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WWDA acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands on which this publication was produced. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s deep spiritual connection to this land. We extend our respects to community members and Elders past, present and becoming.

Prepared by Carolyn Frohmader and Christopher Brophy for Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA).

Disclaimer

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ABOUT WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES AUSTRALIA

WWDA represents more than 2 million disabled women and girls in Australia, has affiliate organisations and networks of women with disability in most States and Territories, and is recognised nationally and internationally for its leadership in advancing the rights and freedoms of all women and girls with disability.

**Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA)** is the national Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) for women and girls with all types of disability in Australia. DPOs are recognised around the world, and in international human rights law, as self-determining organisations led by, controlled by, and constituted of, people with disability. DPOs are organisations of people with disability, as opposed to organisations who may represent people with disability.

As a DPO, WWDA is run by and for women and girls with disability. Our organisation operates as a transnational human rights organisation - meaning that our work, and the impact of our work, extends much further than Australia. WWDA's work is grounded in a human rights based framework which links gender and disability issues to a full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

WWDA is a founding member of **Disabled People's Organisations Australia (DPO Australia)**, an alliance of four national, population specific and cross-disability DPO's in Australia. DPO Australia was founded by, and is comprised of: **Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA)**, **First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDN)**, **People with Disability Australia (PWDA)**; and, **National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA)**.

The key purpose of DPO Australia is to promote, protect and advance the human rights and freedoms of people with disability in Australia by working collaboratively on areas of shared interests, purposes and strategic priorities and opportunities. DPO Australia is a recognised coordinating point between Government/s and other stakeholders, for consultation and engagement with people with disability in Australia.

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**Awards**

**Winner**, National Human Rights Award 2001  
Winner, National Violence Prevention Award 1999  
Winner, Tasmanian Women's Safety Award 2008  
Certificate of Merit, Australian Crime & Violence Prevention Awards 2008  
Nominee, National Disability Awards 2017  
Nominee, French Republic's Human Rights Prize 2003  
Nominee, UN Millennium Peace Prize for Women 2000
Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA)’s Performance Report demonstrates the key purpose of WWDA: to promote and advance the rights and freedoms of all women and girls with disability. WWDA’s purpose is consistent with Australia’s obligations under Article 6 (Women with disabilities) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and also CRPD General Comment 3 (Women with Disabilities), published by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2016. WWDA’s work is also consistent with a number of Australia’s national legislative and policy frameworks, including the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020; the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022; the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Act 2013; and the Australian Government Strategy to Boost Women’s Workforce Participation (“Towards 2025”).

WWDA’s Performance Report focuses on major activities undertaken by WWDA during the reporting period. These activities are detailed under each of the seven key objectives contained in WWDA’s Work Activity Plan. Activities include WWDA publications, submissions, reports, representation and policy advice. Promotional activities undertaken by WWDA during the reporting period are also detailed in a separate section of the report.

This report is structured in line with WWDA’s Work Activity Plan Objectives July 2016 – December 2017 (see Appendix 1). WWDA’s Work Activity Plan for the reporting period contained seven key objectives, developed in consultation with, and in response to the priority issues identified by WWDA’s membership.

WWDA receives part of its funding from the Australian Government through the Department of Social Services (DSS). Following DSS reforms in 2014 to the model and funding arrangements for disability peak representation in Australia, WWDA applied (through an open tender process) for ongoing operational funding from DSS. WWDA’s tender was successful, and WWDA was subsequently funded for a two-year period to 30 June 2017. In June 2017, WWDA received a six-month extension of our operational funding grant from DSS until the end of December 2017. This report covers the funded period from 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2017.
The participation of women and girls with disability in political and public life at international, national, regional and local levels is clearly articulated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), through Article 29. The critical role of organisations of women with disability in national and international efforts to advance the rights of women and girls with disability is also clearly articulated in the CRPD (Article 31) and has been further clarified through CRPD General Comment 3. The United Nations Secretary General, in his 2017 Report on the ‘Situation of Women and Girls with Disabilities and the Status of the CRPD’ has also made specific recommendations to member states in this area.

During the reporting period (July 2016 – December 2017) WWDA continued to monitor and provide expert input to consultation processes regarding key UN human rights conventions and treaties relevant to women and girls with disability, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). WWDA also contributed to civil society monitoring of domestic implementation of the international human rights treaties to which Australia is a party, including contributing to joint NGO Shadow Reporting processes. WWDA also worked with UN Special Procedures on thematic studies and high-level expert general meetings relevant to advancing the human rights of women and girls with disability at the national and international levels.
WWDA ACTIVITY WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE 1

Activity Description & Key Dates

Key Publications, Submissions, Reports:

1. WWDA: Strengthening Voice and Visibility of Women and Girls with Disability, Keynote Presentation to United Nations High Level Expert Meeting on Women and Girls with Disabilities (November 2016) [PPT] [PDF]
2. WWDA: Contribution to the UN Secretary General Final Report ‘Situation of women and girls with disabilities and the Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto’ (July 2017) [DOC]
3. WWDA: Submission to the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Study on the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Girls with Disabilities (May 2017) [DOC] [PDF] [Final Report DOC]
4. WWDA for and on behalf of DPO Australia: Submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Its Causes and Consequences: Country Visit to Australia (January 2017) [PDF] [DOC]
5. WWDA: Submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): Draft General Recommendation No. 19: Accelerating Elimination of Gender-Based Violence Against Women (September 2016) [PDF] [DOC]
6. WWDA: Contribution to the Review of Australia Fifth Periodic Report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Australian NGO Coalition Submission (May 2017) [PDF]
7. WWDA for and on behalf of DPO Australia: Submission to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities List of issue [Australia] to be adopted during the 18th Session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (June 2017) [DOC] [PDF]
8. WWDA and DPO Australia: Contribution to NGO Submission to the Review of Australia Fifth Periodic Report Under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (May 2017) [DOC] [PDF]
9. WWDA for and on behalf of DPO Australia: Report of the DPO Australia Delegation to Geneva for Australia Review Under Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (November 2017) [DOC] [PDF]
10. WWDA: Using a Holistic Human Rights Framework to Advance The Rights of Women and Girls with Disability: Presentation to Women With Disability Arts and Cultural Network International Conference, Seoul, Korea (October 2016) [PDF] [DOC] [PPT]
11. WWDA: Report from Disability Arts and Cultural Network International Conference, Seoul, Korea (October 2016) [PDF] [DOC]
12. WWDA: Report from the Women's Human Rights Education Institute (WHRI), Toronto, Canada (September 2016) [PDF] [DOC]

Key Representation, Subject Matter Expert Policy Advice:

- Teleconference and webinar with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) regarding the List of issues [Australia] to be adopted during the 18th Session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (June 2017).
- Co-drafting of Fact Sheets for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) regarding the List of issues [Australia] to be adopted during the 18th Session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (June 2017).
- Teleconference and webinar with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) regarding the List of issues [Australia] to be adopted during the 18th Session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (June 2017).
- Co-drafting of Fact Sheets for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) regarding the List of issues [Australia] to be adopted during the 18th Session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (June 2017).
- Provision of briefing materials and information to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) for Australian Government and civil society sponsored COSP Side Events and programs (2016, 2017).
- Collaboration with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) regarding the International Human Rights Funding Program ‘Calendar of Events’ and related processes.
Key Representation, Subject Matter Expert Policy Advice (Cont.)

