Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA)


Final Report to the Office for Women (FaCSIA) from Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA)

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Introduction

In April 2006, Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) received funding from the Commonwealth Office for Women (OFW), under the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Funding Program, to develop a ‘Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities’. The Project commenced on April 1, 2006.

This Report is the Final Report on the Project to the Office for Women (OFW). This Report details the process and achievements of the Project and is constructed in line with WWDA’s Project Plan.
Section One: Background & Context

1.1. About Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA)

Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) is the peak organisation for women with all types of disabilities in Australia. The aim of 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 is the major coordinating point for the provision of information to, and about, women with disabilities in Australia. WWDA’s work in the area of violence against women with disabilities is recognised internationally and has received critical acclaim via a number of Awards, including the Australian Violence Prevention Award in 1999 and the Australian Human Rights Award in 2001. More information about WWDA can be found at the organisation’s extensive website at: www.wwda.org.au

1.2. Project Title

The title of the Project was: ‘Development of a Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities’.

1.3. Project Rationale

Research indicates that, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or class, women with disabilities experience domestic violence at twice the rate of domestic violence against non-disabled women (Sobsey 1998). Despite this increased incidence women with disabilities are much less likely to receive assistance or services if they experience violence. Until recent years, there has been a profound silence around the experiences of violence among women with disabilities. The issues for women with disabilities have largely been excluded from most generic policies and from responses to the issue of women and violence. Women with disabilities are largely invisible in both the disability and women’s movements, a situation that has relegated them to a position of extreme marginalisation and consequently, to increased risks and experiences of violence.

Through its diverse and broad membership, WWDA identified an urgent need to undertake a Project, which focused on the development and production of a Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities. It was envisaged that the Manual would be developed in alternative formats in order to ensure accessibility for all
women with disabilities. Consultation with the members of WWDA and other key stakeholders was considered fundamental to the development of the Manual.

There is a dearth of information and educational resources about domestic violence which are accessible to women with disabilities. WWDA’s proposal for the Project was developed in response to the expressed needs of women with disabilities in Australia, and the lack of information that is available to this group. The Project was national in scope and has international applicability. The Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities was developed to serve a wide range of users. It includes information targeted at disabled women; as well as information for students, policy makers, service providers, academics and researchers.

1.4. Project Aims

The overall aim and long term goal of the project is to prevent and reduce violence against women with disabilities. The major objectives of the Project were to:
- improve access to information about violence for women with disabilities by developing and promoting accessible information resources;
- educate women with disabilities about violence and its prevention.

Specifically, the Project sought to:
- research, develop and produce a Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities;
- develop and produce a Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities which reflects the identified information needs of women with disabilities.

1.5. Project Outcomes

By conducting the Project, WWDA aims to achieve the following outcomes:
- Decreased impact of violence against women with disabilities through product development that focuses on information, education and support.
- Increased evidence that will inform future policy and program development so that it is inclusive of women with disabilities.
- Improved service responses to the impact of violence against women with disabilities, and an increased focus on prevention and early intervention approaches of violence against women with disabilities.
- An increased skill base among service providers working with women with disabilities who experience, or are at risk of, violence.
• Increased understanding of violence against women with disabilities and improved help seeking behaviour from women with disabilities who experience, or are at risk of, violence.
• Improved support for women with disabilities who experience, or are at risk of, violence.
• An increased capacity of WWDA to respond to incoming requests for advocacy relating to violence against women with disabilities; and an enhanced capacity to act as a two way conduit between the Government and the community on social policy issues as they affect women with disabilities.
• Expansion of networks and working relationships with relevant local, regional, State, national and international organisations across a wide range of sectors.
• Empowerment of women with disabilities, both individually and collectively.
• Increased profile of Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA).
Section Two: Outcomes Report

2.1. Establish a Project Reference Group made up of women with disabilities.

Due to the delay in OFW processing the first grant installment, the process of WWDA appointing Project workers and establishing a Project Reference Group was delayed. However, the Project Manager and one of the Project Workers were able to begin work on some aspects of the Project prior to the receipt of the first grant installment, which was received on 31 March 2006. The Project Reference Group members and the Project workers were selected and ratified by the WWDA Management Committee. The Project Reference Group was established in mid April 2006 and was deliberately kept small, so that it would be affordable, efficient and easily managed. The Reference Group members were: Annie Parkinson; Amanda Erskine; Carolyn Frohmader; Lina Pane; Sue Salthouse; and Jill Fowler. Both Jill Fowler and Amanda Erskine resigned during the Project due to ill-health.

