

# Count Me In

A better future for everyone



**Implementing priorities  
and pathways  
Stocktake**  
December 2013

“My message to people with disability, their families and carers or anyone who wants to contribute to society is to have a go at getting something done, think of an inclusive idea and get the community involved – you’ll be pleasantly surprised at the results.”

Fred Platcher, Count Me In Ambassador and community advocate. Fred passed away in 2013. One of his last roles as an Ambassador involved travelling with fellow Ambassador and Paralympian Katrina Porter to spread Count Me In messages in Carnarvon and Exmouth.

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“I want my community to be a vibrant place where local people can come together and where diversity and ability can be celebrated.”

Samantha Jenkinson, Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability

## Understanding disability

- A person is considered to have a disability when they have one or more impairments – physical, sensory, intellectual, cognitive or psychiatric – and when their home, work and recreational environments are not sufficiently accessible and inclusive for them to participate in everyday activities.
- Disability is not defined by the type or number of impairments a person has. Rather, it reflects the interaction between a person's impairments and the features of the society in which he or she lives. Overcoming the difficulties faced by people with disability requires interventions to remove environmental and social barriers while providing personalised and individualised supports, services, equipment and technology.
- Almost one in five people in Western Australia report that they have a disability (see footnote 1). This includes intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairments. Most people live their lives without the need for specialised support or services.
- Around one in 25 West Australians have a disability and experience significant limitations in mobility, self-care and the ability to communicate – or a combination of these areas – and are likely to need ongoing personalised assistance. Just over one in 33 people are aged less than 65 years and are eligible for services or funding provided by the Disability Services Commission (see footnote 2).

<sup>1, 2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2012b, Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

“The Count Me In Ambassador program is unique – a group of individuals with common values but different passions combining their energy and influence. No wonder people are sitting up and taking notice.”

Bruce Langoulant, Disability Services Commission Chair and patron of the Count Me In Ambassador program

## What Count Me In Ambassadors say.....

“Count Me In isn’t about people with disability wanting more or different but about having the same opportunities as you have.”

“Everyone in the community has the ability to be part of positive change.”

“Inaccessible unacceptable – access for one, access for all.”

“People with disability are mentors – exemplars living extraordinary lives.”

“People first – disability last....focus on the person.”

“Not for, or to, but **with** people with disability.”

For more information on each Count Me In Ambassador visit the Commission’s website, [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > About us > Count Me In > Count Me In Ambassadors.

# Introduction

Count Me In sets future directions to guide all West Australians as they respond to people with disability and create stronger communities. With a long-term vision that 'all people live in welcoming communities that facilitate citizenship, friendship, mutual support and a fair go for everyone', Count Me In identifies the most important strategies for government agencies, local governments, disability sector organisations, private enterprises and community groups to embrace. In doing so, Western Australia will be a State that welcomes and ensures the participation and leadership of people with disability. To count in people with disability means that many other West Australians will also be welcomed and included.

Many people helped form Count Me In, including people with disability, their families and carers, community members, service providers and representatives from all levels of government. Count Me In has been adopted as a major social policy in WA and was launched by the Premier on the International Day of People with Disability in December 2009. The Disability Services Commission (the Commission) continues to disseminate and promote Count Me In across the State to all stakeholders as a contemporary and visionary strategy and one in which all West Australians will benefit and have a part to play.

The Count Me In framework has three areas of focus, 13 priorities and 80 pathways or strategies. One of the three areas of focus – Personalised Supports and Services – outlines directions for people who experience significant levels of impairment and disability to have access to individualised and contemporary services. This is reflected in the Commission's My Way project and a range of new individualised approaches. It also aligns with national developments to provide contemporary funding and support to people with disability.

The other two areas of focus – Economic and Community Foundations, and Participation and Contribution – focus on people with disability achieving economic security, being able to move easily around their homes and communities and being welcomed and included at school, work, in leisure activities and all other aspects of life. These areas are critical for government agencies, local governments, disability sector organisations, private enterprises and community groups to embed within their services, programs and activities. All priorities align strongly with national initiatives currently driven through implementing the 10-year National Disability Strategy.

The Count Me In stocktake gives examples of significant initiatives the Commission has developed or collaborated on between 2010 and 2012 to make headway on all priorities and many pathways. The stocktake also lists priority Count Me In initiatives for 2013 to 2014. Some of these initiatives are new and some build on existing enterprises. More will emerge over the next two years.

There are other examples of important projects, events and programs that align with Count Me In which are not listed in this document; however they are available in a range of Commission and disability sector publications or on the Commission's website.

Many stakeholders have driven and continue to lead or participate in initiatives that help achieve Count Me In priorities. The Commission acknowledges the strong and widespread commitment to Count Me In and welcomes information on these initiatives for inclusion in Commission publications and in Count Me In award applications. For more information, visit the Commission's website, [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > About us > Count Me In > Count Me In Awards.

While the Commission is committed to tracking progress and evaluating the impact of Count Me In, this first stocktake does not provide information about the effectiveness of each initiative. Progress is being charted, however, and will be reported in later updates.

The table in Appendix 1 cross-references initiatives outlined in the stocktake to the original Count Me In: Disability Future Directions document. Refer to the original Count Me In publication for the full description of priorities and pathways. The booklet is available in multiple formats at [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > About us > Count Me In.



Melissa Northcott, Count Me In  
Ambassador and Armadale City Councillor

“If you are **seen**, you know people with disability **can do**. If you are **heard**, you can **create change**.,”

Melissa Northcott, Count Me In Ambassador and  
City of Armadale Councillor

# Economic and community foundations

## Major initiatives 2010 to 2012

### Economic security

#### Concessions WA

Concessions WA is a new website providing information about all government social concessions and rebates in WA. Information is accessed through three simple entry points making it much easier for people with disability, families and carers to identify which concessions they are eligible to receive and how to apply. The website replaces many sites that were difficult to locate, navigate and understand. The Department for Communities partnered with the Commission to develop this innovative portal. Since its launch, the website has received more than 4,000 visits each month and has been well received by the community for its user-friendly interface and search capabilities. For more information, visit the Concessions WA website at [www.concessions.wa.gov.au](http://www.concessions.wa.gov.au).

### Well-planned and accessible communities

#### Local government access grants

The Commission made \$400,000 in community grants available to local government authorities undertaking projects to make their local communities more accessible. A number of projects received Count Me In awards during Disability Awareness Week in December 2011, including the City of Rockingham's Access to Water initiative which purchased two beach wheelchairs and accessible beach matting to enable people with disability to access Rockingham beaches.