- WWDA coordinated the 2016 DPOA (formerly ACDA) NGO delegation to the CRPD 9th Conference of States Parties (COSP). WWDA Youth Network Coordinator led the delegation. WWDA wrote the funding application to DSS/AHRC, auspiced the funding grant, and administered all aspects of the funding grant.

- WWDA achieved and used its United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accreditation to engage in UN processes, and to build capacity of DPOA members to attend and participate in international human rights treaty monitoring reviews.

- WWDA maintained invite only membership of the International Taskforce to develop the ‘United Nations Flagship Report on Disability and Development’ (as per UN General Assembly Resolution 69/142) to be submitted to the UN General Assembly in 2018. WWDA Executive Director is a member of the Working Group to write the Chapter on ‘Gender Equality’ for the ‘United Nations Flagship Report on Disability and Development’.


- WWDA maintained membership on the International Technical Advisory Committee and the Expert Advisory Committee of the Global Youth with Disability ‘WE DECIDE’ Program. Provided guidance and expertise on draft reports and other processes.

- WWDA co-hosted the launch of WE DECIDE: A Programme for Equal Opportunities and a Life Free of Violence at the 9th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, New York. WWDA worked with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to organise the launch. Australian Government delegate (DSS) spoke at the launch alongside WWDA.

- WWDA Executive Director represented WWDA members in Santiago, Chile, at the United Nations High Level Expert Meeting on Women and Girls with Disabilities (Nov 2016). The four-day meeting was being held in Santiago, Chile. WWDA Executive Director gave a presentation on the work of WWDA, and showcased some of the recent resources WWDA has developed. WWDA Executive Director also ran a number of workshops and panel discussions during the four day meeting. The proceedings and outcomes from the meeting were used to directly inform the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for Women and Girls with Disabilities, at the seventy second session of the General Assembly (UN Doc Number: A/72/227).

- WWDA met with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences (Ms Dubravka Šimonovic), as part of her official mission to Australia. WWDA attended a Roundtable with the Special Rapporteur in Sydney. The Special Rapporteur also flew to Hobart to meet individually with the WWDA Executive Director to specifically discuss the situation of violence against women and girls with disability (2017). These meetings helped to inform the Special Rapporteur’s End of Mission Statement: http://un.org.au/2017/02/27/end-of-mission-statement-by-dubravka-simonovic-united-nations-special-rapporteur-on-violence-against-women-its-causes-and-consequences/.

To assist with preparation for her report to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar, conducted a global study on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls with disabilities. WWDA attended the invite only High Level Expert Meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls with disabilities. The proceedings and outcomes from the meeting were used to directly inform the Report of the Special Rapporteur’s Global Study: http://www.embracingdiversity.net/files/report/1508487659_report-srhrfor-web.pdf

- WWDA Executive Director received formal accreditation by UN Women as a registered international expert on violence against women (Nov 2017).


- WWDA gave the Keynote Address [‘Using a Holistic Human Rights Framework to Advance The Rights of Women and Girls with Disability’] at the Women With Disability Arts and Cultural Network International Conference, Seoul, Korea (October 2016).
Key Representation, Subject Matter Expert Policy Advice (Cont.)

- WWDA Youth Network Coordinator represented WWDA at the Women’s Human Rights Education Institute (WHRI), Toronto, Canada: two week intensive course [invite only]. (September 2016) [PDF] [DOC]
- Contribution to and endorsement of International Disability Alliance (IDA) submission to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Available at: http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/endorsement-hlpf-2017-official-submission-paper
The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) expressly states the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all efforts to promote the human rights of people with disability, meaning that the rights of women and girls with disability must be addressed when interpreting and implementing each article of the Convention. The CRPD prioritises women and girls with disability as a group warranting specific attention and additional measures. It obliges Governments to take positive actions and measures to ensure that disabled women and girls enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It clarifies the need to ensure that national policies, frameworks and strategies make explicit recognition of the impact of multiple discriminations caused by the intersection of gender and disability, and that such policies and frameworks include focused, gender-specific measures to ensure that women and girls with disability experience full and effective enjoyment of their human rights. Article 6 of the CRPD is a binding non-discrimination and equality provision that unequivocally outlaws discrimination against women and girls with disability and promotes equality of opportunity and equality of outcomes.

During the reporting period (July 2016 – December 2017) WWDA provided a range of submissions, expertise and knowledge to specific Government and other relevant consultation and engagement processes across multiple agencies to advance gender equality and advancement of women and girls with disability.
Key Publications, Submissions, Reports:

1. WWDA: Key Stakeholder Submission to the Consultants undertaking the National Disability Strategy (NDS) Reporting Framework Review (2017)
2. WWDA: Submission to the 2016 National Disability Strategy (NDS) Progress Report Stakeholder Survey
3. WWDA: Submission to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguards ‘Draft Worker Screening Paper’ (2017)
6. WWDA: Submission to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguards ‘Draft Practice Standards’ (2017)
7. WWDA for and on behalf of DPO Australia: Submission to the National Disability Strategy (NDS) Progress Report to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) (2016).
8. WWDA for and on behalf of DPO Australia: Civil Society Statement to the Australian Government Calling for a Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse and Neglect of People with Disability (June 2017)
9. WWDA contribution to DPO Australia Submission to National Disability Insurance Scheme Savings Fund Special Account Bill 2016 Inquiry (October 2016)
10. WWDA contribution to DPO Australia Submission to The Treasury Regarding 2017-18 Federal Budget Priorities (January 2017)
11. WWDA contribution to DPO Australia Submission to Budget Savings (Omnibus) Bill 2017 (March 2017)
14. WWDA contribution to DPO Australia Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Quality and Safeguards Commission and Other Measures) Bill 2017 (August 2017)
15. WWDA contribution to DPO Australia Submission to Medicare Levy Amendment (National Disability Insurance Scheme Funding) and Related Bills Senate Inquiry (September 2017)
16. WWDA contribution to Civil Society NDIS Statement to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Call for Stronger Engagement with People with Disability in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) (2016)

Key Representation, Subject Matter Expert Policy Advice:

- WWDA Executive Director represented WWDA at the 2016 Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Summit on Reducing Violence Against Women, in Brisbane (Oct 2016). The WWDA Executive Director was invited to attend and participate as a member of the Prime Minister’s delegation. The WWDA Executive Director was also interviewed for the highlights video of the Summit. Outcomes of the Summit will inform the development of the Fourth Action Plan under the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children. [https://pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/office-women/coag-2016-national-summit-reducing-violence-against-women-and-their-children](https://pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/office-women/coag-2016-national-summit-reducing-violence-against-women-and-their-children)
- WWDA attended and provided expert advice to the NDIA National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) LGBTIQA+ Sector consultation workshop, Sydney, in regard to the development of a NDIS LGBTIQA+ engagement and inclusion strategy (June 2017)
- WWDA initiated and participated in a series of teleconferences with Department of Social Services (DSS) on all elements of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Framework (2016-2017)
- WWDA is represented on, and has contributed to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) CEO’s Forum (quarterly) (2016-2017).
- WWDA is represented on and has contributed to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Independent Expert Advisory Group (2016-2017).
Key Representation, Subject Matter Expert Policy Advice: (Cont.)

- WWDA is represented on and has contributed to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Practice Standards Technical Advisory Group (2016-2017).
- WWDA directly assisted DSS staff to develop the 2017 online National Disability Strategy (NDS) Progress Report Stakeholder Survey (2017).
- WWDA provided expertise through a 2 hour Key Stakeholder Interview to the Consultants developing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguards Commission Branding and Marketing (2016, 2017).
- WWDA provided expertise through a 2 hour Key Stakeholder Interview to the Consultants developing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguards Commission Name, Role and Function (2016, 2017).
- WWDA attended and contributed to the Department of Social Services (DSS) Roundtable on Reforms to the National Disability Advocacy Program (2016).
- WWDA is represented on and has contributed to the Department of Social Services (DSS) Disability Employment Services (DES) Working Group (2016, 2017).
- WWDA, along with colleagues at First Peoples Disability Network (FPDNA), People with Disability Australia (PWDA), National Ethnic Disability Alliance and Director of DPO Australia, initiated and organised a Roundtable with the Commissioners and staff of the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), to talk about our collective work and human rights (Sept 2016).
- WWDA provided input, expertise and advice to the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Commissioner on the identification and development of the 5 year work plan for the DDA Commissioner.
- WWDA provided input, expertise and advice to the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) Sex Discrimination Commissioner National Consultations to develop ‘Unleashing the power of gender equality: Sex Discrimination Commissioner's Priorities and Focus’ (2016, 2017)
- WWDA attended the two-day Office for Women and National Women's Alliance National Forum in Canberra. Delegates at the annual forum in 2017 explored the broad topic of how to achieve and advance gender equality for all women in Australia (June 2017).
- WWDA participated in a series of consultations with the Office for Women (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet) regarding ways of promoting engagement between the National Women's Alliances and the disability sector (2017).
- WWDA contributed to the KPMG Review of the National Women's Alliances Operating Model (key stakeholder interviews, written submissions) (2016).
- WWDA worked with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) on the Working Group, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Gender Equality – Turning Targets into Action (2016).
- WWDA worked with Telstra to promote accessibility of services for people with disability (2017).
- WWDA promoted the National Disability Awards (2016, 2017) and WWDA delegate attended the Awards functions. WWDA was nominated for the 2017 National Disability awards.
- WWDA collaborated with DSS Consultant on the International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD), including working to identify women and girls with disability (and disability organisations) to be featured in IDPWD media and promotional campaigns. WWDA provided expertise and support to the Consultants. WWDA implemented a social media promotional campaign to raise awareness of and promote IDPWD.
Effective and meaningful participation is at the core of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and underpins the National Disability Strategy (NDS). The CRPD addresses participation as a crosscutting issue, meaning that 'participation' is embedded within all articles. The CRPD makes it clear that people with disability are the key interlocutors in its implementation and monitoring and full and effective participation must be afforded to all persons with disability on all matters affecting them. The meaningful participation of women and girls with disability is elaborated on in more detail in CRPD General Comment 3 and by the United Nations Secretary General, in his 2017 Report on the ‘Situation of Women and Girls with Disabilities and the Status of the CRPD’.

During 2015 and 2016, WWDA conducted extensive national consultations and engagement with women and girls with disability, including the WWDA National Forum of Women and Girls with Disability, in April 2016. From these processes, women and girls with disability from around Australia identified the priority issues that affect them, identified solutions, prioritised actions, and also engaged actively and directly with representatives from the Australian Government on issues relevant to Australian women and girls with disability. The outcomes of these processes directly informed the development of WWDA’s five-year Strategic Plan and priorities for 2017 to 2021.

**WWDA ACTIVITY WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE 3**

Enhance WWDA’s capacity to undertake systemic advocacy on the priority human rights issues identified by women and girls with disability: freedom from all forms of violence; decision-making and participation; sexual and reproductive rights; economic security, justice.
WWDA ACTIVITY WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE 3

Activity Description & Key Dates

Key Publications, Submissions, Reports:

1. WWDA: National Forum for Women and Girls with Disability: Proceedings and Outcomes Report (November 2016) Full Report [PDF] [DOC]; Appendices [PDF] [DOC]
2. WWDA: Human Rights Toolkit for Women and Girls with Disability, First Edition (October 2016) [PDF] [DOC]
3. WWDA: Position Statement 1: The Right to Freedom from All Forms of Violence, First Edition (September 2016) [PDF] [DOC]
4. WWDA: Position Statement 2: The Right to Decision-Making, First Edition (September 2016) [PDF] [DOC]
5. WWDA: Position Statement 3: The Right to Participation, First Edition (September 2016) [PDF] [DOC]
6. WWDA: Position Statement 4: Sexual and Reproductive Rights, First Edition (September 2016) [PDF] [DOC]
7. WWDA: Human Rights Toolkit for Women and Girls with Disability: Video on Human Rights (Part I) (September 2016) [Video]
8. WWDA: Human Rights Toolkit for Women and Girls with Disability: Video on Human Rights (Part 2) (September 2016) [Video]
9. WWDA: Human Rights Toolkit for Women and Girls with Disability: Video on Decision-Making (September 2016) [Video]
10. WWDA: Human Rights Toolkit for Women and Girls with Disability: Video on Violence (September 2016) [Video]
11. WWDA: Human Rights Toolkit for Women and Girls with Disability: Video on Parenting and Children (September 2016) [Video]
12. WWDA: Human Rights Toolkit for Women and Girls with Disability: Video on Employment and Economic Empowerment (September 2016) [Video]
15. WWDA: ‘The Right to Participation’ (2017) [Video]
16. WWDA: ‘Sexual and Reproductive Rights’ (2017) [Video]
17. WWDA: ‘Work and Education’ (2017) [Video]
20. WWDA: Opinion: Bonsai Babies – Cheryl McDonnell (July 2016) [PDF] [DOC] [RTF]
21. WWDA: Opinion: Unfettered Ability – Cheryl McDonnell (July 2016) [PDF] [DOC] [RTF]