2.2. Develop the Project Plan.

The Project Plan was developed by the Project Officer and Project Manager in consultation with Project Reference Group and WWDA Management Committee. The Plan was revised after consultation with, and feedback from the Project Reference Group members. The Draft Project Plan was ratified by the WWDA Management Committee. The Draft Project Plan was forwarded to OFW ahead of schedule on April 19, 2006 for consideration and ratification. The Project Plan was accepted by OFW on May 1, 2006. Copies are available from the WWDA Office.

2.3. Publicise the Project widely & develop promotional fliers for the Project.

The Project was widely publicised and promoted, and the breadth and reach of the dissemination of information about the Project has been significant. Dissemination of information about the Project began with the promotion of the Project in WWDA’s Monthly Update Bulletin of February 2006. The April 2006 edition of the WWDA Update Bulletin also contained detailed information on the Project, including the availability of the Project Plan. Throughout the term of the Project, all WWDA monthly/bi-monthly Update Bulletins have carried information about the Project. A general promotional flier was developed (See Appendix 1), along with an Easy
The extensive promotion of the Project resulted in a large number of enquiries to WWDA. For example, a number of services in the domestic violence sector and disability sector, contacted WWDA to request a copy of the Resource Manual once it was completed. A number of individuals and services/organisations also requested a copy of the Project Plan. The Project Plan was distributed to a total of twenty four individuals, services and organisations who requested copies. The response to the initial introductory information about the project demonstrated that there was widespread interest in the Project from a range of sectors. Feedback from those who responded to this introductory information indicated that the Project would address the information needs of a number of organisations and agencies, and not just those in the disability and domestic violence sectors.

The WWDA Online Information & Referral Directory (located on the WWDA website at www.wwda.org.au) was a vital mechanism for the dissemination of information about the Project. The Directory was developed by WWDA in 2004/05 with funds from the then Office for the Status of Women (OSW). It carries an extensive amount of information and contact details about services, groups, and organisations across a wide range of sectors. For the purposes of information dissemination about the Violence Manual Project, WWDA distributed the promotional flyers to a large number of organisations, services and agencies listed in the Directory.

The dissemination of information about the Project has been an ongoing Project activity. A number of organisations have publicised the project in their own newsletters etc, and information about the Project appeared on a number of websites. Just some examples include:

- Department for Victorian Communities
- Women’s Information Service South Australia

As part of the Project Planning, a Framework was developed for the Resource Manual on Violence Against Women with Disabilities. In its original funding application, WWDA had identified information it wanted to include in a Resource Manual on Violence Against Women with Disabilities. This information had been identified from an analysis of identified information needs of WWDA members and constituents over a 5 year period (from 2000-2005), as well as gaps in the existing information and resource materials on violence against women with disabilities. The information WWDA wanted to incorporate into a Resource Manual included:

- Information for women’s refuges and crisis services about how to develop accessible services and programs;
- Information about violence against women with disabilities – for women with disabilities; service providers; and the broader community;
- A comprehensive literature review, including an annotated bibliography of published literature on the issue;
- An annotated bibliography of resource materials worldwide;
- Narratives, poetry, and artwork from women with disabilities who have experienced violence including strategies they used to break the cycle;
- A guide to services and support at national, state/territory and regional levels.

The Framework for the Resource Manual on Violence Against Women with Disabilities was developed using this information. In considering how the Resource
Manual would come together, WWDA needed to take into account a number of factors including:

- The need for the final product to be easy to physically handle;
- The need for the Manual to be accessible to the widest numbers of potential users;
- The need for the Manual to be designed in a way that enabled the maximum number to be printed (ie: keeping the costs down by using one colour text as opposed to full colour etc);
- Recognising that once completed, the Manual would need to be distributed widely – so the final product needed to be something that was easily posted and not too heavy.

It was decided that the Resource Manual would be developed in a series of four to five ‘books’ in a B5. The ‘books’ would include the following (in no particular order):

- Book: ‘More Than Just A Ramp’
- Book: ‘It’s Not OK, It’s Violence’ Information Kit
- Book: Narratives & Poetry from Women With Disabilities’
- Book: Academic Research & Literature Review’
- Book: ‘Service Directory & Resources’

During the course of the Project, it became apparent that producing five books would not be affordable due to the prices of printing and alternative formats production. Therefore, it was agreed that the ‘Services Directory’ would be incorporated into Book Three: ‘It’s Not OK, It’s Violence’.

