under its National Secretariat Program (NSP). The objective of the NSP is to: *'contribute to Government policies affecting Australian families and communities, carry information between the Government and the community on social policy issues, and represent constituent's views.'*

The funding agreement is negotiated with FaCSIA in a spirit of co-operation and acknowledges the need to be accountable for the expenditure of government funds. The agreement is based on the principles that:

- Both parties recognise the important role of non-government organisations to contribute to the development of responsive and well-informed public policy.
- Both parties recognise the need to clarify and agree upon the range and extent of the services to be provided by non-government organisations for the funding provided by FaCSIA.
- Government recognises the important role Boards or Committees of Management play in determining the overall direction of the organisation.
- The WWDA Management Committee recognises its role and responsibilities in fulfilling the terms and conditions of the agreement.
- Both parties recognise the need to respect each other's priorities and interests.

WWDA provides a range of other services and conducts other activities that contribute to meeting its overall mission. The funding agreement with FaCSIA relates only to those outcomes and areas of activity related to the operational funding provided through the National Disability Secretariat Program.

This report therefore focuses on addressing the outcomes as detailed in WWDA's funding contract with FaCSIA for the period 2006-07.

1. ADVICE TO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ON POLICY & SERVICE DELIVERY

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Informed and timely input to policy and service delivery issues emerging from the sector, including contributing to reviews and to long-term strategic directions for the sector.</p>	<p>High quality and timely input to social policy, research and service delivery, informs the policy debate.</p>	<p>Evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of quality advice and / or analysis that aligns to key priorities and emerging issues for the Australian Government and FaCSIA. • Feedback provided by FaCSIA and other stakeholders indicates advice was timely and of good quality. • Substantial issues raised by FaCSIA or other stakeholders regarding timeliness or quality of advice are followed up and resolved. 	<p>WWDA has provided high quality input into a number of FaCSIA reviews and social policy consultation processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare and industrial relations reforms; • Review/s of the National Disability Advocacy Program; • Review/s of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy; • The 'Reducing Red Tape' Initiative; • Review of the Commonwealth/State/Territory Disability Agreement; • CEDAW Implementation; • UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; • Development of an APS Disability Toolkit. <p>On the strength of WWDA's policy submissions, WWDA has appeared as a witness at the following Senate Inquiries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Inquiry into Women in Sport and Recreation in Australia; • Senate Inquiry into the Commonwealth/State/Territory Disability Agreement; <p>WWDA has reported regularly to its funding body through required written reports and correspondence, WWDA Update Bulletins; WWDA Annual Reports and other reports as required.</p> <p>WWDA has reported to FaCSIA as appropriate on issues emerging from the WWDA membership, including for example: sterilisation; violence against women with disabilities, parenting and motherhood.</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Input takes account of a range of views through research and analysis and includes consultation, where appropriate, with members and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Input includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice focused on key priorities for the Australian Government and FaCSIA. • High quality and appropriately timed advice. • Advice supported by robust and evidence based analysis. • Advice to FaCSIA of emerging issues related to policy or impacting on service delivery, including possible suggestions for improvement. 	<p>Evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of quality advice and / or analysis that aligns to key priorities and emerging issues for the Australian Government and FaCSIA. • Feedback provided by FaCSIA and other stakeholders indicates advice was timely and of good quality. • Substantial issues raised by FaCSIA or other stakeholders regarding timeliness or quality of advice are followed up and resolved. 	<p>All WWDA Policy Submissions to FaCSIA are developed in consultation with WWDA members and other key stakeholders as appropriate.</p> <p>Where relevant, WWDA Policy Submissions are supported by relevant and up to date research which is clearly cited and referenced.</p> <p>All WWDA Policy Submissions contain clear and detailed recommendations to Government which are informed by the process of consultation with WWDA members and supported where relevant by research.</p> <p>All WWDA Policy Submissions to FaCSIA have been provided within the agreed timeframes.</p> <p>All WWDA Policy Submissions to FaCSIA are made available on the WWDA website in accessible formats. Policy Submissions are also made available in hard copy to people who do not have Internet access.</p> <p>WWDA has had significant input to processes which reflect the key priorities for the Australian Government and FaCSIA.</p> <p>FaCSIA has not routinely acknowledged or provided feedback to WWDA on WWDA's policy submissions or other relevant work. In an attempt to address this, WWDA has written formally to FaCSIA on a number of occasions requesting acknowledgement and feedback on WWDA's FaCSIA related work.</p>