Key Representation, Subject Matter Expert Policy Advice:

- In late 2017, WWDA Executive Director was appointed to the 1800RESPECT National Sector Advisory Group (NSAG) to provide expertise and guidance on all aspects of the 1800RESPECT Service (2017).
- WWDA Executive Director was appointed to the National 1800RESPECT Implementation Clinical Advisory Group (ICAG), established by Medibank Health Solutions and the Australian Government, to provide advice and leadership on the development and implementation of a new operating model for the 1800RESPECT ‘First Response’ [Triage] Service (2016).
- WWDA Executive Director attended the formal launch of the 1800RESPECT ‘First Response’ [Triage] Service as an invited guest of the Minister for DSS and the Minister for Women (2016).
- WWDA developed and co-ordinated the Civil Society Statement to the Australian Government Calling for a Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse and Neglect of People with Disability (June 2017).
- WWDA provided comprehensive advice and expertise to KPMG to assist their work for the Department of Social Services (Family Safety Branch) on the development of Draft Standards for Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Services (2016).
- WWDA provided comprehensive advice and expertise to the Department of Social Services (Family Safety Branch) and the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on the development of the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions (2016).
WWDA member Sarah Houbolt gave a keynote address on ‘Violence Against Women and Girls with Disability’ to the Australian National Family and Domestic Violence Summit (2017).

WWDA successfully advocated for four free registrations for women with disability to attend the two-day Australian National Family and Domestic Violence Summit (2017).

WWDA attended and contributed to the National Roundtable on the Cross-Examination of Victims of Family Violence in the Family Law Courts (2016).

WWDA was a member of the National Advisory and Organising Committee for the International Conference on Violence Against Women, hosted by Our Watch and the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) (2016).

WWDA member Aminath Didi gave a keynote address on ‘Violence Against Women and Girls with Disability’ to the International Conference on Violence Against Women, hosted by Our Watch and the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) (Sept 2016).


WWDA is a registered Peer Reviewer for ANROWS Research and Landscape Research Papers, and has conducted peer reviews (2016, 2017).

WWDA designed and promoted a series of infographics over sixteen days as part of the 2016 ‘orange the world’ 16 days of activism campaign to raise awareness of gender based violence against women (2016). See: http://wwda.org.au/16days2016/

WWDA designed and promoted a series of infographics over sixteen days as part of the 2017 ‘16 days of activism campaign to raise awareness of gender based violence against women’ (2017). See: http://wwda.org.au/16days2017/

WWDA attended the 1800RESPECT Stand Together event in Melbourne to represent women with disability, alongside individuals from 16 different sectors. The event raised awareness of the 1800RESPECT counselling service, and coincided with the 16 Days of Action global campaign to end violence against women.

WWDA provided expertise and advice to the Core Community Services Multicultural Communities Team on a research project to address forced and coerced marriage.

WWDA developed and delivered the National Webinar ‘Understanding Violence against women with disability’ for the 1800RESPECT Webinar series (2016).

WWDA undertook a series of media interviews relating to key issues affecting women and girls with disability in Australia, particularly regarding all forms of violence against women and girls with disability. See for e.g.:


https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/mar/24/changes-to-and-domestic-violence-hotline-were-sorely-needed-to-meet-demand


**Major Project:**

During 2016, Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA) conducted a six-month project to assess the adequacy and accessibility of **1800RESPECT** – the national sexual assault, domestic and family violence telephone and online counselling, information and referral service for people living in Australia. 1800RESPECT is funded by the Department of Social Services (DSS) and delivered by **Medibank Health Solutions** (MHS) on behalf of the Australian Government. WWDA worked with a range of women and girls with disability to design an inclusive and intersectional national violence prevention and response service. Outputs included workshops, surveys, forums, interviews, focus groups, social media forums, and written submissions.

The Australian Government utilised the information and recommendations from WWDA’s Project Report to inform the development of the Third Action Plan of the **National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children** (the Plan) and has acted on several of the recommendations stemming from WWDA’s Report, including announcing significant Project funding for 1800RESPECT to deliver 2 specific projects to address violence against women and girls with disability; along with provision of funding for an external Consultant to develop a disability training module as part of the national DV Alert program run by Lifeline.

WWDA’s six month Project ‘Improving Service Responses for Women with Disability Experiencing Violence: 1800RESPECT’ was nominated for the 2017 National Disability Awards. The Final Report of WWDA’s Project, which contained 43 recommendations (including a series directed to whole of government), was formally published in late 2016. [PDF] [DOC]

During the reporting period (July 2016 – December 2017), WWDA also worked extensively with 1800RESPECT to review and re-write content for the 1800RESPECT website to be more inclusive of women and girls with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women; and women from CALD communities.
The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) recognises the importance of ensuring that all persons with disability, irrespective of age, enjoy the same human rights as everyone else and provides a framework for legal, civic, and socioeconomic empowerment. Effective implementation of the Convention requires a focused effort by all sectors to guarantee that young people with disability participate in mainstreamed as well as in disability specific programs on an equal basis with others.

The need for building capacity of young women and girls with disability to learn about and understand their human rights has been identified by women and girls with disability in Australia as a priority issue. The WWDA Youth Network was established by young WWDA members as an engagement, consultation and information platform for young women and girls with disability (aged 13-30 years), with a particular focus on adolescents. The WWDA Youth Network was formally launched by the Minister for Women and the Sex Discrimination Commissioner at a public event in July 2015. The WWDA Youth Network is un-funded and is reliant on WWDA securing project funds for it to operate. In late 2016, WWDA was successful in securing a small project funding grant from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Office for Women) to run a 6 month project (Feb 2016-Aug 2016) to promote the human rights of young women and girls with disability.
During the reporting period, the WWDA Youth Network engaged and consulted with young women and girls with disability to develop and publish a range of resource materials for young women and girls with disability. This work was assisted in part, through the small project funding grant from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Office for Women).