It was also agreed that each of the published Booklets would contain their own Acknowledgments section; a listing of Emergency Numbers (including the State/Territory Domestic Violence Crisis Lines), and a paragraph of caution to the reader:

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a word of caution

The content of this booklet may trigger anxiety for some individuals who have experienced, or are experiencing violence. We encourage anyone who has difficulty with the content of this booklet to seek support. Taking care of yourself is imperative to your ability to help others in similar situations.
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As highlighted in WWDA’s original funding application, WWDA had identified the need for its Resource Manual to include information for women’s refuges and crisis services about how to develop accessible services and programs. In 1997, WWDA had published a step-by-step guide which these types of services could use to re-orient their services to better meet the needs of women with disabilities who experienced violence, or who were at risk of violence. This step-by-step guide was entitled ‘More Than Just A Ramp: A Guide for Women’s Refuges to Develop Disability Discrimination Act Action Plans’. It was an extremely popular publication but quickly became out of print. It was agreed that the publication would be updated, edited, and reproduced as part of the Violence Resource Manual, particularly given that access to women’s refuges is still identified as a major barrier for disabled women escaping violence.

‘It’s Not OK, It’s Violence’ Information Kit.

In 2000, the Australian Government developed a basic Information Kit about Violence Against Women With Disabilities. The Kit was called ‘It’s Not OK, It’s Violence’. Unfortunately, only a small number were ever printed. In its original funding application WWDA signaled its intention to update and reproduce the Kit as part of the Violence Resource Manual. WWDA also decided to enhance this Book by including a detailed Directory of services at national, state/territory, regional and local levels. WWDA had also assessed the need to incorporate clear images/drawings into the Book that would not only compliment the text, but tell a ‘story’ in their own right.

‘Academic Research & Literature Review’.

Although it was recognised that this section of the Resource Manual would require a significant amount of research and would be labour intensive, the importance of its inclusion into the Resource Manual was widely acknowledged. It was intended that this Book would include a comprehensive literature review/academic chapter on violence against women with disabilities and an annotated bibliography of published and unpublished resource materials worldwide.

‘Narratives & Poetry from Women With Disabilities’.

This section of the Manual would be devoted to the stories, poetry and artworks of women with disabilities. It would require ongoing consultation with WWDA members and constituents throughout the course of the Project.
2.5. Undertake consultation processes with women with disabilities which include the use of narrative collection and analysis.

Due to the delay in receiving the project grant installments from OfW, this process of undertaking this project activity was delayed. WWDA developed a separate flier for the Narratives Consultation phase of the Project (see Appendix 3) which was distributed widely to a wide range of stakeholders. The Project workers (Sue Salthouse & Lina Pane) were given the task of undertaking the consultations with women with disabilities who wanted to participate in this aspect of the Project. The Narratives Consultation was well received by women with disabilities, and the Project workers were able to work closely with these women over a three month period to obtain their narratives, artworks, poetry and photos. WWDA was very mindful of the need to provide support information to any women participating in this aspect of the Project. WWDA recognised that the process of re-living experiences of violence may cause additional distress to the women and it was therefore vital that processes were put in place to address this. The women participating in this part of the Project were provided with information on support services, as well as afforded the opportunity to access counselling if this was required.

2.6. Develop Booklet ‘More Than Just A Ramp’.

As highlighted earlier, the ‘More Than Just A Ramp’ publication produced by WWDA in 1997 had gone out of print yet WWDA regularly received requests for copies. Unfortunately, WWDA did not have an electronic copy of the publication which meant that the entire document had to be re-typed. This process did allow for some of the updating and editing work to be done at the same time. A significant amount of time was spent on updating the text of the document – the entire Section Three of the original publication had to be redeveloped. This required researching resources and services relevant to the context of the publication. The original publication was a text only document and the updating process therefore required substantial work on graphic design, formatting and layout.
In order to include images and pictures in the revamped edition, WWDA contracted a WWDA member to develop 15 cartoons to complement the text of the Book. These cartoons were then scanned and incorporated into the publication. WWDA also then had to research, locate and source additional images for use throughout the Book. Sourcing images of women with disabilities was a difficult aspect of the Project. Many large scale photo and image libraries do not include images of disabled women, and where they do, they are largely images of women in wheelchairs; elderly women in nursing homes/hospitals; and/or female disabled athletes.