2. CONSULTATION, REPRESENTATION AND NETWORKING

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>As a representative peak body, the organisation is a conduit between the community and the Australian Government on social policy issues, specifically issues relating to or affecting the sector.</p>	<p>Development and maintenance of collaborative, effective links with government and non-government organisations in the sector and with the community.</p> <p>Use of these links would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective, broad ranging consultation drawing on the links. • Reporting to FaCSIA on results of consultation initiated by the Australian Government. <p>Promotion of the role of the organisation within the sector and collaborating with other peak bodies and relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Evidence of the use of consultation strategies and mechanisms to maintain links with membership, sector and community and to inform government.</p> <p>Evidence of ability to disseminate information and to consult broadly using established networks. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example of processes used to obtain information or to consult. • Demonstrated cooperation, collaboration with other Peak Bodies and organisations representing the community sector. • Outline efforts made to maintain or expand networks. <p>Feedback from FaCSIA and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>WWDA has well established consultative mechanisms with its membership and other key stakeholders. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWDA Email Discussion List (wwda-discuss); • WWDA Management Committee Email List (sp-wwda); • Database and email distribution list of relevant international, national, State/Territory, regional and local organizations and other stakeholders; • Database and email distribution list of every politician in Australia; • Database and email distribution list of relevant Federal, State/Territory Government agencies and personnel within these agencies; • Database of WWDA members who do not have email access; • WWDA Representatives Register; • WWDA Online Services Directory (see: www.wwda.org.au/portmain.htm); • WWDA Online Human Rights Portal (see: www.wwda.org.au/unhrt.htm). <p>WWDA has extensive links and collaborative working relationships with organizations and other key stakeholders in the disability, women's, and human rights sectors at international, national, State/Territory, regional and local levels.</p> <p>WWDA Update Bulletins are produced monthly or bi-monthly and are a further mechanism used to consult with members and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>During 2006-07, WWDA has secured 60 new (financial) organisational members.</p>

3.1. COMMUNITY INFORMATION, AWARENESS RAISING AND EDUCATION

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Informed public debate on Australian Government and FaCSIA priorities.</p>	<p>Information provided to sector and community on Australian Government and FaCSIA issues through mechanisms such as forums, conferences, publications and website, and early warning protocols (see 3.2).</p>	<p>In report at end of the funding period demonstrate links between organisational activities and community / sector knowledge and understanding of Australian government social policy issues.</p> <p>Examples may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes of forums, etc organised by WWDA as part of communicating Australian Government social policy, including feedback or assessments obtained from relevant groups. • Forums attended by WWDA including information on focus, and relevance to social policy of the Australian Government. 	<p>WWDA Update Bulletins regularly provide information on a range of Government policies and other initiatives. Examples during 06-07 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Welfare to Work - Overview of Changes for People with Disability'; • National Disability Advocacy Program; • Review/s of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy & the CSTDA Reviews; • CEDAW Implementation; • UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; • Parliamentary Group on Population Development; • International Day for People with Disabilities; • New FaCSIA Publications & Reports; • Young People in Nursing Homes. <p>WWDA has participated in, and had input to a number of forums of relevance to the social policy of the Australian Government. Just some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; • Minister's Forums on Young People in Nursing Homes; • National Disability Advocacy Program Review/s; Senate Inquiry to the CSTDA; • Welfare to Work & Industrial Relations; • International Day for People with Disabilities; • Attorney General's Human Rights Forums; • Supported Accommodation & Adequate Housing; • National Conferences on Women & Industrial Relations; • Standing Committee of Attorney's General (SCAG) – Draft Sterilisation Bill; Ratification of UN Convention.

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Informed public debate on Australian Government and FaCSIA priorities (cont'd).</p>	<p>WWDA's Internet site / hard copy documents contain up to date information on the organisation and its activities in an accessible format.</p>	<p>Internet site and hard copy documents are accurate, current and in an accessible format.</p>	<p>A substantial amount of work has been done in 2007 to update, enhance and further develop the WWDA website. Recent developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the establishment of an Online Human Rights Portal; • further development of WWDA's Online Information & Referral Directory; • further development of section relating to key Australian Government disability policy, programs and legislation; • uploading of extensive amount of resource materials/publications in the areas of Human Rights (general); Women with Disabilities and Human Rights; Disability and Human Rights; and Women and Human Rights. <p>WWDA website contains extensive and up to date information on all aspects of the organisation, including governance information.</p> <p>Up to date information on WWDA's major activities is provided in WWDA's monthly Update Bulletins. These Bulletins are made available on the WWDA website in both PDF and HTML formats (see: www.wwda.org.au/bulletin.htm).</p> <p>All WWDA research reports, submissions, policy papers, conference papers, articles, Bulletins etc are made available on the WWDA website in accessible formats.</p> <p>WWDA website usage data reflects an increase in the numbers of people accessing the website. For the period Sept 06- Aug 07 (11 months) there were 463, 485 hits. In the previous year (05-6) there were 379,781 hits. This shows an increase of more than 83,700 hits. Usage statistics for the WWDA website show that users are accessing most of the WWDA website once they get to the site, and that users come from many different countries throughout the world. Feedback to WWDA from users reflects the popularity and high standard of the site.</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Community is aware of Australian Government and FaCSIA priorities relevant to the sector.</p>	<p>Contribute to information, commentary and analysis on issues relevant to sector. This could include contributions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journals and other publications. • Internet information. • Public presentations of papers. 	<p>Provide in report at end of funding period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of articles and papers published or presented relating to Australian Government social policy outcomes and priorities in the sector. 	<p>WWDA published and/or presented the following articles during 06-07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Violence Against Women with Disabilities</i> – LINK Magazine; • <i>Advancing through Advocacy for Women with Disabilities</i> – LINK Magazine; • <i>'Gender, Disability & Housing in Australia'</i> - Roundtable meeting with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing; • National Conference on Women & Industrial Relations – Panel <i>'Women, Work and Welfare'</i>; • National Conference on Women & Industrial Relations – Presentation of paper <i>'Constant Bridesmaids'</i>; • ACTCOSS Conference – Presentation of paper <i>'Ice Maidens'</i>; • Presentation to the Workplace Training Advisory of Australia <i>'Australian Women & Leadership Forum'</i>; • National Civil Society Conference <i>'What kind of Australia do we want?'</i> – Panel presentation. <p>During the contract period, WWDA undertook a national project <i>'Advancement through Advocacy for Women With Disabilities'</i>. As part of the Project, WWDA developed and produced a <i>'Guide for Representatives'</i> Booklet which outlines the role and responsibilities of WWDA representatives, and provides information about representation, including common problems and solutions. FaCSIA has been provided with a copy of this publication, along with a copy of the Final Report of the Project (also available on WWDA's website. See: www.wwda.org.au/advanceadvrept1.htm).</p>