#### Prepare for Take Off booklet

The Prepare for Take Off booklet was developed in 2012 to assist people with disability when travelling by air, liaising with airlines and negotiating airports. The booklet was compiled by the Commission from the experiences of air travellers with disability, their families, carers and travelling companions following a recommendation from the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Disability. The booklet is available at the Perth airport and on the Commission's website. For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Individuals, families and carers > Transport.



Minister Morton launches the Prepare for Take Off booklet at Perth Airport

## You're Welcome – Access WA website

You're Welcome – Access WA, is a website that provides detailed information about how to access business and community facilities in WA for people of all ages and abilities, including people who use a wheelchair, have difficulty walking or who are blind or deaf. You're Welcome provides details and photos about more than 3,000 businesses and attractions in WA including accommodation, theatres and cafés. The website was revised in 2011 and currently receives an average of 12,000 visits per month. For more information, visit the You're Welcome – Access WA website at [www.accesswa.com.au](http://www.accesswa.com.au).

## Access to Premises Standards

The Disability (Access to Premises – buildings) Standards 2010 came into effect in May 2011 and helps people with disability access a wider range of public buildings. All approval applications for new and existing buildings made on or after that date must comply with the Standards. More information about the Standards, including guidelines on their application, can be found on the Australian Human Rights Commission's website at [www.humanrights.gov.au](http://www.humanrights.gov.au) > Our Work > Disability Rights > Disability Standards and Guidelines > Guidelines on application of the Premises Standards.

## Universally-designed housing

### Liveable Homes resource pack

A working group of senior housing industry representatives and Commission staff was established in 2011 to promote and expand the take up of universal design in housing. The group includes peak housing industry associations and representatives from tertiary institutions, the WA Local Government Association and the Commission.

The working group designed a Liveable Homes resource pack and website to assist builders and architects to include six essential universal access features in new house design and for incorporation into home renovations. By incorporating these design features, people of all ages and abilities can live in or visit more homes with comfort.

For more information on the Liveable Homes resource, visit the Liveable Homes website at [www.liveablehomes.net.au](http://www.liveablehomes.net.au).



Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability Chair  
Samantha Jenkinson in her Liveable Home

# Economic and community foundations

Watch this space 2013 to 2014

## Affordable city housing

The City of Perth is providing affordable rental housing for city-based workers in a new 48-unit, apartment complex in East Perth. Efficient water and energy design help reduce water, power and gas bills and the central location means residents can save money on transport.

With funding support from the Commission, six of the units are designed to accommodate people with disability and have adjustable kitchen bench tops and cupboards, a hobless shower recess, wide circulation spaces and accessible pathways from the street and car park entrances. The Lord Mayor, Lisa Scaffidi, is a Count Me In Ambassador and champions accessible and affordable developments in the City of Perth. For more information visit [www.cityofperth.wa.gov.au](http://www.cityofperth.wa.gov.au) > Council > Plans and Projects > Current Projects > Key City Worker Housing Project.

“Having an accessible community means developing a Perth that is welcoming for all,”

Lisa Scaffidi, The Right Honourable Lord Mayor of Perth and Count Me In Ambassador

## Home ownership

The Commission funded National Disability Services WA (NDS WA) to undertake research to explore home ownership models for people with disability on low to middle incomes. The project will identify the barriers that currently exist for people with disability having equity in a home and develop viable models of home equity for people with disability on limited income. For more information see the NDS pre-budget submission 2013-14 at [www.nds.org.au](http://www.nds.org.au) > Publications.

## National Disability Insurance Scheme and My Way

In December 2012, the Council of Australian Governments signed an Intergovernmental Agreement for the first stage (or launch) of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The NDIS aims to provide greater support and economic security to people with disability across Australia regardless of where they live or their type of disability. The launch of the NDIS commenced in four States on 1 July 2013, with two further launches to commence in 2014.

On 5 August 2013, the Prime Minister and the Premier of Western Australia signed an Agreement for disability reform in Western Australia. The Agreement is for a two year launch commencing on 1 July 2014. Under this agreement, the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments will contrast two approaches for the delivery of disability services in different locations.

The WA My Way model will be progressively rolled out in the Lower South West region from 1 July 2014 and then in the Cockburn-Kwinana area from 1 July 2015. It will be implemented by the WA Disability Services Commission under State Legislation and using State-specific operational guidelines. The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) model will commence operation in the Perth Hills from 1 July 2014 and will be implemented by NDIA under the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 using national operational guidelines.

The two models will be independently evaluated to help determine and inform the way disability supports and services are provided in Western Australia into the future.

An estimated 8,366 people with disability will receive support over the two years across these launch sites.

For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > NDIS in WA. For more information on the NDIS visit the NDIS website [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au).

## Promoting Liveable Homes

The Liveable Homes resource pack was launched in December 2011. In 2013 the Liveable Homes Working Group was reconvened to promote the resource through:

- Housing Industry Association and Master Builders Association industry awards recognising the inclusion of Liveable Homes essential features in contemporary housing. For more information, visit the Master Builders WA website at [www.mbawa.com](http://www.mbawa.com) > Awards > Master Builders – Bankwest Housing Excellence Awards and the Housing Local WA website at <http://housinglocal.com.au> > HIA Awards > Kitchen and Bathroom Awards.
- Liveable Homes articles in the Homes sections of the West Australian and Sunday Times newspapers, in industry magazines and in Commission-produced publications.
- The Commission's work with peak industry bodies, major building companies, the Department of Housing and other government agencies to adopt Liveable Homes features into all housing designs and builds. While builders explore the best ways to incorporate Liveable Homes essential features into their designs, government agencies are considering incentives to increase demand for Liveable Homes features and a membership scheme for builders who participate.
- TV gardening presenter Josh Byrne incorporating sustainable and Liveable Homes features into two family display homes in Hilton, WA. Working with Count Me In Ambassador Griff Morris, Josh designed two contemporary homes which feature the six essential design features and many desirable features from the Liveable Homes resource. The homes will be open for inspection and featured over a three-year period. A regularly updated website which highlights key aspects of each home is located at [www.joshshouse.com.au](http://www.joshshouse.com.au).
- Building and Design program students at the Central Institute of Technology learning about and designing Liveable Homes. Examples of house designs are featured on the Central Institute of Technology's website at [www.central.wa.edu.au](http://www.central.wa.edu.au).