A draft of the ‘More Than Just A Ramp’ booklet in PDF format, along with the separately created cover pages was provided to the Office for Women for approval.
2.7. Develop Booklet ‘It’s Not OK, It’s Violence’.

It was decided early on in the Project (in the Framework development phase) that the ‘It’s Not OK, It’s Violence Kit’ would need to be consolidated into one Book. This was because feedback from users of the Kit had identified that its original format was difficult to physically handle as it contained too many separate elements. The preparation work for the reproduction of the book was hampered because WWDA only had PDF versions of some of the contents. This meant that some of the files had to be re-typed into a format that could be easily manipulated for the updating, editing and reproduction.

WWDA secured 18 artwork drawings from Queensland based artist, Rachel Apelt, for inclusion into the updated version of the book. This was deemed important in order to promote accessibility for women with cognitive impairments; intellectual disabilities; low literacy levels; and also women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

As part of the Book, WWDA researched and developed a detailed and comprehensive Services Directory. This included agencies, services, organisations and groups at national, stat/territory, regional and local levels. The Directory was organised by national and State/Territory levels, primarily into two main sub-categories: Domestic Violence Services; and Sexual Assault Services. Due to the ongoing delays the Project incurred, WWDA was required to undertake several updates and reviews of the Services Directory component prior to the publication of the Book. As part of the Project, WWDA also incorporated the Services Directory component of the Book onto the WWDA website in its Online Information and Referral Directory (under the category ‘Violence & Abuse’). The published version of the ‘It’s Not OK, It’s Violence’ Book notifies the user that the Services Directory component has been reproduced onto the WWDA website and will be regularly maintained and updated by WWDA.

A draft of the ‘It’s Not OK, It’s Violence’ booklet in PDF format, along with the separately created cover pages was provided to the Office for Women for approval.

As outlined earlier in this report, WWDA consulted widely with its constituents in the development of this Booklet. Some of this work was delayed due to the delay in the receipt of grant installments from the funding body. The Project Officers (Sue Salthouse and Lina Pane) worked hard over several months with women who signaled their interest in contributing to this Booklet. Some women were keen to write and/or tell their stories, but lacked confidence with the idea of their work being published. Other women expressed concern with the possibility of them identified and requested that they remain anonymous. Once the narratives were documented, the Project Officers worked with the contributors to ensure that the typed version was a true interpretation of the work received and to ensure that any editing met with the author’s approval. The Project Reference Group met a number of times to select the narratives, poetry and artwork for inclusion in the Booklet.

Several women contributed photos for the Booklet, and Lina Pane (Project Worker) also worked with female photography students in Victoria who provided compelling photos to accompany some of the narratives and poetry. The Booklet incorporated the narratives and poetry of fifteen disabled women from around Australia. A number of other women also contributed their photos and artworks.

A significant amount of time was spent working closely with WWDA’s graphic designer (Megan Rozynski) on the typesetting and layout of the Booklet. In doing this work, WWDA was also required to source additional images to compliment the women’s narratives and poetry. This was a labour intensive exercise as it involved researching and viewing literally thousands of images from multiple image libraries around the world.

A draft of the ‘A Life Like Mine’ booklet in PDF format, along with the separately created cover pages was provided to the Office for Women for approval.
2.9. Develop Booklet ‘Forgotten Sisters’ - Literature & Resources.

This Booklet proved to be the most resource intensive part of the Project, and as the Project evolved it created a number of problems for the funding body which resulted in extensive and un-anticipated delays to the overall Project.

In developing this Booklet (which was titled ‘Forgotten Sisters- a global review of violence against women with disabilities’), WWDA undertook extensive, systematic and detailed research in order to identify and analyse published and un-published work from around the world on all aspects of the issue. Researching both published and un-published literature was made difficult due to the use of different terminologies and concepts relating to violence and women with disabilities in use throughout various parts of the world. In practice this meant that WWDA had to search a large number of terminologies in various configurations, during our literature research work.

In undertaking the library searches of published academic literature (including unpublished dissertations), WWDA used a large number of online library catalogue search databases (refer to Appendix 4 for examples). Using these databases, WWDA was able to access an extensive number of academic journals from around the world.