3.2. COMMUNICATION WITH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND FACCSIA

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Information provided to members and the media accurately portrays the social policy of the Australian Government.</p>	<p>Sufficient advance notice is provided about all major reports, submissions eg. Budget submissions, campaigns, launches and / or media releases initiated by the organisation relating to social policy of the Australian Government.</p> <p>Sufficient advance notice means the Minister for FaCSIA, and Branch Manager, Community Branch are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed of the intent and scope of major submissions, reports, campaigns, and launches 5-10 days prior to release. • Able to seek responses from WWDA on questions of detail. • Provided with an advance copy of submissions and reports are provided as soon as finalised. 	<p>Advance notice was provided on all occasions.</p> <p>Advice provided reflected the scope of the report or media release.</p> <p>Report at the end of funding period lists reports, submissions, campaigns, launches and press releases where sufficient advance notice was provided.</p> <p>Feedback from FaCSIA and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>WWDA has reported regularly to its funding body through required written reports, WWDA Update Bulletins; WWDA Annual Reports and other reports as required.</p> <p>WWDA Update Bulletins regularly provide information on a range of Government policies and other initiatives. WWDA Update Bulletins are made available on the WWDA website in both PDF and HTML formats.</p> <p>All WWDA research reports, submissions, policy papers, conference papers, articles, Bulletins etc are routinely provided to FaCSIA – including to the Secretary, the Office for Disability & Carers, and the Office for Women. Both hard copy and electronic copies are provided.</p> <p>Where relevant, WWDA has complied with the requirement to provide advance notice to FaCSIA of media releases. FaCSIA has been notified in writing and via phone of any upcoming media releases. Relevant Policy submissions and other WWDA reports etc have been provided to FaCSIA in advance of their release.</p> <p>All WWDA research reports, submissions, policy papers, conference papers, articles, Bulletins etc are routinely provided to every politician in Australia (via email) and to a wide range of targeted stakeholders, both within Australia and overseas.</p> <p>WWDA Policy Submissions, Conference Papers & Reports relating are made available on the WWDA website, and are cross referenced throughout the sites categories.</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Information provided to members and the media accurately portrays the social policy of the Australian Government (cont'd).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sent major submissions 5-10 days prior to meeting with the Minister for FaCSIA. Any new documents to be presented to the Minister are provided as soon as finalised; and • Advised on intent and probable scope of media releases 1 business day prior to release, or as soon as practicable. • Are provided with an advance copy of the release as soon as finalised. <p>FaCSIA portfolio related unpublished data and information contained in organisational documents is used accurately and provided to appropriate area of FaCSIA for clearance with sufficient advance notice before use.</p>	<p>Clearance was sought on all occasions where unpublished FaCSIA data was used.</p> <p>Evidence of consultation with relevant FaCSIA program areas with sufficient advance notice prior to release.</p> <p>List of published information where unpublished FaCSIA data has been used.</p>	<p>WWDA has reported regularly to its funding body through required written reports, WWDA Update Bulletins; WWDA Annual Reports and other reports as required.</p> <p>Where relevant, WWDA has complied with the requirement to provide advance notice to FaCSIA of media releases. FaCSIA has been notified in writing and via phone of any upcoming media releases. Relevant Policy submissions and other WWDA reports etc have been provided to FaCSIA in advance of their release.</p> <p>During the contract period 2006-07, WWDA has undertaken a national project to research and develop a <i>Resource Manual on Violence Against Women with Disabilities</i> (FaCSIA funded). WWDA has provided FaCSIA and its relevant Minister/s with detailed and up to date information on all aspects of WWDA's work in this area. WWDA has also worked collaboratively with the Office for Women (FaCSIA) to ensure that information contained in the <i>Resource Manual on Violence Against Women with Disabilities</i> meets with the approval of FaCSIA. This has involved for example, the requirement of WWDA to have part of the Manual peer reviewed by FaCSIA's internal research committee.</p> <p>WWDA has not used any unpublished FaCSIA data in the contract period.</p>

4. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Maintenance of an effective, well-managed and accountable organisation.</p>	<p>Management Committee membership adequately represents members, and decision-making structures ensure accountability.</p> <p>Membership is representative and covers the range of issues in, and is a national voice for the sector.</p> <p>The existence of appropriate financial controls, financial and activity reporting that is accurate, timely and well monitored by the Management Committee.</p>	<p>Provide details of current Management Committee membership. Provide updated copy of Constitution if changes made during the funding period.</p> <p>Details of governance policies and procedures.</p> <p>Provide detailed membership profile annually including number of members in each sub sector and membership category. Profile should highlight new member organisations and number of members.</p> <p>Federated bodies are to provide an outline of processes for gaining information from the sector (as in Outcome 2). Report on initiatives to promote and sustain the role.</p> <p>Financial and Activity reports (as set out in the schedule to the Funding Agreement – Schedule Clause 6) provided to Department on time and in the format to be developed in consultation with funded organisations.</p>	<p>WWDA has provided up to date information to FaCSIA on the membership (including profiles) of WWDA Management Committee. WWDA website contains detailed biographies and photos of current WWDA Management Committee members (see: www.wwda.org.au/about.htm). WWDA Constitution has been provided to FaCSIA. WWDA Constitution is also provided in its entirety on the WWDA website (see: www.wwda.org.au/const.htm).</p> <p>WWDA Organisational Policy and Procedures Manual has been developed. WWDA is currently working on updating and further developing the Manual, and this work will continue into 2007-08.</p> <p>WWDA Membership profile has been provided to FaCSIA and is also made available in WWDA Annual Reports. In the funding contract period 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007, WWDA had 60 new (financial) organizational members and a total of 30 new (financial) individual members.</p> <p>WWDA has extensive and demonstrated experience in managing financial resources and has complied with all relevant statutory and contract requirements. WWDA has transparent financial controls in place to ensure effective and efficient management of its financial resources. WWDA has provided its Financial and Activity reports to FaCSIA on time and in the required format. WWDA has complied with the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT) and has submitted the organisations returns to the ACT Registrar General on an annual basis.</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Maintenance of an effective, well-managed and accountable organization (cont'd).</p>	<p>Existence of a Strategic Plan and other planning mechanisms including evaluation and review.</p> <p>Compliance with laws governing legal entity and other relevant legislation (including the Disability Discrimination Act).</p> <p>Representatives demonstrate lawful behaviour in a way that upholds the integrity and good reputation of the organisation.</p> <p>Revenue raising to improve the viability of the organisation and diversify the financial base.</p>	<p>Strategic Plan and/or other Business documents provided to FaCSIA.</p> <p>Strategic Plan evaluated and refined to meet current goals.</p> <p>No substantiated reports of breach of compliance.</p> <p>No substantiated complaints received.</p> <p>In the end of year report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail initiatives to improve financial viability, (including any revenue raising). <p>Provide details of Government funds received from FaCSIA and other Commonwealth State or Territory Government portfolios.</p>	<p>WWDA's five year Strategic Plan (2004-2009) has been provided to FaCSIA. It has also been disseminated widely to key stakeholders within Australia and overseas. The WWDA Strategic Plan is also available on the WWDA Website. All new WWDA members (and potential members) are provided with a WWDA Information Kit which includes a published Summary of WWDA's five year Strategic Plan (2004-2009).</p> <p>WWDA's mid term review of its five year Strategic Plan (2004-2009) was completed in July 2007. The review was detailed in WWDA's recent publication '<i>Strategic Plan Review</i>', which has been provided to FaCSIA. It has also been extensively disseminated and is available on WWDA's website (www.wwda.org.au/stratplan.htm).</p> <p>WWDA has complied with the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT) and has submitted the organisations returns to the ACT Registrar General on an annual basis. WWDA has complied with all relevant legislation including the DDA.</p> <p>WWDA representatives have demonstrated lawful behaviour in their WWDA representative and advocacy duties.</p> <p>During the contract period, WWDA has received grant funding from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C'wealth Dept of Communications, Information Technology & the Arts (DCITA); • C'wealth Department of FaCSIA (Office for Women); • Global Fund for Women (USA).

5. SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES

5.1. Advice to Australian Government On Policy & Service Delivery

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Informed advice on policy and service delivery issues affecting women with disabilities in response to requests from the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs • Minister for Community Services • Department of Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs. 	<p>Delivery of written and / or verbal advice to Ministers and the Department, as requested.</p>	<p>Written and / or verbal advice is practical and solution focused and draws on WWDA's knowledge of women with disabilities.</p> <p>Advice is provided within agreed timeframes.</p> <p>Evidence that advice incorporates findings from reliable and published research and data sources, where appropriate and available.</p> <p>Evidence that advice provided is representative of the current needs and views of women with disabilities.</p> <p>Policy papers are provided in agreed formats and delivered within agreed timeframes.</p>	<p>WWDA has provided high quality input into a number of FaCSIA reviews and social policy consultation processes (see page 3). All WWDA Policy Submissions to FaCSIA are developed in consultation with WWDA members and other key stakeholders as appropriate, and are explicitly focused on gender and disability.</p> <p>Where relevant, WWDA Policy Submissions are supported by relevant and up to date research which is clearly cited and referenced.</p> <p>All WWDA Policy Submissions contain clear and detailed recommendations to Government which are informed by the process of consultation with WWDA members and supported where relevant by research.</p> <p>WWDA Policy Submissions & Papers (including their detailed recommendations) have highlighted the impact of multiple discriminations caused by the intersection of gender and disability, and where relevant have provided practical, gender-specific measures necessary to ensure the equal right of women with disabilities to the enjoyment of their human rights.</p> <p>All WWDA Policy Submissions to FaCSIA have been provided within the agreed timeframes.</p> <p>WWDA has reported to FaCSIA as appropriate on issues emerging from the WWDA membership, including for example: sterilisation; violence against women with disabilities, parenting and motherhood.</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Informed and timely advice on policy and service delivery issues affecting women with disabilities emerging from the disability sector.</p>	<p>Mid-term and final performance reports to include a summary of emerging issues related to policy or impacting on service delivery including possible suggestions for addressing issues, where appropriate.</p> <p>Brief written notification of high priority and urgent emerging issues related to policy or service delivery including an indication of likely impacts and possible suggestions for addressing issues, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Evidence that advice provided is responsive to any feedback received from Ministers and the Department (i.e. future advice is modified in light of feedback).</p>	<p>During the contract period 2006-07, WWDA has undertaken extensive systemic advocacy work relating to the Standing Committee of Attorney's General (SCAG) draft <i>Children with Intellectual Disabilities (Regulation of Sterilisation) Bill 2006</i>. WWDA has provided FaCSIA and its Minister/s with detailed and up to date information on all aspects of WWDA's work in this area, and WWDA's submissions and policy papers have provided clear recommendations to the Australian Government on the issue. Detail of WWDA's systemic work on Sterilisation is provided on the WWDA website (see www.wwda.org.au/steriladv07.htm).</p> <p>During the contract period 2006-07, WWDA has undertaken significant work on the issue of violence against women with disabilities, and this work will be ongoing in 07-08. Over the past 12 months, WWDA has focused on a national project to research and develop a <i>Resource Manual on Violence Against Women with Disabilities</i> (FaCSIA funded). WWDA has provided FaCSIA and its relevant Minister/s with detailed and up to date information on all aspects of WWDA's work in this area.</p> <p>Over the past 12 months, WWDA has continued its systemic advocacy work on the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD, which opened for signatures in March 2007, contained a stand alone Article on Women With Disabilities. This Article was drafted by WWDA and endorsed by the Australia Government and the CRPD Ad Hoc Committee in New York in January 2006. WWDA has provided FaCSIA and its relevant Minister/s with detailed and up to date information on all aspects of WWDA's work relating to the CRPD.</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Informed advice to the Department on nominated outputs.</p>	<p>Delivery of one policy paper on the following topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Development of legislation to authorise procedures for the sterilisation of children with intellectual disabilities. <p>Paper due: 31 March 2007.</p>		<p>In early 2007, WWDA developed and published a Policy & Position Paper entitled '<i>The Development of Legislation to Authorise Procedures for the Sterilisation of Children with Intellectual Disabilities</i>'. This paper sought to articulate WWDA's position on the issue of the forced sterilisation of minors, particularly in the context of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) work on the development of uniform legislation to authorize procedures for the sterilisation of children with an intellectual disability. The paper raises a number of key issues that WWDA asserts must be thoroughly considered in this debate, including: the application of human rights principles; pre-emptive assumptions; definitions, terminology and language; the consideration of procedures and their consequences; and, compliance with international human rights treaties.</p> <p>WWDA's Policy & Position Paper entitled '<i>The Development of Legislation to Authorise Procedures for the Sterilisation of Children with Intellectual Disabilities</i>' contains clear recommendations to the Australian Government on this issue. The Paper was formally provided to FaCSIA and its relevant Ministers. Every politician in Australia has also been provided with a copy.</p> <p>The paper has been widely disseminated (including internationally) and is available on WWDA's website (see www.wwda.org.au/polpapster07.htm). It has been made available on a number of international organizations websites, including for example: the Child Rights Information Network (CRIN); Disabled People's International (DPI); Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID); Disability Rights Africa.</p>