Solar Dwellings Director and champion of Liveable Homes Griff Morris

# Participation and contribution in all aspects of life

## Major initiatives 2010 to 2012

### Welcoming communities

#### Count Me In Ambassador program

A Count Me In Ambassador program was developed in 2010 to promote Count Me In messages of inclusion and participation across WA. Ambassadors use their role to encourage other West Australians to include people with disability in all aspects of life ranging from education, employment, the arts, sport and recreation to creating homes and communities that are easy to access and enjoy. Commission Chairperson Bruce Langoulant is patron of the program, with the Commission providing facilitation and support.

Twenty eight Ambassadors were appointed by December 2012. A number of Ambassadors have a disability, while others have family members who have a disability. The Ambassador's role fosters leadership opportunities for people with disability and family members, and provides strong role models for others with disability who would like to engage in community leadership. For more information, visit the [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > About us > Count Me In > Count Me In Ambassadors.



Lisa Scaffidi hosts fellow Count Me In Ambassadors at the City of Perth

#### The Great Bike Hike

In 2012 a team of cyclists, including several with disability, rode from Perth to Broome to celebrate Count Me In and

the inclusion of people with disability in local communities. The Great Bike Hike was organised by Fairholme Disability Support Group with sponsorship and support from the Commission, Lotterywest and a range of other organisations. To celebrate the journey, inclusive events were held in many towns, Count Me In publications were widely distributed and new Count Me In Ambassadors were inducted in Geraldton and Broome. For more information, visit [www.greatbikehike.org.au](http://www.greatbikehike.org.au) .

## The Ride DVD

The Ride DVD documents the incredible journey of three men with paraplegia and one with quadriplegia who rode 5,000km across outback Australia on quad bikes, visiting the crash sites where they were injured as young men. Their journey was recorded by a film crew supported by the Documentary Australia Foundation and depicts positive messages about having a disability and living a full life with family, colleagues and personal interests. The documentary is an engaging and action-packed look at the challenging physical and emotional journey of four middle-aged men.



Count Me In Ambassador Jim Cairns features in The Ride DVD

The Commission supported the DVD and it was launched at an event held at the Northbridge Piazza on the International Day of People with Disability 2012. The DVD was well-received with more than 400 people attending the launch and many attending its subsequent promotion across WA communities. It also won the South Australian Screen Award for best feature film in 2013. Count Me In Ambassadors Terry Mader and Jim Cairns feature in the film. For more information, visit The Ride website at [www.theridemovie.org](http://www.theridemovie.org).

## Leadership for young people

Young people with disability are being encouraged and supported to become community leaders, including taking up positions as local government councillors, Count Me In Ambassadors, by participating in youth parliaments, joining the Leeuwin sea voyages and by adding their perspective to the Commission for Children and Young People's online youth surveys. Young people with disability are strongly represented in WA's youth strategic framework, coordinated by the Department for Communities. Our Youth—Our Future sets out a future shared vision and priority directions for young people in WA. For more information, visit the Department for Communities website, [www.communities.wa.gov.au](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au) > Youth > Our Youth—Our Future.

“The biggest challenge in independent living and community inclusion is the person themselves.”

Peter Hall, Count Me In Ambassador and Member for Youth Parliament,  
Joondalup

## Local government initiatives

Local government stakeholders, including chief executives, the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) and the WA Local Government Managers Australia have engaged with Count Me In since its launch. All chief executives received copies of the Count Me In publication and many have attended information forums and workshops. Count Me In presentations were made to elected members at WALGA zone meetings during 2011 and the Department of Local Government endorsed Count Me In as a key document to inform local governments as they transitioned to a new integrated planning framework.

In 2012, 20 local governments received Local Government Inclusion Grants of up to \$50,000 to develop and implement local inclusion initiatives. Projects are diverse and include sport and recreation, music and arts, employment and community connection initiatives. Each local government has developed a steering committee that includes people with disability, families and carers working with community groups to help prioritise need and to develop, implement and monitor their projects. For more information, visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > About us > Count Me In > Projects and partnerships > Local Government Inclusion Grants.

## The Lost Generation Project

The Lost Generation Project arose in response to the social exclusion of adults with disability living in supported accommodation across the Perth metropolitan region. The Commission worked with DADAA to create artwork and films which showcased the individual stories of people with intellectual disability living in long-term care. Produced through close involvement with individuals, families and carers, the short films focused on the strengths and gifts of each participant and were used to help introduce and connect people to their communities.



City of Bayswater held an inclusive Have A Go Day

Although this project began before the launch of the Count Me In vision, it achieved a broad and continuing public impact. With 186 short films produced and 155 screened in a range of community locations and public theatres, they continue to inspire local and national audiences. The outcomes of recent evaluation studies show positive life impacts for participants, their families and carers and effective social inclusion in the wider community. For more information visit the Disseminate website at [www.disseminate.net.au](http://www.disseminate.net.au) > Case Studies > Disability > The Lost Generation Project.

## Family leadership

A family leadership forum held in 2012 brought together families of people with disability to explore the many facets of family leadership including families leading each other and families influencing and leading systemic change. Supported by the Commission and Kalparrin, the outcomes of the forum provided a foundation for future development in this area.

The Developmental Disability Council (DDC) is managing Commission-funded grants to promote and develop family to family support and family leadership, for example:

- The Angelman Syndrome Association WA (ASAWA) is undertaking family mentoring pilot projects to provide family to family support at times of critical need. For more information about ASAWA, visit [www.angelmanwa.com.au](http://www.angelmanwa.com.au).
- A Learn and Grow education advocacy platform, being developed by DDC, will pilot localised inclusive education champions and family to family support to create better education outcomes for children with disability. For more information, visit [www.ddc.org.au](http://www.ddc.org.au).
- Kalparrin is developing workshops and resources to assist families to understand and use self-directed supports and services. For more information on Kalparrin, visit [www.kalparrin.org.au](http://www.kalparrin.org.au).

## Community initiatives

During 2011 and 2012 the Commission supported a range of innovative and fully inclusive community initiatives, including the following:

- Catch Music offers local groups of all abilities musicians who meet up weekly to share their love of music and showcase their performances at community events. For more information, visit [www.catchmusic.org.au](http://www.catchmusic.org.au)
- Befriend offers inclusive community activities for young people who experience social isolation. For more information, visit [www.befriend.org.au](http://www.befriend.org.au)
- Arts Partners offer a mentorship program which matches people with disability with mentors and together they participate in mainstream art classes and activities in Bunbury, WA. For more information, visit the Place Stories website at <http://www.disseminate.net.au/> > Case studies > Disability > Art partners project
- Dreamfit recreation events offer the opportunity for people with disability and community members to try our modified equipment designed for people with disability to participate in recreational activities of their dreams. Opportunities include land sailing, wheelchair abseiling, riding a flying fox and ski boat. For more information, visit [www.dreamfit.com.au](http://www.dreamfit.com.au).