1. WWDA Youth Network: Human Rights Workbook – First Edition (July 2017) [PDF] [DOC] [RTF]
2. WWDA Youth Network: Position Statement 1: Violence (June 2017) [PDF] [DOC] [RTF]
3. WWDA Youth Network: Position Statement 2: Decision-Making (July 2017) [PDF] [DOC] [RTF]
4. WWDA Youth Network: Position Statement 3: Participation (July 2017) [PDF] [DOC] [RTF]
5. WWDA Youth Network: Position Statement 4: Sexual and Reproductive Rights (July 2017) [PDF] [DOC] [RTF]
6. WWDA Youth Network: Position Statement 5: Work and Education (July 2017) [PDF] [DOC] [RTF]
7. WWDA Youth Network: Position Statement 6: Justice (July 2017) [PDF] [DOC] [RTF]
8. WWDA Youth Network: Position Statement 7: Young Women and Girls with Disability (July 2017) [PDF] [DOC] [RTF]
10. WWDA Youth Network: ‘Violence Against Women and Girls with Disability’ (2017) [Video]

- International Women’s Day 2017 – The WWDA Youth Network participated in the International Women’s Day March in 2017 in Melbourne. The WWDA Youth Network Convenor interviewed young people attending the March, and developed a video from the event. [Video]
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Conference of States Parties (2016) – the WWDA Youth Network Coordinator led the Australian NGO delegation at the 2016 9th session of the CRPD Conference of States Parties (COSP). During the event, the WWDA Youth Network interviewed seven delegates, both Civil Society and Government, working in different countries around the world. They discussed the global barriers facing young women and girls with disability, and the changes each of these advocates hoped to see in the years to come. [Video] [WWDA Youth Network COSP Report]
- The WWDA Youth Network Coordinator also represented WWDA at the launch of ‘WE DECIDE: A Programme for Equal Opportunities and a Life Free of Violence’ at the 9th Session of the COSP to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, New York. The WWDA Youth Network Coordinator was one of the key panel guests at the launch, and gave a presentation. The Australian Government delegate from the Department of Social Services (DSS) spoke at the launch alongside WWDA. WWDA and the WWDA Youth Network assisted in the development and production of the ‘WE DECIDE Video’ which was launched globally and features a number of young people with disability from Australia. [WE DECIDE Video]
- The website of the WWDA Youth Network was expanded during the reporting period, with content developed in response to issues identified by young women with disability. During the reporting period, the WWDA Youth Network was expanded over digital platforms including Twitter, the WWDA Youth Network Facebook Page; the WWDA Youth Network Instagram account, and the WWDA Youth Network YouTube channel. The WWDA Youth Network undertook a series of promotional activities during the reporting period across its digital platforms.
Activity Description & Key Dates

- International Day of the Girl 2016 - For International Day of the Girl 2016 the WWDA Youth Network released its first episode of “Talkin’ Bout Rights”. It features video interviews with 7 participants of the Women’s Human Rights Education Institute (WHRI) Intensive Program 2016 discussing their understanding of rights for women and girls.

- During the reporting period, the WWDA Youth Network was expanded over digital platforms including Twitter, the WWDA Youth Network Facebook Page; the WWDA Youth Network Instagram account, and the WWDA Youth Network YouTube channel. The WWDA Youth Network undertook a series of promotional activities during the reporting period across its digital platforms.

- International Day of the Girl 2016 - For International Day of the Girl 2016 the WWDA Youth Network released its first episode of “Talkin’ Bout Rights”. It features video interviews with 7 participants of the Women’s Human Rights Education Institute (WHRI) Intensive Program 2016 discussing their understanding of rights for women and girls.
As a Disabled People’s Organisation (DPO), WWDA consistently seeks out opportunities to build its capacity to meaningfully engage with its members and stakeholders. During the reporting period, WWDA has further developed its online presence and reach and has undertaken specific activities to improve its internal systems and processes, including pursuing opportunities to secure funding for the organisation. WWDA is an organisation of two permanent full time staff. WWDA’s staff is supported by a volunteer Board of Management.

**WWDA ACTIVITY WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE 5**

Further develop infrastructure and systems to support the organisation to achieve its vision, goals and objectives, including building WWDA’s capacity to consult and engage with women and girls with disability.
### WWDA ACTIVITY WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE 5

#### Key Activities:

1. **Production and Dissemination of ‘WWDA News’ Bulletins**: WWDA produces regular ‘Bulletins’ which are disseminated worldwide. During the reporting period, WWDA developed and published nineteen Bulletins. Every WWDA Bulletin includes information promoting government and other relevant initiatives, consultations, and opportunities for engagement with women and girls with disability. WWDA Bulletins also provide information on key activities being undertaken by the DRO sector. WWDA also produces Feature Bulletins on issue based and thematic areas. See: [http://wwda.org.au/category/bulletins/](http://wwda.org.au/category/bulletins/)

2. **Social Media Campaigns** – During the reporting period, WWDA has initiated and developed a series of social media campaigns on key issues and thematic areas, consistent with the priority issues identified by women and girls with disability in Australia. WWDA has also used social media campaigns to promote key Government and related initiatives, including for example: the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and International Day of People with Disabilities.

3. **During the reporting period, WWDA has expanded its online reach and engagement mechanisms through its digital platforms including Twitter, the WWDA Facebook Page; the WWDA Website; and the establishment of the WWDA YouTube channel. WWDA has undertaken an extensive series of promotional activities during the reporting period across all its digital platforms.**

4. **Transition to Cloud based systems** – During 2017, WWDA began the process of transitioning to cloud based systems for implementation and storage of all WWDA files (including archival), all email systems, and accounting and financial management systems. This work will continue in 2018.

5. **WWDA Website Development and Maintenance** – WWDA’s website is one of the largest websites in the world dedicated to gender and disability. It is now over 20 years old, and WWDA is seeking funding from external sources to re-develop the website into a fully accessible and functional digital platform. During the reporting period, WWDA has maintained currency of the website, which houses more than 3,000 separate publications and resources.

6. **Tender Application for Disability Representative Organisations (DROs) Funding Grant** – WWDA’s operational grant funding from the Department of Social Services (DSS) expired on 31st December 2017. In late 2016, the Australian Government advertised grant funding for ‘Disability Representative Organisations (DRO’s) through an open public tender process. WWDA undertook significant work to develop the Tender Application for WWDA, which was submitted to the Australian Government by the requisite closing date of 6th October 2017. WWDA was advised in late December 2017 that our Tender Application was successful, and the organisation would be funded $300,000 per annum to end June 2020.

7. **Tender Application for Women’s Leadership and Development Grants Program** – In late 2017, WWDA undertook significant work to develop a Tender Application to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) Women’s Leadership and Development Grants Program, administered by the Office for Women. This grant opportunity was advertised as an open public tender process. WWDA’s application is to conduct a specific project over two years based on one of the identified priorities of women and girls with disability (to reduce all forms of violence against women and girls with disability). Successful applicants are expected to be notified in late February 2018.