5.2. Consultation, Representation & Networking

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Contribute to the consultations undertaken by the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO).</p>	<p>Actively participate in AFDO consultations on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement. • Young People in Residential Aged Care. • Other issues as agreed with the FaCSIA portfolio. <p>Form effective and sustainable working partnerships with relevant women and disability agencies in the disability sector.</p>	<p>Active participation in AFDO coordinated consultations.</p> <p>Feedback received by AFDO as to the quality of the participation in the consultation process.</p> <p>Inclusion of issues relating to women with disabilities in the policy advice produced by AFDO on the nominated outputs.</p> <p>Evidence that advice provided is representative of the views and needs of women with disabilities.</p> <p>Advice is provided to AFDO in agreed formats and delivered within agreed timeframes.</p>	<p>WWDA has maintained its representation on the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) Board of Directors. WWDA delegate to the AFDO Board provides written reports to the quarterly WWDA Management Committee meetings.</p> <p>WWDA has actively participated in the work of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) and where relevant has provided inclusion of issues relating to women with disabilities in the policy advice produced by AFDO. Just some examples of WWDA's participation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth/State/Territory Disability Agreement consultations; • National Disability Advocacy Program Review consultations; • Young People with Disabilities in Residential Aged Care consultations (WWDA is represented on the Minister's National Young People with Disabilities in Residential Aged Care Consultative Committee); • UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Consultations; • Welfare & Industrial Relations Reforms; • What Makes Australia Fair? Consultations; • Medicare Australia Consumer Communication Group (WWDA represents AFDO on this group); • Museums Australia Access and Disability Sub-Committee (WWDA represents AFDO on this group).

5.3. Community Information, Awareness Raising & Education

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Promotion of FaCSIA funded disability initiatives and services to increase awareness within the disability community.</p>	<p>Active promotion through the WWDA Website, e-mail updates and other relevant media of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Day of People with Disability • FaCSIA funded advocacy services • FaCSIA funded business services • Other initiatives as agreed with the portfolio. <p>Invite Ministers and / or Departmental officers to attend and present at WWDA forums, conferences and to contribute to WWDA publications.</p>	<p>WWDA Website, e-mail updates and other media reflect nominated outputs.</p> <p>Invitation to Minister/s to WWDA events provided with at least 3 months notice with a copy of correspondence provided to the Departmental Officer specified in Item O of the Schedule of the Long Form Funding Agreement.</p> <p>Invitation to Departmental officers to WWDA events provided with at least 2 months notice.</p> <p>Department provided with information about publication dates, themes and guidelines for input at the beginning of the financial year.</p>	<p>WWDA has regularly disseminated information to its members and other stakeholders, on FaCSIA funded disability initiatives and services. WWDA monthly Update Bulletins have contained information on FaCSIA initiatives (see: www.wwda.org.au/bulletin.htm).</p> <p>WWDA Online Information and Referral Directory (see: www.wwda.org.au/portmain.htm) contains extensive and up to date listings of disability and related services and organizations across a wide range of sectors. This includes, for example, detailed listings of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State/Territory Disability Advocacy Organisations (see: www.wwda.org.au/portadv.htm); • National, State/Territory Disability and Related Agencies & Organisations (see: www.wwda.org.au/portdisa.htm); • National, State/Territory Employment Agencies, Services & Organisations (see: www.wwda.org.au/portemp.htm); • National, State/ Territory Education and Training Agencies & Organisations (see: www.wwda.org.au/portedu.htm); • National, State/ Territory Housing Agencies, Services & Organisations (see: www.wwda.org.au/porthous.htm); <p>FaCSIA has been provided with relevant information regarding publication dates of WWDA materials.</p>