Musician Andrew Denton jamming at Melville Catch Music

## Arts and Health Outcomes conference

Many people with disability experience personal and social benefits by being involved in cultural and arts activities. The fourth International Arts and Health Outcomes conference was hosted in Fremantle in 2012 and, for the first time, featured inclusive pre-conference arts workshops for people with disability and a range of disability-related conference presentations. For more information visit the Arts and Health Australia website at [www.artsandhealth.org.au](http://www.artsandhealth.org.au) > Conferences > The Art of Good Health and Wellbeing, Fremantle 2012.

## Disability Sport and Recreation review

In 2011 the Department of Sport and Recreation engaged consultants to review the disability sport and active recreation sector to identify good practice in helping people with disability to get involved in and to identify areas for improvement. The Commission is working with the department to implement recommendations to improve the coordination of services for people with disability. For more information, visit the Department of Sport and Recreation website at [www.dsr.wa.gov.au](http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au) > Inclusion > People with disabilities > Disability Review Implementation Plan.

“Different gifts,  
different abilities,  
different attributes,  
ideas, values and  
talents. Let’s reflect  
on what people with  
disability can offer.”

Jo Russell, Count Me In  
Ambassador, Kalgoorlie



Count Me In Ambassador Chris Kerr  
riding on the foreshore

## Lifelong learning in inclusive settings

Inclusive schooling and further education for children and young people with disability are not universally available in WA. After high school there are limited opportunities for students with disability to be included in tertiary education, in particular students with intellectual disability or autism, or students requiring significant levels of physical support or personal care. Entry and assessment requirements preclude the participation of many students at TAFE and university levels. Within this context the following initiatives are occurring to promote inclusive education.

### Tessa's Best Friend – teacher's booklet

In 2012 Natasha Milanko, a teacher and parent of a young child with cerebral palsy, published a children's picture book about living with disability. Tessa's Best Friend is based on the experiences of her five-year-old daughter Ella, and is illustrated with photographs of Ella and her friends. Copies of the book and curriculum support materials have been made available for educators in every government primary school in WA. The Commission reviewed and recommended the publication and Natasha was highly commended for her work at the 2012 Count Me In Awards. For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > About us > Count Me In > Count Me In Awards > Count Me In Award for an Individual.

### Augmentative communication curriculum

The Commission is working with Perth Home Care Services, the Vela Microboards group and Edith Cowan University to develop an augmentative communication systems curriculum for teachers and teachers' assistants. The curriculum will allow a greater number of community members and professionals to expand their understanding of the needs of people with communication difficulties, and how augmentative communication systems can assist in education. This is an important step in the journey for increased opportunities for social inclusion, choice and learning.

### Transition from high school

Each year Local Area Coordinators (LACs) support the transition of students with disability to post-school life, for example:

- the Moving On program is a collaboration between Local Area Coordination and the Great Southern Institute of Technology, which showcases positive stories of how young people transition from school to further education and employment
- the Big Plan transition planning is offered to families and students during year 10 by LAC and Mirrabooka and Duncraig senior high schools.



Teacher and author Natasha Milanko reading in Hyde Park

“Through education let’s create a powerful message that we’re all in this together.”

Dr John O’Rourke, Count Me In Ambassador

### **Ambassadors promoting inclusive education**

Count Me In Ambassadors, John O’Rourke and Kerry Allan-Zinner, champion inclusive lifelong learning and transition opportunities to employment.

John, a lecturer at Edith Cowan University, promotes inclusive education at school and tertiary levels by developing research papers, presenting to parents, working with universities to establish innovative projects to include students with intellectual disability at university and through sharing inspirational stories with students about overcoming disability-related barriers.



Dr John O’Rourke promoting inclusion to Edith Cowan University students

Kerry, through her consulting business, Another Angle Consulting, makes presentations to businesses, disability sector organisations, schools and employers. Kerry uses these opportunities to share her experience of living with cerebral palsy and the barriers she faced being unable to attend mainstream schools and receiving little or no preparation to undertake further study or work. Despite these early experiences, Kerry has built a successful career, family and community life and inspires audiences to understand the benefits of inclusion at school and in employment.

### **School to adult life transition**

The Commission coordinates a School to Adult Life Transition Interface Committee (SALTIC) to improve the supports available for students with disability to transition from school to adult life. The Committee comprises representatives from high schools, post-secondary education, disability employment agencies, federal government funding bodies and the Commission, and focuses on improving communication between agencies and problem-solving common issues. SALTIC is developing an information resource to assist teachers, students and families to understand pathways to post-school education and employment options and ways to prepare for this transition.

## Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education

In 2010 the Commission and the Department of Education developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which includes a commitment to exploring and implementing Count Me In recommendations. A senior officers' group established in 2012 is steering the implementation of the MOU which supports mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities of each agency and facilitates contact between staff at all organisational levels. Initial strategies include maintaining up-to-date contact information for departmental schools, educational services and Commission services; sharing information about policy development; agency change; and shared professional development.

## Count Me In awards for education

Disability Awareness Week is held annually in WA to coincide with the International Day of People with Disability on 3 December. During this week Count Me In Awards are presented to recognise and share the achievements of individuals, organisations, local and state government and communities in contributing to a better future for people with disability. Two Count Me In awards are provided for inclusive primary and secondary school initiatives and for post-school or tertiary education and training. For information about the 2012 winners, visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > About us > Count Me In > Count Me In Awards > Count Me In Award for Education and Training.

“Acceptance, accessibility and inclusion are paramount. Everybody deserves to live and be included in their community.”

Melissa Northcott, Count Me in Ambassador and City of Armadale Councillor



Corpus Christi College were winners at the Count Me In Awards 2011

## Secure employment in meaningful work

The Australian Government is primarily responsible for providing two broad employment programs for people with disability:

- The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs administers Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) where approximately 20,000 people with disability work in more than 600 ADE industries Australia-wide in areas ranging from design, printing and packaging, to manufacturing, laundry and landscaping. Employees enjoy the same working conditions as those in the general workforce.
- The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations manages Disability Employment Services which provide open competitive employment for people with disability.