As part of the research phase of this part of the Project, WWDA also identified and sourced a range of other resource materials on the issue of violence against women with disabilities, such as training manuals; project reports; service protocols; videos; brochures and pamphlets; and so on. This work enabled WWDA to establish new networks and reciprocal membership arrangements with a number of services and organisations around the world. It also enabled WWDA to significantly raise our profile at an international level.

All of the published and unpublished materials identified and sourced by WWDA in the research phase, was reviewed and each piece was annotated for inclusion into an
Annotated Bibliography of resources. This Annotated Bibliography was included as a section in the Forgotten Sisters booklet. Due to budget constraints, WWDA decided that the published Annotated Bibliography would only include relevant, published and unpublished resources from 1990-2006.

Part of the work on the Forgotten Sisters Booklet involved the development of a Framework for the Booklet, which provided a guide for how the Booklet would be structured. The Framework was developed in consultation with the Project Reference Group and ratified by the WWDA Management Committee, and included the following themes:

- Gender, Disability & Violence, including language and definitions;
- Responses to Violence Against Women With Disabilities;
- Preventing Violence Against Women With Disabilities.

WWDA completed a draft of the ‘Forgotten Sisters’ Booklet in November 2006 and it was forwarded to the Office for Women (OFW) in Word format for their consideration and approval. Whilst awaiting approval from the OFW, WWDA worked hard on researching and sourcing images to compliment the text of the Booklet. WWDA also commenced the process of typesetting and layout with WWDA’s graphic designer.

The Office for Women (OFW) was unable to give approval to the Draft of the Forgotten Sisters booklet, as the assessment by OFW considered that elements of the Draft were ‘too critical of the Australian Government’. WWDA then worked over a number of months on doing re-writes and edits to the Booklet. This whole process was also hampered by the changing of personnel within the Office for Women, as well as the introduction of new Departmental policies which impacted on the Project. For example, in February 2007, WWDA was instructed by the OFW that the Department of Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) would now require the ‘Forgotten Sisters’ booklet to undergo an internal Departmental peer-review process. This process unfortunately delayed the Project further.

Following the FaCSIA peer-review process, WWDA was required to undertake a further re-write of the Booklet in order to address the issues that the reviewer had identified. WWDA was fortunate to have the assistance of WWDA members Dr Leanne Dowse and Professor Helen Meekosha (both of the University of New South Wales), who offered to undertake the editing work required. Following this work, WWDA then had to redo the typesetting and layout of the Booklet.
The final re-worked draft of the ‘Forgotten Sisters’ booklet in PDF format, along with the separately created cover pages was provided to the Office for Women for approval in mid 2007, and approval was received.


During the course of the Project, WWDA worked closely with the graphic designer on the typesetting and layout of each of the four Booklets. WWDA also worked to secure competitive printing quotes for the Violence Resource Manual. As part of the Project, WWDA developed a number of supporting documents to accompany the four Booklets.

A double-sided Promotional Flyer was developed which gives a brief synopsis of the contents of each of the four Booklets:
WWDA also developed a Feedback/Evaluation Form to accompany the Booklets. This form was developed in order to enable users of the Manual to provide feedback to WWDA so that the organisation can continue to learn what works best. The Feedback Form contained seven simple questions:

- Is the language used in the Manual easy to understand?
- Is the content satisfactory?
- Is the format appropriate?
- Is there any area we haven’t covered?
- What did you find most useful about the Manual?
- How did you hear about the Manual?
- Do you have any other comments/suggestions you would like to make?

In the early stages of the project, WWDA undertook extensive research to identify the most suitable packaging option for the Manual. WWDA was mindful that the packaging had to be simple to use, affordable, and cheap to post. It also needed to include provision for the accompanying CD. WWDA was able to identify a suitable product – a clear plastic satchel produced by Marbig. However, the product was outside the scope of the Project budget, with each satchel retailing for over $4.50.

WWDA decided to approach Marbig to request sponsorship of the product. Vision Australia kindly offered to also approach Marbig on our behalf, in order to secure the sponsorship. Marbig approved our request and kindly donated 1000 of the satchels to WWDA. Marbig then offered us a price of 40cents per satchel for the additional...
satchels we required. WWDA acknowledged Marbig’s support by including their logo on the Promotion Flyer.