5.3.1. Communication with Australian Government & FaCSIA

Outcomes	Outputs	Performance Indicator	Achievements
<p>Regular and effective communication between WWDA and the Department's single point of contact to support the effective management of the relationship and funding agreement.</p>	<p>Formal meetings between WWDA and the Department's Disability and Carers Branch to occur at least twice a year.</p> <p>Meetings to take place in October-November 2006 and April-May 2007.</p> <p>Input to the development of an effective and sustainable communication protocol with WWDA.</p>	<p>Meetings to be held within agreed timeframes.</p> <p>Meetings to cover key issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWDA's activities. • Emerging issues for women with disabilities that have been identified by WWDA, which have relevance to the FaCSIA portfolio. • Learnings developed from participation at meetings, attending conferences, undertaking or receiving relevant research and other activities undertaken by WWDA. <p>Written and verbal advice provided within agreed timeframes and is practical and solution focussed.</p>	<p>During the contract period, WWDA initiated a formal meeting with FaCSIA Disability and Carers Branch personnel which was subsequently held in May 2007 at the national WWDA Office in Hobart. WWDA produced an Agenda for the meeting which was provided to FaCSIA personnel 3 weeks in advance and covered areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWDA Performance 2006/07; • WWDA's Operational Funding Contract and related issues; • FaCSIA internal restructure & staffing changes; • Status of FaCSIA communication strategy; • National Disability and Carer Ministerial Council Update. <p>WWDA's formal meeting with FaCSIA also covered emerging issues for women with disabilities that were identified by WWDA.</p> <p>WWDA has initiated contact and communication with the FaCSIA Disability and Carers Branch personnel during the contract period, however the effectiveness of this contact has been hampered by the high turnover of staff within the Disability and Carers Branch.</p> <p>WWDA has regularly requested that FaCSIA provide acknowledgement and/or feedback to WWDA on its activities and work, in particular written submissions and policy papers provided to FaCSIA during the contract period.</p> <p>WWDA has further recommended that FaCSIA (Disability and Carers Branch) provide written feedback annually to WWDA regarding WWDA's performance.</p> <p>WWDA is awaiting contact from FaCSIA regarding the development of an effective and sustainable communication protocol.</p>

Examples of Feedback Received

2006 - 2007

Dear WWDA,

I would like to congratulate you on your input in the UN deliberations on the Rights of people with disabilities ensuring that you made it have gender considerations. Indeed your contributions are a gift to women with disabilities all over the world. On my own behalf, the African continent and Kenya I salute you. Organisations like yours serve as role models for the rest of us.

Yours sincerely

Salome Muigai

11 September 2006

Dear WWDA,

I have found a gold mine.....and it is your website. I have been reading through some of the articles and poems posted by women. They are wonderful! There is such a wealth of information on your website....

Julie Halton

2 August, 2007

Dear WWDA,

Congratulations on your impressive achievements. Full praise for your clear, systematic and exhaustive strategic plan review. Best wishes for the future.

Diane B. Alley

National Convener

UNAA Status of Women Network

28 July 2007

Hello WWDA,

Thank you for the comprehensive report, you do a great job keeping us informed and acting on our behalf, I for one certainly appreciate all the work you do.

Cheers

Jo-An M Partridge

29 May 2006

Dear WWDA,

As always I need to write and commend you on your superior work of your organization The WWDA Strategic Plan is real and brilliant.....one of the best that I have seen. Well done.

Yours in solidarity

Donna Justo

Director, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc.

23 July 2007

Dear WWDA,
You are doing some great work for women with disabilities and I am thrilled to read about it...
Regards
Margaret Sargent
29 May 2007

Dear WWDA,
Greetings from the National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU). I would like to acknowledge receipt of your Update Bulletins and thank you for sharing with NUWODU your information.
Regards,
Guzu Beatrice,
Executive Secretary
National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda
31 May 2007

Dear WWDA,
It has been great exposure to read your reports and specially the plan for five years. You are doing wonderful work to promote rights and status of women with disabilities in Australia.
Asif Kaleem
Program coordinator
Society for Disabled Women Pakistan
23 July 2007

Dear WWDA
Thanks muchly for all the work WWDA does for us.
Warmly,
Laine
4 October 2006

Dear Ms Frohmader,
Thank you for the copy of the 2005-2006 Annual Report of Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA). I commend you on your work and look forward to being kept informed of WWDA's activities....
Yours sincerely,
Will Hodgman MHA
Leader of the Opposition (Tas)
22 March 2007

Dear Ms Frohmader,
Thank you for forwarding a copy of the Women With Disabilities Australia's Annual Report 2005-2006 to the Premier. It is pleasing to read of the developments achieved at Women With Disabilities Australia such as; the development and streamlining of databases, input and submissions to areas of national policy, feedback on telecommunications policy and service delivery. The Premier commends the good work that Women With Disabilities Australia is doing.
Yours sincerely,
David Miler
Deputy Chief of Staff
Department of Premier & Cabinet (Vic)
8 March 2007

Dear Ms Frohmader,
Thank you for your Annual Report, keep up the wonderful work.
Dawn Fardell MP
Member for Dubbo
27 February 2007

Hello WWDA,
The WWDA website is a great website for women with disabilities. I have told my friends with Parkinson's about your site and they were very interested. Keep up the good work.
Yours truly,
Cherie Wells
22 May 2007

Dear Ms Frohmader,
The publication (Update Bulletin) has been perused with interest and your organization is commended on its endeavours to keep the community informed about issues and new initiatives to assist women with disabilities.
Yours sincerely,
Rita Saffioti
Chief of Staff
Premier of Western Australia
10 April 2007

Dear Ms Frohmader,
Thank you for your recent correspondence to the Premier enclosing a copy of the 05-06 Annual Report. The Premier appreciates being kept up to date on the important work organizations such as WWDA undertake in the community. May I take this opportunity to wish you, your staff and volunteers continued success in 2007.
Yours sincerely,
Emma Lawson
Policy Adviser
Premier of South Australia
6 March 2007