Historically, the rates of employment for people with disability have been very poor, in particular for people with a significant level of impairment including people with an intellectual disability. Since the launch of Count Me In, the Commission has played a greater role in fostering employment for people with disability living in WA.

### Public sector employment

The Public Sector and Disability Services commissions have partnered to increase employment opportunities in the WA public sector for people with disability. Outcomes arising from this partnership include:

- public sector managers attending an employment forum during Disability Awareness Week 2012 to explore barriers and opportunities for employing people with disability
- a cross-agency steering group developing a public sector disability employment strategy and toolkit resource to guide managers in state government agencies.

### Employment in private business

The Commission assisted the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of WA (CCI WA) to arrange a breakfast for CCI WA members during Disability Awareness Week 2012. Australian Network on Disability Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Colbert and Count Me In Ambassador Kerry Allan-Zinner were guest speakers, and shared the benefits of employing workers with disability and explored effective ways to recruit, employ and provide support. Following the breakfast Kerry was invited to provide guest editorials on employment in CCI publications in 2013.

A similar breakfast focused on employing workers with disability in businesses operating in and around Mandurah. The breakfast was hosted by the City of Mandurah as part of the City's Local Government Inclusion project.

### GAIN Employment Project

Two Australian Disability Enterprises, Workpower and Intework, are being supported by the Commission to pilot a two-year program known as GAIN to develop the skills and qualifications that young people with disability require to access and retain employment. The pilot involves 20 participants who are working with coordinators to use their part funding for Alternatives to Employment to achieve meaningful, person-centred and sustainable employment.

Workpower also obtained a social innovations grant with a new organisation, ICIDO (I see I do), to develop web design and other businesses that provide inclusive employment opportunities for people with disability who need individually tailored employment options.

“Providing employment for people with disability is not just about giving someone a job, it’s about supporting people to achieve their lifestyle goals.”

Kerry Alan-Zinner, Count Me in Ambassador

## **Government procurement of services**

Workpower was awarded a State Government Social Innovation Grant on behalf of WA’s seven Australian Disability Enterprises, to promote the State Government policy which exempts government agencies from tendering when engaging ADEs in contractual arrangements. The two-year pilot program aims to create over 200 new jobs for people with disability and enrich the current employment of up to 2,000 ADE employees. The Department of Finance is promoting the procurement program to public sector agencies and is ensuring that ADEs are considered for all government tenders.

## **Access to health and mainstream services**

### **Disability Health Network**

In 2011, the Department of Health Clinical Senate held a debate on health and disability entitled ‘Clinicians – Do you see me?’. The department’s Director General endorsed several recommendations made by the Senate and facilitated collaboration between the Department of Health, the Commission and other relevant agencies to progress work in these areas. At the end of 2012 a Disability Health Network was established. The network joins 17 other health networks which provide opportunities for health professionals, consumers and carers to connect and share information and knowledge to improve health outcomes for people in WA. Two co-leads were appointed for the network and a network executive advisory group was established to represent the views of a wide range of stakeholder groups. There was also agreement to pilot a Disability Liaison Officer model in an adult tertiary hospital. The officer will assist health consumers to engage with health practitioners as they negotiate the hospital and health systems.

For more information, visit [www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au) > Our Networks > Disability > Launch of the Disability Health Network event: Report.

### **Health inequalities for people with intellectual disability**

People with intellectual disability are not generally supported or targeted to engage in preventative health strategies and programs in WA. The Centre for Research into Disability and Society at Curtin University is investigating the experiences of people with disability in relation to health services and preventative health strategies. The research will establish a much-needed baseline of data and will develop a strategy for the design, implementation and evaluation of interventions to address targeted inequalities. About 8,000 people with intellectual disability have been invited to participate in the study with piloting of a survey questionnaire having commenced in December 2012. The study is guided by an expert reference group that serves as a link between the researchers and interest groups and provides expert advice in the development of survey instruments, the survey approach and development of future strategies to address health inequalities. For more information visit [www.curtin.edu.au](http://www.curtin.edu.au) > Study > Health Sciences > Occupational Therapy and Social Work > Research.

# Enabling information and technologies

## Technology in the disability sector

In 2012 the Commission and the Independent Living Centre convened a workshop to explore the current status and future potential of emerging technology use for people with disability, families, carers and disability services. The workshop was attended by disability sector organisations, advocacy groups, technology engineering groups and academics. Significant gaps were identified between the potential and actual use of six types of technology including assistive technology, environmental controls, communication technologies, technology for safety and health, technologies for assessment, training and evaluation and workforce management. A partnership of sector and industry stakeholders led by the Independent Living Centre is developing strategies to address the identified gaps in understanding and application of technology across the disability sector.

## Telecommunications and internet use

In 2011 the Independent Living Centre was funded by the Commission to explore the use of existing and emerging technologies for people with disability in accommodation services. The study found that just more than 50 per cent of residents living in supported accommodation use the computers and internet access available to them. Residents also had low access to mobile or landline telephones. Less than half of the residents with communication impairments had low rates of access to augmentative and alternative communication devices to help people understand their needs. Access to other environmental controls including lights and TVs were rarely made available. A second study was undertaken to explore the best ways to link the disability sector more effectively to organisations that engineer appropriate technology.

To help address the findings of these studies, the Commission made available \$500,000 in one-off funding available to the disability sector to support increased access to telecommunications and the internet. The grants assisted service providers to build policies and procedures, and access technology to support further implementation of information and communication technology for people with disability. For more information, visit the Independent Living Centre website at [www.ilc.com.au](http://www.ilc.com.au) > Grants and Equipment Funding > New ICT Grant.



The Vincent family enjoying the Wizzybug

## Digital art and communication

stARTSPEAK is an innovative three-year project designed to close the digital divide for people with learning difficulties. Using an informed design process a range of tools, software and training are being developed and delivered to facilitate individual and collective artistic expression. The development of a smart device app that enables users to create a number of different forms of artistic work is augmented by an online community hub. Artwork created using the app facilitates engagement with both online and physical communities. Development and delivery of touchpad training for project participants and their support people is critical to success.



Michelle Locke and Lisa Williams explore the stARTSPEAK app

Two artists with intellectual disability attended the 4th Annual Art of Good Health and Wellbeing Conference in Fremantle and presented their work created as part of the stARTSPEAK Project. The project is a collaboration between DADAA, the Commission, the Independent Living Centre and Inkubator. For more information, visit the stARTSPEAK website at [www.startspeak.org](http://www.startspeak.org).