8. **Tender Application for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC): ILC National Readiness Grants** – In late 2017, WWDA undertook significant work to develop a Tender Application to the NDIS National ILC National Readiness Grants Program. This grant opportunity was advertised as an open public tender process. WWDA’s application is to conduct a specific project over two years based on the identified priorities of women and girls with disability. Successful applicants are expected to be notified in late February 2018.

9. **Establishment and Ongoing Development of Automated Email Distribution Lists** – During the reporting period, WWDA continued to build on the development of information dissemination mechanisms, including through the subscription based program ‘Campaign Monitor’. WWDA has continued its work to build targeted email distribution lists within this Program, including for e.g.: by sector; by key issues and thematic areas; by jurisdictions; by membership status; by government agencies; by Federal, State and Territory politicians; and so on. This work will continue in 2018.
Increasing Demand for Individual Advocacy:

Although WWDA is not funded to undertake individual advocacy, WWDA continues to be regularly contacted by people with disability, service providers, families, carers, and others, for direct assistance with individual advocacy. On many occasions, those contacting WWDA have been given WWDA’s details by another service or individual, and been advised to contact WWDA. These referrals to WWDA also come from crisis services and services which are specifically funded to undertake individual advocacy, including those funded by the Australian Government under the National Disability Advocacy Program.

Many of those contacting WWDA have often been on a ‘referral merry-go-round’ and still not managed to secure any support or service response to their issue/s. More often than not, these issues are urgent and require an immediate response. Issues for which WWDA has been contacted to provide direct individual advocacy are many and varied, but key issues and themes include: violence and abuse; violations of sexual and reproductive rights; legal issues; removal of babies and children; lack of services and support programs; lack of coordination of care; discrimination in employment; discrimination in education; lack of friendships and supported recreational opportunities; confusion and lack of information about the NDIS; significant problems relating to the NDIS Implementation (particularly around planning, review, lack of support workers, conflicting information and guidelines, and much more). WWDA spends on average, approximately 15 hours per week on dealing with urgent requests for individual advocacy, and many of these calls and contacts come outside of business hours.
During the reporting period, WWDA has continued to employ high standard governance and financial management practices. WWDA has met all reporting and accountability requirements as well as those in relation to WWDA's funding bodies. In accordance with the constitutional requirements of the organisation, WWDA's service agreements; the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT); and the Charities Act 2013 (Cth), WWDA has undertaken a wide range of internal and external reporting and accountability requirements. WWDA has also undertaken a significant amount of work in relation to governance, including financial management, human resources, and related reporting.
WWDA ACTIVITY WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE 6

Activity Description & Key Dates

Key Activities:

- Development and publication of the new Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA) 5 Year Strategic Plan: Strategic Plan 2017-2021 (February 2017) [PDF] [DOC]
- Development and publication of Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA): Annual Report 2016-17 (October 2017) [PDF] [DOC]
- Development and publication of Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA): Annual Report 2015-16 (December 2016) [PDF] [DOC]
- WWDA undertook reporting in accordance with the constitutional requirements of the organisation, WWDA’s service agreements; the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT); and the Charities Act 2013 (Cth) (2016, 2017).
- WWDA prepared and completed Annual Reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (2016, 2017)
- WWDA prepared and submitted WWDA Service Agreement (and relevant Project funding contracts) Progress and Project Reports and financial acquittals (2016, 2017)
- Monthly financial reports prepared by the WWDA Accountant and provided to the WWDA Management Committee.
- Annual Auditing of WWDA financial statements by registered audit company in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Auditing Standards (2016, 2017)
- WWDA worked collaboratively with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop and refine Service Agreement reporting frameworks, including the development of outcome based reporting measures (2017).
- WWDA participated in and completed performance review procedures and processes with the Department of Social Services (DSS) (2016, 2017).
- WWDA held quarterly meetings of the WWDA Management Committee (2016, 2017)
- WWDA Annual General Meeting conducted in accordance with regulatory and constitutional requirements (2016, 2017).
- Fortnightly meetings conducted between WWDA Executive Director and the President of the WWDA Management Committee (2016, 2017).
- Annual Review and renewal of WWDA Insurance policies by WWDA Executive Director and WWDA Management Committee (2016, 2017)
- Annual review of 5 year WWDA Strategic Plan by WWDA Executive Director and WWDA Management Committee (2016, 2017)
- Review and update of WWDA Management Committee Orientation Kit (2017)
- WWDA updated and further developed WWDA Governance policies and procedures, including finalising development of the WWDA Employee Handbook (2016, 2017).
- WWDA contracted the services of Employsure to review internal workplace policies and assist in updating to be consistent with all relevant laws (2016, 2017).
- WWDA applied for and received an Australian Registered Body Number (ARBN) from the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC).
- WWDA applied for and received a certification of currency certificate from the ACT Government to verify currency of WWDA’s Incorporation status.
- WWDA prepared and submitted WWDA Annual Return to ACT Office of Regulatory Services (2016).
Disabled People’s Organisations Australia (DPO Australia) (formerly known as the Australian Cross Disability Alliance) was established in early 2015 by four national cross-disability DPOs. Consistent with WWDA’s contractual obligations for the reporting period, WWDA has worked collaboratively to maintain and continue to build DPO Australia at the national and international levels as the coordinating point for engagement with the Australian Disabled Peoples Organisation (DPO) sector.

During the reporting period, the four member organisations of DPO Australia pooled resources to appoint a Director for the Alliance, in an effort to lead, direct, co-ordinate and manage the strategic and operational functioning of DPO Australia, including high-level policy development and specific initiatives to facilitate engagement and collaboration with the disability and other sectors. This pooled funding expired in December 2017. Efforts undertaken during the reporting period to secure funding from Government sources for continuation of the DPO Australia Director position, proved unsuccessful. DPO Australia will continue to operate into the future, and its member organisations are developing a framework for its operation in the absence of the Director position. DPO Australia will continue to pursue opportunities to seek funding support to adequately resource a Director of DPO Australia.
Key Activities:

1. WWDA built and maintained the original Australian Cross Disability Alliance (ACDA) website and set up email addresses and contact point.
2. WWDA designed and built the new Disabled People’s Organisations Australia (DPO Australia) website and migrated all content from the ACDA site. WWDA manages email addresses for the DPO Australia website.
3. WWDA registered and paid for the original ACDA domain name. WWDA registered the new DPO Australia domain name and pays the monthly domain hosting fees for the DPO Australia website infrastructure.
4. WWDA maintains all aspects of the DPO Australia website.
5. WWDA contributed $75,000 (from WWDA Leadership and Development funds) towards the cost of the DPO Australia Director position.
6. WWDA wrote the Position Description for the DPOA Director position and drafted the DPO Australia National Council Role and functions document.
7. WWDA’s Director of Strategic Policy and Communications works as member of the DPO Australia Communications Team.
8. WWDA CEO participates in fortnightly DPO Australia CEO meetings.
9. WWDA CEO and WWDA President attend and participate in the National Council meetings of DPO Australia.
10. WWDA has participated in DPO Australia Planning Forums and review processes.
11. WWDA has undertaken key projects for and on behalf of DPO Australia – see other sections of this Report.
12. WWDA has drafted several submissions for and on behalf of DPO Australia - see other sections of this Report.
13. WWDA has contributed advice and expertise into other DPO Australia submissions and initiatives.
14. WWDA has represented DPO Australia at international and national events, meetings and initiatives.
15. WWDA has participated in a significant number of meetings between DPO Australia and the Department of Social Services (DSS).
16. WWDA has contributed as a member of DPO Australia, to all relevant DSS Departmental led Review processes.
17. WWDA wrote the Draft DPO Australia Activity Work Plan July 2016 - June 2017, for and on behalf of DPO Australia.
18. WWDA developed the draft of the DPO Australia Activity Report Activity Progress Report August 2015 – April 2016.
WWDA has extensive reach through its established networks and collaborative relationships. Utilising a range of mechanisms, including through its digital platforms, WWDA has promoted and shared its own work, but has also actively promoted and disseminated information for and on behalf of a wide range of stakeholders, including Government agencies. It is outside the scope of this report to detail all the promotional work WWDA has undertaken, however, the following examples highlight the breadth and scope of WWDA’s efforts in this area.
WWDA promoted a wide range of relevant State and Federal Government policy announcements and consultations, Government funded events and a range of Parliamentary inquiries and reviews, including promotion of:

- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) suite of educational resources for consumers with disability and the businesses supplying them.
- Tasmanian Commissioner for Children and Young People’s report on how children respond to and experience family violence.
- Consultation mechanism in regard to Disability Employment Services (DES) reform. WWDA was represented on the reference group comprised disability sector peak body representatives.
- The announcement of the establishment of the Australian Government’s National Disability and Carers Advisory Council.
- Department of Social Services (DSS) Draft Service Delivery Model consultation for proposed integrated carer support service system.
- Tasmanian Commissioner for Children and Young People’s report on how children respond to and experience family violence.
- Joint DPO Australia media release to celebrate and promote International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) events and awards.
- International Day of People with Disability, National Disability Awards 2017.
- Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, launch of new Australian Government strategy to reduce the gender participation gap by 25 percent by 2025 - a commitment made during Australia’s G20 Presidency.
- NSW State Government consultation on improving efforts to prevent and respond to sexual assault and sexual violence in NSW.
- Project Open Doors initiative which aims to effect change in the way people living with disability are represented in the media, and develop a body of media reporting about issues affecting the disability sector.
- Attorney General release of draft legislative amendments to the Family Law Act 1975 to ensure people who experience family violence are protected from being cross-examined in court by alleged perpetrators.
- Australian Government invitation for people with disability (and their families) to complete the a survey about progress made under the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020.
- NSW Ombudsman report on incidents of physical assault, sexual assault, neglect and fraud in NSW disability services between December 2014 and March 2017.
- Launch of Brain Injury Australia research consortium to explore the prevalence of brain injury among family violence survivors and perpetrators.
- National LGBTI Health Alliance and NDIS consultation opportunities for LGBTI people with disability to input into the NDIS LGBTI strategy.
- Productivity Commission review into NDIS Costs and call for submissions.
- DSS scheme to pay people with disability additional payments if their Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE) wages were assessed unfairly under the BSWAT scheme.
- Close the Gap Steering Committees’ Progress and Priorities Report on working to end Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health inequality.
- Productivity Commission review into NDIS Costs and call for submissions. This included encouraging individuals with disability to contribute to the PWD submission.
- Release of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Framework.
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) suite of accessible resources to ensure that everyone knows their consumer rights and how to get help to use these rights if something you pay for isn’t right. Promotion to members of survey related to quality and usefulness of the resources.
- National Disability Discrimination Commissioner’s national consultations on advancing the rights of people with disability in Australia, including rights concerning employment, education, housing, criminal justice system, NDIS implementation, and violence.
- Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) consultation and plan to support people with a disability who have had breast cancer.
- NDIS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Strategy.
- NDIS Quarterly Progress Report covering period 1 January to 31 March 2017.
First Peoples Disability Network Redfern Statement Disability Workshop and meetings with Government.

Joint DPO Australia media release following Budget 2017-18 and welcoming NDIS funding and establishment of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Framework.

Opportunity for members to have input into National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) development of a Code of Conduct.

Federal government media release regarding legislation to establish National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguards Commission.

Australian Human Rights Commission’s consultation with civil society regarding effective implementation of the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

Passage of legislation implementing provisions contained in the Marrakesh Treaty in Australia in relation to access to copyrighted works.

Case study report from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse on ‘Institutional responses to allegations of the sexual abuse of children with disability’.

National Human Rights Awards. A WWDA member was the recipient of the Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Award 2016.

Launch of world first, Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health (CRE-DH), by the Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Alastair McEwin, at the University of Melbourne.

DSS NDIS Draft Code of Conduct consultation to our members.

Revised NDIS Independent Advisory Board launch and secondment of several WWDA members to the board.

International Day of People with Disability, National Disability Awards 2017.

Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, launch of new Australian Government strategy to reduce the gender participation gap by 25 percent by 2025 - a commitment made during Australia’s G20 Presidency.

NSW State Government consultation on improving efforts to prevent and respond to sexual assault and sexual violence in NSW.

Open Doors initiative which aims to effect change in the way people living with disability are represented in the media, and develop a body of media reporting about issues affecting the disability sector.

Attorney General release of draft legislative amendments to the Family Law Act 1975 to ensure people who experience family violence are protected from being cross-examined in court by alleged perpetrators.

Australian Government invitation for people with disability (and their families) to complete a survey about progress made under the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020.

University of Melbourne PhD scholarships to research the social determinants of health in relation to people with disability.

NSW Ombudsman report on incidents of physical assault, sexual assault, neglect and fraud in NSW disability services between December 2014 and March 2017.

Interview with Professor Gillian Triggs on her last day as President of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Regional Disability Advocacy Service (RDAS) announcement of new services to increase advocacy and information to people from culturally diverse backgrounds living in north-east Victoria and southern NSW.

Launch of Brain Injury Australia research consortium to explore the prevalence of brain injury among family violence survivors and perpetrators.

The 7th International Carers Conference, to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 4 to 6 October 2017.


Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) information on updating electoral roll details.

Employment opportunities with 1800RESPECT program (to conduct 2 national projects on women with disability).

ANROWS research that explored rural women’s help-seeking and coping experiences regarding domestic and family violence.

BSWAT registration process for back payments.