As part of the preparation of the Violence Manual, WWDA developed a Resource Library of materials within the National WWDA Office. This was considered to be a vital part of preparation, given the amount of resource materials WWDA had researched and sourced during the Project. WWDA was aware that once the Manual was published, we would be likely to receive many requests for copies of journal articles and other resource materials that had been cited in the Booklets, particularly the Forgotten Sisters booklet, which contained the Annotated Bibliography. WWDA Executive Director and Business Manager sorted and catalogued all resource materials (in alphabetical order) into specific sub-categories:

- Academic Journal Articles;
- Training Kits/Manuals;
- Videos/DVD’s;
- Unpublished resources including: project reports; conference papers; brochures/pamphlets etc.


Throughout the course of the Project, WWDA worked closely with Vision Australia to plan and produce the Resource Manual into a range of accessible formats (Vision Australia are the leading provider of blindness and low vision services in Australia, and provide the Accessible Information Solutions Service).

The range and number of accessible format production needed to be considered in the context of the Project Budget. WWDA therefore sought the advice and expertise of Vision Australia personnel as to the most effective alternative format production, which includes:

CD Audio Master – containing narration of A Life Like Mine; Forgotten Sisters; It’s Not OK, It’s Violence. The remaining booklet More Than Just A Ramp is primarily directed at service providers and due to budget constraints, it was decided not to produce audio versions of this Booklet. The CD Audio Master will enable WWDA to burn copies of the CD’s for those users who are unable to make use of MPEG audio files.

Large Print PDF – each of the four booklets have been produced in large print PDF versions which are included on the CD accompanying the hard copy versions of the Manual.
Braille – twenty copies of the Booklet ‘It’s Not OK, It’s Violence’ have been produced in Braille. Again, due to resource constraints, not all of the booklets could be produced in Braille. It was therefore decided that the Booklet ‘It’s Not OK, It’s Violence’, which contains information about domestic violence and is directed at women with disabilities, be produced into Braille.

E-Text – three of the Booklets A Life Like Mine; Forgotten Sisters; It’s Not OK, It’s Violence, have been produced as e-text are included on the CD accompanying the hard copy versions of the Manual.

MP3 Audio Files – sections from three of the Booklets A Life Like Mine; Forgotten Sisters; It’s Not OK, It’s Violence, have been produced in MP3 Audio files. MP3 is a near-CD quality file format for sound files and enables a large amount of audio to be put onto a single CD. Again, due to budget restrictions, it was decided that not all the sections of the Booklets would need to be narrated and produced into MP3 audio files. Therefore, the following was produced as MP3 audio:

- A Life Like Mine – entire text of booklet;
- Forgotten Sisters – all chapters excluding reference list and annotated bibliography;
- It’s Not OK, It’s Violence – all chapters excluding Services Directory;

The MP3 files are included on the CD accompanying the hard copies of the Booklets.

DAISY - three of the Booklets A Life Like Mine; Forgotten Sisters; It’s Not OK, It’s Violence, have been produced in DAISY format. DAISY is an acronym for Digital Accessible Information System. A DAISY book is made up of a combination of files including marked up text and audio in any of six combinations. It may be searchable, depending upon the type of DAISY book and the reading system being used. A DAISY book allows the reader to move through the book and to specific points within the book quickly and easily.

The Manual Promotional Flyer and Order Form have also been produced in Rich Text Format (RTF) to enable WWDA to have an accessible version to email as part of its ongoing promotion of the Manual.

Two thousand CD’s have been produced to accompany the hard copies of the Violence Resource Manual. The CD accompanying the Manual contains:

- Large Print PDF versions of the four booklets;
• MP3 audio versions of the booklets *A Life Like Mine; Forgotten Sisters; It’s Not OK, It’s Violence*;
• E-Text versions of the booklets *A Life Like Mine; Forgotten Sisters; It’s Not OK, It’s Violence*.

WWDA developed artwork to be printed directly onto each of the 2000 CD’s.

![Violence Manual CD Artwork](image)

WWDA also developed a sticker to be included in the Marbig packaging satchel containing the hard copy Booklets; accompanying CD; Promotional Flyer; Feedback Form; and WWDA Membership Form. WWDA decided to produce a generic sticker to promote the organisation.