## Refurbished equipment

A partnership between three disability service organisations and the Commission has developed an innovative and cost-effective way to provide quality pre-used equipment to children with disability. In March 2010 Therapy Focus, The Centre for Cerebral Palsy, Rocky Bay and the Commission joined forces to trial the operation of a Community Aids and Equipment Refurbishment Centre (CAERC) to bring new life to expensive pre-used equipment. Through CAERC, the partners refurbish and reissue children's wheelchairs, mobility devices, standing frames and a range of other equipment that previously would have been discarded. The trial demonstrated that equipment can be refurbished to the standards required by the Therapeutic Goods Administration Act and reissued quickly to children with disability. For more information, visit [www.therapyfocus.org.au](http://www.therapyfocus.org.au) > What We Do > Children & Youth Services > CAEP Aids & Equipment.

“ With today's level of technology and know-how, and in a fortunate country like Australia, there should be absolutely no reason why this isn't happening.”

Darren Lomman, Count Me In Ambassador and Dreamfit Foundation CEO

# Participation and contribution in all aspects of life

Watch this space 2013 to 2014

## The Ride in regional and remote areas

Coordinators of The Ride and The Great Bike Hike have teamed up to tour The Ride across WA in 2013. Count Me In Ambassador Jim Cairns is introducing Count Me In at public screenings. In addition, screenings of The Ride will be offered throughout the disability sector.

For more information about screenings of The Ride visit [www.fairholmedsg.com/projects/the-ride-movie-tour](http://www.fairholmedsg.com/projects/the-ride-movie-tour).

## Arts and disability

- A Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Commission and the Department of Culture and the Arts in March 2013 celebrates a continued and valued partnership. At the signing Count Me In Ambassador, David Giles shared his support for the important initiatives being progressed, several of which are outlined below:
- The first curated art exhibition for artists with disability in WA, Here and Now 13, was held at the Lawrence-Wilson Art Gallery at the University of Western Australia in July 2013. It featured the development of 11 established WA artists with disability. An emerging curator – selected and inducted in New York under the Department of Culture and the Arts emerging curators program – coordinated the development and mentoring of artists and the exhibition program. For more information visit [www.dadaa.org.au](http://www.dadaa.org.au) > Blogs > Here and Now 13 Blog.
- An educational symposium at the Lawrence-Wilson Art Gallery during the Here and Now 13 exhibition aimed to educate the public and the arts and disability sectors about inclusive art making for artists with disability.
- A study has been undertaken to explore the feasibility of establishing a Disability Arts Foundation in WA as an important way to support people with disability who have a commitment to developing their interests, talents and, for some, their future careers in the arts.



Count Me In Ambassador and Here and Now 13 artist Dave Guhl

## Physical activity

Research by Inclusion WA into inclusive physical activity programs is exploring opportunities and barriers to the inclusion of people with intellectual disability and ways to establish greater involvement. Inclusion WA is a community organisation that connects people with disability to community life through inclusion in sport and recreation. The research was funded by the Commission.

Recommendations from the Disability Sport and Recreation Review are being implemented in collaboration with the Curtin Centre for Sport and Recreation Research and the Fairplay Strategic Network of agencies.

The recommendations emphasise person-centred approaches to recreation, greater understanding of and response to the local recreation interests of people with disability and increased education and support for clubs and sporting associations to adopt inclusive models.



Dwayne Curnow enjoying abseiling at Fairbridge

## Growing Count Me In Ambassador numbers

Up to 50 Ambassadors will be appointed across all WA regions with regional Ambassador networks established to provide more localised support and impact.

The first Count Me In Ambassador forum held in mid-2013 explored the best ways to promote Count Me In in light of strategic developments at state and national levels. Ambassadors joined other key leaders from the Commission, Board and Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability. As a result a community engagement and media strategy is being developed to assist Ambassadors to disseminate Count Me In messages.

## Local government employment

The Commission is funding a 12-month pilot project with local government authorities and Disability Employment Service (DES) providers. A project officer at NDS WA is working closely with DES employment providers and five local government authorities to review human resource employment policies, explore the development of open employment opportunities, work with staff, support job seekers and increase the number of people with disability engaged in meaningful employment. Outcomes from the pilot will be showcased across local governments with assistance from the WA Local Government Association.

## **Public sector strategy**

A public sector strategy for employing people with disability across all agencies and levels of government was launched in mid-2013. Led by the Disability Services and Public Sector commissions, in consultation with public sector agencies, the strategy is complemented by a practical online toolkit that helps all managers when attracting, recruiting and supporting people with disability and when fostering a workplace that welcomes and supports people with disability.

## **Health, mental health and intellectual disability seminars**

Linked to research being undertaken by Curtin University in relation to health disparities for people with intellectual disability, symposiums were held in Perth and Albany in August 2013. The seminars featured visiting professor Tamar Heller, from the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois, who is a member of the Expert Reference Group for the research. She was supported by other leading international speakers from the fields of disability, mental health and health promotion. The seminars were held for health and disability services professionals and people with disability, their families and carers. The preliminary results from health research were also presented.

## **Emerging technology**

The newly formed emerging technology partnership group led by the Independent Living Centre is meeting throughout 2013 to raise awareness of the importance of technology to the lives of people with disability, their families and carers. The group will seek to integrate information about technology into existing disability-related projects and services including My Way and Local Area Coordination. Ways to connect consumers to suppliers will be identified and information about demonstration projects widely promoted.

## **WA Football League (WAFL) round**

The Commission, the Department of Sport and Recreation and the WA Football Commission (WAFC) have worked together to incorporate a Count Me In round at home games during the 2014 season.

Similar to the NAIDOC round, the Count Me In round will enable official promotion of the Count Me In message to WAFL clubs, their sponsors and supporters across four home games during the season. This opportunity builds on previous support from WAFL clubs whereby groups of up to 10 people with disability, their families and carers have been sponsored to attend home games. This element of the WAFL's support continued in 2013 through the Swan Districts Football Club. It is anticipated this level of local sponsorship support will extend to all clubs following the engagement with clubs and sponsors during the Count Me In 2014 round.

# Personalised supports and services

## Major initiatives 2010 to 2012

### Innovative and responsive supports

#### Self-directed services

The Commission has progressively adopted approaches that align with individualised and self-directed approaches. Around 80 per cent of funding provided from the Commission is allocated to individuals.