Dear Ms Parkinson,
Thank you for your recent letter and information regarding the troubling issue of the sterilisation of children with intellectual disabilities. Rest assured that I am supportive of your position and views on this issue. I agree that it is disturbing that there is no universal legislation prohibiting this practice. I also agree that we as a nation must respect the fundamental human rights of all Australians, regardless of their physical or intellectual standing. I would like to thank you for all the work that you and your organisation have done to bring attention to this issue. It is unfortunate that such pressing issues often go unnoticed in our community, and it is through organisations such as Women With Disabilities Australia that they are given the attention they deserve. Again, thank you for all of your hard work and know that I share your concerns over this disconcerting matter. If there is anything I can do for you now, or in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Yours sincerely
Dr Brendan Nelson MP
Federal Member for Bradfield
December 2006

Dear Ms Frohmader,

Thank you for your copy of the WWDA Update Report for May/June 06. I commend WWDA for making this comprehensive report available to policy makers Australia-wide. This is such an important resource for the Office for Women...

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Nori MP

Minister for Women (NSW)

25 July 2006

Dear Sue Salthouse,

WWDA is to be commended for the great advocacy work it's doing for women with disabilities.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Siewert

29 November 2006

Dear Ms Parkinson,

Congratulations on your great work on upholding the rights of women with disabilities.....

Regards and Best Wishes,

Dr Graham Jacobs MLA

Member for Roe (WA)

13 December 2006

Dear Ms Parkinson,

Thank you for your recent letter and for forwarding the responses you have received from UNICEF regarding the concerns you have raised. As Shadow Minister for Disability Services, I appreciate the continued efforts of your organization to keep me updated on your issues and providing feedback on matters impacting on women with disabilities.

Yours sincerely,

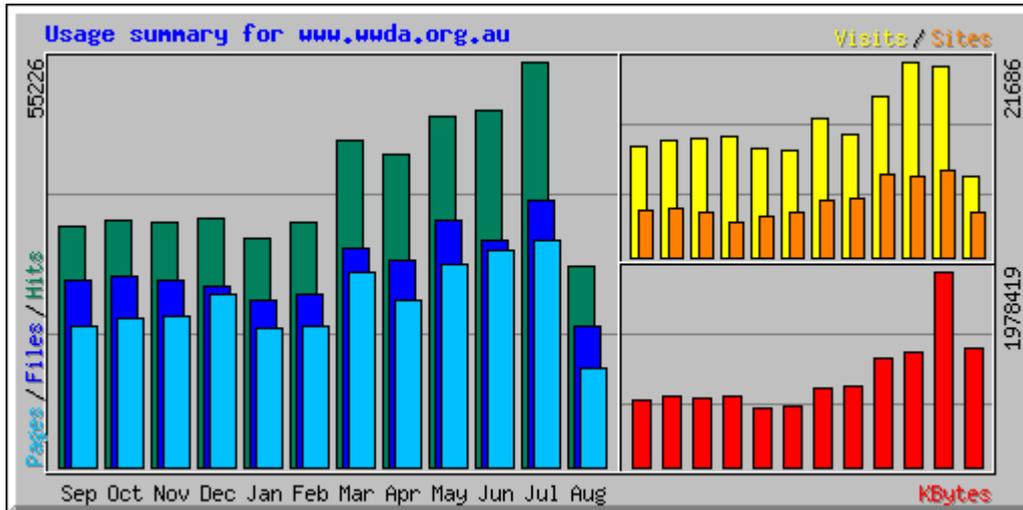
Jann Stuckey MP

Member for Currumbin

9 February 2007

Usage Statistics for www.wwda.org.au

Summary Period: Last 12 Months
Generated 16-Aug-2007 06:06 EST



Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Aug 2007	1702	1203	840	558	4884	1193417	8934	13452	19248	27245
Jul 2007	1781	1175	998	681	9617	1978419	21128	30953	36453	55226
Jun 2007	1614	1030	985	722	8973	1152781	21686	29563	30915	48440
May 2007	1537	1079	891	575	9252	1095874	17853	27640	33463	47648
Apr 2007	1419	940	760	456	6466	812861	13708	22816	28229	42593
Mar 2007	1432	961	856	493	6394	791044	15298	26564	29795	44409
Feb 2007	1185	842	685	425	4973	621553	11913	19195	23592	33192
Jan 2007	1003	734	613	392	4597	603698	12152	19016	22755	31099
Dec 2006	1088	791	757	430	3955	710779	13358	23467	24542	33741
Nov 2006	1109	851	687	441	4969	698429	13233	20628	25558	33297
Oct 2006	1088	841	657	416	5528	719080	12926	20393	26082	33732
Sep 2006	1095	847	639	410	5309	674289	12316	19193	25425	32863
Totals						11052224	174505	272880	326057	463485