![WWDA Promotional Sticker](image)


WWDA worked with the graphic designer to secure a printer for the job. This involved undertaking a review and assessment of several printers previous work, which was considered important due to the size and cost of publishing the Manual.
booklets and supporting files. Following assessment, WWDA elected Loongana Printer (Hobart) to undertake the job. Loongana were also able to offer a competitive quote for the job. WWDA Executive Director and WWDA’s graphic designer met with the printer a number of times to prepare the job and organise the proofs. The Manual was sent to the printer to commence the printing at the end of September.

WWDA also needed to identify and source storage facility for the Manuals once they had been printed, as there was not enough room in the WWDA National Office to house the 8000 printed booklets. A local business Imbros, kindly offered to donate storage space in their warehouse, which is located only minutes away from the WWDA Office.

Once the printed versions of the Manual were completed, WWDA staff worked at the Imbros warehouse to package up the Manuals, insert the CD and accompanying materials and prepare the Manual for distribution.


During the course of the Project, WWDA heavily promoted and publicised the Project. This resulted in more than 200 orders for the Manual being forwarded to the WWDA National Office, prior to the completion of the Manual. A database was established by WWDA to record all the details of incoming orders during the Project.

Once the Manual was published (including the alternative formats and the accompanying CD), WWDA undertook a promotional campaign which involved distribution of the Promotional Flyer (with covering letter where appropriate) to an extensive number of stakeholders including:

- Every national disability and/or related organisation in Australia;
- Every Federal, State & Territory politician in Australia;
- International women’s, human rights, disability, legal; domestic violence organisations and groups;
- A wide range of electronic mailing lists across a wide range of sectors;
- Federal, State/Territory Government Departments & Agencies, including for example: Police Departments; Hospitals; Equal Opportunity Commissions; Human Rights agencies;
- Relevant government agencies in other countries, including the United Nations;
- Religious organisations and groups;
- Educational institutions, including research institutions;
- Each State/Territory Premier;
- All WWDA members (individual and organisations);
• Media outlets, including relevant magazines and journals.

Complimentary copies of the Manual, with covering letters were sent to several targeted stakeholders including for example: Federal/State/Territory Ministers for Women; Federal/State Premiers; FaCSIA Office of Disability, and more.


The Project was an overwhelming success for WWDA, with many unexpected and unanticipated outcomes. Just some examples include:

• The establishment of new relationships, including reciprocal membership arrangements, with a number of organisations and groups throughout the world;

• The Victorian Government seeking a licence from WWDA (and then the Commonwealth Attorney-General) to tailor the Manual for use as a training tool for Victorian service providers in the domestic violence, sexual assault and disability sectors;

• The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse agreeing to host and coordinate a national Conference on Violence and Women with Disabilities, in response to WWDA’s Project, and the need for a human rights framework in the prevention of violence against women with disabilities;

• The South Australian Office for Women’s Policy seeking to host a day long Summit on Violence Against Women with Disabilities, in response to WWDA’s project, and involving WWDA delegates as keynote speakers;

• Family Planning NSW ordering the Manual in order to use it for training of disability services workers;
Appendix 1: Promotional Flier


For women with disabilities the incidence of domestic, workplace and community violence is high - too high - and at least double that of women without disabilities. Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA), as the peak organisation for women with all types of disabilities in Australia, has the elimination of that violence as one of its major long term objectives. WWDA is currently working on a Project to develop a ‘Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities’. The Manual will include:

* A guide for women’s refuges to develop accessible services and programs;
* Information about violence against women with disabilities – for women with disabilities; service providers; and the broader community;
* A comprehensive literature review, including an annotated bibliography of published literature on the issue;
* An annotated bibliography of resource materials worldwide;
* Narratives, poetry, and artwork from women with disabilities who have experienced violence including strategies they used to break the cycle;
* A guide to services and support at national, state/territory and regional levels.

How Can You Help?

* Send us materials you think might be useful;
* Let us know about any programs or initiatives happening in your area;
* Contribute your stories, poetry, artworks;
* Spread the word!

Contact
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The development of the Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities is made possible through a funding grant from the Department of Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) Office for Women. Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) gratefully acknowledges the Australian Government for this support.
‘WWDA’s Book About Violence Against Women With Disabilities’

**What ‘s New?**

WWDA is making a book about violence against women with disabilities. We want everyone to read it and look at the pictures in it. We want everyone to learn about it and help us make it stop.