- The Local Area Coordination service provides a local point of contact and individualised help to access information, supports and services for all West Australians who have a disability.
- The Family Living and Community Living programs are based on person-centred approaches that assist people with disability to develop lifeplans, access critical supports such as housing and recreation and to live in their community with support from family, friends and community networks in addition to paid formal supports and services.
- In 2012 the Commission introduced My Way to foster more local and personalised responses by communities and service providers. Working in partnership with the non-government sector, the three-year My Way initiative is being implemented in four locations across WA.

For more information on these reforms visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform .

#### Sustainable non-government sector

The State Government's State Budget announced increased funding for the not-for-profit community sector by 2014-15. The increase provides significant capacity to increase wages and training for the disability sector workforce. The funding increase is being rolled out in two components and includes annual indexation on service agreements. The first component was provided in 2011-12. The second component is being provided as organisation contracts are revised during 2013-14 to reflect individualised, self-directed and innovative approaches. For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Procurement reform.

“Never let anyone tell you that you have to be strong and tough to take on big things. The simple gifts you already have are enough for you to conquer everything.”

Imran Ariff, Count Me In Ambassador

## Shared Living Framework

A project to develop a Shared Living Framework has been funded by the Commission and is being coordinated by WA Individualised Services (WAIS). The project explores arrangements where a person with disability shares their home with one or more people who provide an agreed level of support. The arrangement is directed by the person with disability or their family. Current approaches under the umbrella framework include alternative family care, shared living care, host family care, co-resident care, foster care and home sharer. The framework outlines current resources used by the sector, the characteristics of shared living and clarifies taxation, insurance and contractual, industrial and other legal requirements and implications. For more information, visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Sector development > Shared Living Project.

## Partners in Change

Perth Home Care Services provided the Partners in Change training package to 10 disability sector organisations. The package assisted organisations to explore contemporary values, attitudes and models of services that support inclusion and individualised supports and services. A post-course reflection group enables participants to share ongoing learning and experiences. Several workshops were offered in 2012 and a third scheduled for 2013. For more information, visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Sector development > Partners in Change.



Music lover Lewis achieving his music dream through a self-direction project at Rocky Bay

## Quality Service Improvement Grants

In 2011, NDS WA coordinated the provision of \$500,000 Quality Service Improvement Grants to enable disability sector organisations to move towards greater self-directed approaches. Eight out of 23 organisations were funded in the first round with a second round of \$450,000 being offered in 2012-13. Grants are awarded for projects that focus on one or more of three areas for sector improvement: advancing self-direction, self design and management, or improvements designed to meet the specific needs of people in regional, rural and remote areas. For example Rocky Bay, The Centre For Cerebral Palsy and Therapy Focus, jointly worked on a project that supported training in self-direction for 30 therapists. This enabled therapists to spend more time getting to know children and finding out what is really important to them, rather than focusing just on therapy. The WA Autism Association used their grant to train staff in person-centred thinking and planning. For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Sector development > Quality Service Improvement Grants.

Shared management refers to the agreed sharing of funding and service management responsibilities between a person with disability and/or their family and a disability sector organisation. People can choose from a variety of responsibilities according to their preferences and capacity including staff recruitment, training, supervision, employment and self-managing funding and payment of staff and other supports as appropriate. A Shared Management Agreement is developed between the individual or family and the organisation outlining who will be responsible for each



Staff from the WA Autism Association using a person-centred thinking and planning approach

activity. A number of disability sector organisations currently offer shared management. WA's Individualised Services has been funded to develop a resource on shared management and to support organisations to build capacity to support people with disability who want to share manage. For more information, visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Sector development > Shared Management Model.

NDS WA and the Commission have established a website to assist in growing the pool of labour available to not-for-profit providers of disability services in WA. NDS WA is also developing a disability workforce plan to further build the workforce within the state and promote the sector as an employer of choice. Phase one of the project contextualises the disability workforce within the broader WA labour market and explores the impact on sustainability and services within the sector. Phase two will pilot a range of recruitment and retention strategies across selected sites in WA. Visit the Disability Work website at [www.disabilitywork.com.au](http://www.disabilitywork.com.au).

NDS WA is funded by the Commission to develop and deliver a Training and Professional Development program to improve the availability and effectiveness of training and professional development for people working in the disability sector. The Commission and NDS WA have developed a grants scheme to support initiatives that are likely to benefit support workers across disability sector organisations. Grants of up to \$20,000 were awarded to single organisations and up to \$50,000 for joint initiatives. For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Sector development > Training and Professional Development Initiative.

## Resource manual for Chief Executives

The Council of Regional Disability Services (CORDS) developed a resource for chief executives in the disability sector, specifically to assist in building the capacity of the disability sector in regional areas. While the manual is written for an audience of disability sector organisation chief executives, it is also a relevant resource for Local Area Coordinators, Commission staff, and senior management and staff working in the disability sector and in local government authorities. The manual covers the history of the disability sector, values based practice and contemporary services, contracting with the Commission and governance and leadership. For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Sector development > CORDS CEO Manual.

## Sector Development Plan

The Commission is creating a Sector Development Plan to guide the ongoing development of WA's disability service sector. The plan is a partnership with disability sector organisations, based on input from people who will or may use services in the future. The plan provides localised information about Commission-funded disability service organisations, community-based supports and activities in other sectors. It offers a resource for:

- planning and sector development for the Commission, other government agencies and other funding bodies
- disability service organisations to assist with vision setting, strategic planning and business planning
- promoting engagement and collaborative partnerships between disability service organisations
- people with disability, families and carers to assist with planning and developing individualised supports and services.

Fifteen profile areas have been finalised. Comments and feedback on the profiles are being gathered during 2013. For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Sector development > Sector Development Plan.

## Support group grants

The Developmental Disability Council (DDC) is making Commission-funded grants of between \$5,000 and \$30,000 available to disability support groups. Grants are made available to:

- increase awareness and information about support groups
- enhance the use of interactive and social technologies to enable support groups to connect with people with disability, their families and carers
- improve communication between support groups and key agencies or peak bodies
- develop member forums, workshops, information sessions and conferences
- undertake organisational planning
- increase the effectiveness of administrative systems.

These grants support and build the capacity of peer to peer and local support. For more information about DDC visit [www.ddc.org.au](http://www.ddc.org.au) .