2017 National Disability Awards.

Western Australia decision to join the NDIS.

WWDA’s attendance at Attorney General’s Department NGO Human Rights Forum.
WWDA promoted a wide range of relevant State and Federal Government policy announcements and consultations, Government funded events and a range of Parliamentary inquiries and reviews, including promotion of:

- UN report on incidents of violence and abuse of children with disability in Australian schools.
- Human Rights Commissioner Susan Ryan leaving Age and Disability Discrimination Commissioner role.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) launch of seven interlinked strategies to reduce violence against children.
- Call for submissions to United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ study on provision of support to persons with disabilities.
- Article regarding the right of couples with Down's Syndrome to have children and parent on an equal basis with others.
- International Day of the Girl Child 2016. WWDA created and promoted a video featuring 7 participants of the Women's Human Rights Education Institute (WHRI) Intensive Program 2016 discussing their understanding of rights for women and girls.
- International Day of People with Disability - National Disability Awards.
- Call for Papers to 8th International Human Rights Education Conference, Montreal, Canada.
- World Down Syndrome Day information and events to our members.
- World AIDS Day information and events to our members.
- International video project of women and girls with disability talking about making their own decisions in relation to sexual and reproductive rights.
- International Women's Day events.
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Indigenous Fellowship Programme (IFP) - a comprehensive human rights training program to support and engage the capacity and expertise of indigenous representatives in the UN system.
- Draft General Comment on the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community (CRPD, Article 19) and call for submissions regarding the Draft General Comment.
- Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities call for submission to research on the sexual and reproductive health rights of girls with disabilities.
- Opportunity for people with disability and organisations to contribute submissions to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities Draft General Comment on the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community (CRPD, Article 19).
- UN Civil Society CRPD Forum 2017 (Geneva).
- European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) new report on 'Addressing Barriers to Independent Living Across the Globe'.
- Interview with Professor Gillian Triggs on her last day as President of the Australian Human Rights Commission.
- Human Rights Watch article on coerced and forced sterilisation of people with intersex variations.
- International Youth Day information and events to our members.
- International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples.
- WWDA and DPO Australia meeting with CRPD committee to present List of Issues submission.
- UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, report on the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia.
- International Day of The Girl information and events to our members.
- DPO Australia delegation activities in Geneva for Australia’s review under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- International Day of People with Disability information and events to our members.
The seven Key Objectives of WWDA’s Work Activity Plan for the funding period include:

1. Build on and further develop WWDA’s profile and reputation at the national and international levels as the globally recognised leader on advancing the human rights of women and girls with disability.

2. Enhance WWDA’s capacity to actively contribute to the Australian Government’s work to strengthen the provision of gender analysis, advice and mainstreaming across Government and ensure the voices of women and girls with disability are included in legislative and policy development all at levels.

3. Enhance WWDA’s capacity to undertake systemic advocacy on the priority human rights issues identified by women and girls with disability:
   - freedom from all forms of violence,
   - decision-making and participation,
   - sexual and reproductive rights,
   - economic security,
   - justice.

4. Build the capacity and voices of girls and young women with disability (aged 13-30 years) through further development of the WWDA Youth Network.

5. Further develop infrastructure and systems to support the organisation to achieve its vision, goals and objectives, including building WWDA’s capacity to consult and engage with women and girls with disability.

6. Demonstrate the highest standard of governance and fiduciary responsibility.

7. Further develop Disabled People’s Organisations Australia (DPO Australia) as the national human rights based model of DPO representation to effect its purpose to promote, protect and advance the human rights and freedoms of people with disability in Australia.
1. For e.g.: at para 62(v) ‘Support and promotion of international cooperation and assistance in a manner consistent with all national efforts to eliminate the legal, procedural, practical or social barriers to the full development, advancement and empowerment of women with disabilities in their communities as well as at the national, regional and global levels and the inclusion of women with disabilities in the design, implementation and monitoring of international cooperation projects and programmes that affect their lives. UN Doc. No. CRPD/C/GC/3.

2. For e.g.: at para 62(e) ‘Advance coordination and accountability mechanisms to catalyse work for women and girls with disabilities and build partnerships and networks at the national, regional and global levels among, inter alia, Governments, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, including women’s organizations and organizations of women and persons with disabilities, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.’ UN Doc No: A/72/227.

3. See: UN Doc. No. CRPD/C/GC/3

4. See for e.g.: at para 23 ‘In line with a human rights-based approach, ensuring the empowerment of women with disabilities means promoting their participation in public decision-making. Women and girls with disabilities have historically encountered many barriers to participation in public decision-making. Due to power imbalances and multiple forms of discrimination, they have had fewer opportunities to establish or join organizations that can represent their needs as women and persons with disabilities. States parties should reach out directly to women and girls with disabilities and establish adequate measures to guarantee that the perspectives of women and girls with disabilities are fully taken into account and that they will not be subjected to any reprisals for expressing their viewpoints and concerns, especially in relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence including sexual violence. Finally, States parties must promote the participation of representative organizations of women with disabilities beyond disability-specific consultative bodies and mechanisms.’ See also para 62(a)(iii): ‘Addressing all barriers that prevent or restrict the participation of women with disabilities and ensuring that women with disabilities as well as the views and opinions of girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are included in the design, implementation and monitoring of all programmes which have an impact on their lives; including women with disabilities in all branches and bodies of the national monitoring system.’ UN Doc. No. CRPD/C/GC/3.

5. See for e.g.: at para 62(a) ‘Strengthen the normative and policy frameworks for equality and the full participation of women and girls with disabilities in society and development, including, inter alia, ending violence and all forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;’ and at para 62(b) ‘Promote the full and effective participation of women and girls with disabilities in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres, and advance their empowerment and leadership roles at all levels of decision-making’. UN Doc No: A/72/227.


7. Disabled People’s Organisations Australia, known as ‘DPO Australia’ is an alliance of four national Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs) in Australia. The key purpose of DPO Australia is to promote, protect and advance the human rights and freedoms of people with disability in Australia by working collaboratively on areas of shared interests, purposes and strategic priorities and opportunities. DPO Australia (formerly known as the Australian Cross Disability Alliance) was founded by, and is comprised of four national cross-disability DPOs: First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDNA); Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA); National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA); and People with Disability Australia (PWDA). The member organisations of DPO Australia have been funded by the Australian Government as independent organisations, but also in acknowledgment of DPO Australia as a recognised coordinating point between Government’s and other stakeholders, for consultation and engagement with people with disability in Australia. The four founding member organisations of DPO Australia recognise and value the strength of working together in a spirit of mutual respect and trust, to proactively pursue human rights outcomes for all people with disability in Australia. See: [www.dpoa.org.au](http://www.dpoa.org.au)