**Why Are We Doing This?**

Violence against women with disabilities happens a lot. It is wrong and WWDA wants it to stop!

**How Can You Help?**

Tell us what you think should be in our book. Tell us your ideas for how we can stop violence against our women. Send us your stories and pictures.

**Contact**

Carolyn Frohmader
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Thanks to the Australian Government for giving WWDA the money to do this work.
For women with disabilities the incidence of domestic, workplace and community violence is high - too high - and at least double that of able bodied women. Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA), as the peak organisation for women with all types of disabilities in Australia, has the elimination of that violence as one of its major long term objectives. WWDA is currently working on a Project to develop a ‘Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities’. The Manual will have one Booklet dedicated to the stories of survivors, to inspire, guide and give hope to our fellow travellers who have yet to break the cycle of violence in their lives.

**Wherever you are on this pathway, send us your stories of survival in Prose, Poetry & Pictures........**

“**I was always taught to be grateful for what I’ve got. Well, I’m bloody sick of being grateful.........**”

“**One day I just found the strength to leave....**”

“**Sharing my story with other disabled women has given me strength and a sense of belonging......**”

By sharing our experiences we can gain strength from one another and find the power to change our circumstances – individually and collectively. Your story, poem, painting, drawing – might be just the catalyst to empower another woman to break the cycle of violence.

**So....Get Involved!!!!**

**Contact:**

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Appendix 4: Examples of Library Databases Researched

AGIS Plus Text (Attorney-General’s Information Service Plus Text)
Administrative law, banking, companies and securities, constitutional law, copyright law, criminal law, environmental law, family law, human rights, international law, legal aid and trade practices Australian, New Zealand and Pacific law serials.

AMI
Australasian medical and related material not indexed by Medline.

Anthropological index online
Index to journal articles in all branches of anthropology.

ANZ Reference Centre
Online Australian Newspapers

APA-FT (Australian Public Affairs - Full Text)
Predominantly Australian literature in the social sciences, humanities and public affairs, including economic, social, cultural, legal and political aspects of the latter.

APAI5 - Health
Subset of the APA FT database covering health and medicine in Australia.

ATSIhealth
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health bibliography.

AUSSTATS
Australian Bureau of Statistics data available for downloading into spreadsheets.

CAB
Nutrition and health - emphasis on the developing world.

Child Abuse and Neglect
Published by the National Information Services Corporation (NISC), Maryland, USA. Physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, child neglect.

CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature)
Indexes journals, book chapters, conference papers and theses in nursing, health care, midwifery and related disciplines.

CINCH (Australian Criminology Database)
The Australian Criminology Database covers all aspects of crime and criminal justice including corrections, crime, crime prevention, criminal law, criminology, juvenile justice, law enforcement, police and victims of crime.

Cochrane library
Systematic reviews and other information that will assist in making diagnostic, treatment and other health care decisions.

Drug Database
Index of published and unpublished literature on the psycho-social aspects of substance abuse.
ERIC
References, with abstracts to the literature of education, including educational psychology.

FAMILY
Australian social welfare.

Family and Society Plus
Family, family life and social change in Australia, marriage and divorce, the aged, child development, family economics, family law, population studies.

Health and Society
Social, psychological, legal, ethical issues in Australian health.

MAIS (Multicultural Australia and Immigration Studies)
Immigration and multicultural issues in Australia, ethnicity, refugees, racism, population, multicultural education, migrant health, welfare, social services.

Medline
Largest index of medical and health journals. Includes nursing and pre-clinical sciences

Meditext
Australasian medical and related material.

Population Index
Covers a range of subjects including population size and growth, migration, family, research methodology and demography.

ProQuest
ProQuest provides access to information from periodicals, newspapers, out-of-print books, dissertations, and scholarly collections in various formats. Its archive includes more than 5.5 billion pages of information.

PsycINFO
Psychology and psychiatry

RURAL
Rural and remote health issues in Australia.

Scopus
Scopus provides access to 14,000 peer-reviewed journals from international publishers.

Sociological abstracts
Sociology and related disciplines including urban sociology, social control, the family and socialisation, sociology of health and medicine, social problems, social welfare, poverty, violence.

Social Services Abstracts
Covers research on social work, human services and related areas including social welfare, social policy, and community development.

Web of Science
Citation database of core academic journals in all subjects. Incorporates Science Citation Index.