## Workshops on contemporary practice

A consortium of experts with contemporary understanding and experience in disability have facilitated training and workshops on designing and implementing contemporary services for disability sector organisations. To date the Commission engaged Kate Fulton, Christine Bigby, John Armstrong and Michael Kendrick as consultants. All have longstanding involvement with disability sector organisations in other jurisdictions or in WA.

## Affordable homes

The Commission is working with the Department of Housing over a three-year period on a project to provide 169 homes for 340 people with disability who have planned their support arrangements through community living or accommodation support and have been waiting to secure housing. For more information refer to the Commission's Annual Report 2011-12 at [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > About us > Corporate publications.

## Reconciliation Action Plan

The Commission has developed a third Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to ensure services are responsive to people with disability from Aboriginal backgrounds. The plan has a particular focus on developing an Aboriginal employment strategy. Both the Commission and NDS WA has engaged employment consultants to explore the most effective ways to increase employment of Aboriginal workers in the disability sector. For more information on the report visit [www.nds.org.au](http://www.nds.org.au) > Publications > Aboriginal Engagement and Employment Scoping Project Report. For more information on the Commission's RAP visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > About us > Corporate publications.



Minister Helen Morton and Kim Collard, launching the Commission's RAP

“I feel privileged and honoured to be chosen as an Ambassador. I hope I can break down some of the barriers and allow more access to services by providing education to our Aboriginal communities.”

Kim Collard, Count Me In Ambassador and Kooya Consultancy CEO

# Lifelong security for people with complex and high needs for support

When Count Me In was developed many stakeholders stressed that people with disability who need high levels of continuous support or who have challenging and complex needs, require special focus to ensure their voices are heard and their needs met and safeguarded. For this reason, the Pathways for this Priority Area are additional to those in the Innovative and Responsive Supports Priority Area which also cover people with high needs for support.

## People with Exceptionally Complex Needs project

The People with Exceptionally Complex Needs (PECN) project is a partnership between the Disability Services and Mental Health commissions, the Department of Corrective Services and the Office of the Public Advocate. The project aims to ensure that people with disability who have complex and challenging needs and circumstances receive coordinated planning and services which span the jurisdiction of multiple government agencies. For example, this would include people experiencing disability, mental health issues, justice and accommodation needs. The project employed a second coordinator in 2011. For more information visit the Mental Health Commission at [www.mentalhealth.wa.gov.au](http://www.mentalhealth.wa.gov.au) > Mental Health Changes > People with Complex needs.

After being awarded a Count Me In scholarship in 2010, PECN Coordinator Amanda Perlinski travelled to the United Kingdom to investigate service and support systems for people with exceptionally complex needs. Her research found that the UK system of providing specialist and mainstream diversion, treatment and support to people with exceptionally complex needs can build positive lives and assist to reduce re-offending and increase community safety.

Amanda also received a 2012 WA Social Worker of the Year award for her work in this area. For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > About us > Count Me In > Count Me In Scholarships > Previous scholarship winners.



Amanda Perlinski and Director General Ron Chalmers at the awards ceremony

## **Relationships for people in supported accommodation**

As part of the move to position vulnerable people with disability at the centre of decision-making and choice, a project is being undertaken to increase opportunities for people living in supported accommodation to develop independent relationships to help support and safeguard their decisions and choices. The project helps disability advocacy organisations, accommodation providers and people with disability, their families and carers to understand the issues experienced by people with disability in relation to maintaining unpaid relationships and ways to support and promote independent relationships. The Commission is leading this work in collaboration with people with disability, families and carers, disability advocacy organisations and other key stakeholders currently providing safeguarding including the Office of the Public Advocate.

## **Positive Behaviour Strategy**

The Positive Behaviour Strategy supports families and carers, disability sector organisations and the wider community to support people with disability who exhibit challenging behaviours from time to time such as being withdrawn, uncooperative or aggressive. Originally launched in 2009, the strategy has grown to include:

- two Positive Behaviour Teams within the Commission
- a Positive Behaviour Team within the Autism Association of WA
- the commissioning of the report 'Towards Responsive Services For All' by NDS WA which contained nine key proposals to build additional capacity in the disability sector
- the constitution of a cross-sector guiding committee that is working to implement these proposals. The guiding committee is chaired by a family member and includes peak bodies, the Commission and disability sector organisations.

For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Services, supports and eligibility > Services and supports > Services funded by the Commission > Therapy Services > Behaviour Support.

# Strong, supportive partnerships with families and carers

## Respite houses

Five newly built out-of-home respite facilities were opened in regional and metropolitan WA between 2010 and 2012. The services assist families who want to have a break using out-of-home care. The houses are managed by disability sector organisations and are located in the following areas:

- Broome – managed by Life Without Barriers with outreach services to the Derby peninsular and the Fitzroy Valley
- Clarkson – managed by Life Without Barriers and is specially designed to support people with high support needs including people with medical needs and challenging behaviour
- Rockingham – managed by Rocky Bay and is specially designed to support people with high support needs including people with medical needs and challenging behaviour
- Gosnells – managed by Rocky Bay and is for adults with disability
- York – managed by Wheatbelt Individual and Family Support Association and is for children and adults with disability.



Martin Stevens in the Ocean Room at the new Clarkson Respite Centre

## People and Communities magazine

The People and Communities magazine was launched in 2011 as an occasional magazine for individuals, families and carers accessing the state-wide Local Area Coordination program. This is now a feature in the Disability Update magazine. For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Individuals, families and carers > People and Communities.

## Support for siblings

The Commission is working with Kalparrin to develop contemporary services and supports for the 5-24 year-old siblings of people with developmental or acquired disability. After extensive consultation with siblings and families, models of best practice are being identified, experts in delivering supports to siblings are being engaged, and awareness is being raised across the State about the important role siblings play in supporting their brothers and sisters with disability. The three interconnected projects focus on:

- developing initiatives to identify and address the specific issues and needs of siblings and ensure the wellbeing of families
- developing innovative ways of expanding existing siblings programs into regional WA
- providing small grants to the disability sector and other organisations to develop initiatives to support siblings.

“Autism has made my life so much more richer and I honestly wouldn’t change a thing. My advice to other parents is to never, never, never, never give up.”

Jo Russell, Count Me In Ambassador, Kalgoorlie

# **Responsive approaches in rural and remote areas**

## **Statewide Specialist Services in rural and remote areas**

The Commission coordinates and provides specialist disability services across the State. A range of initiatives have been undertaken to foster responsive approaches in rural and remote areas.

- Video conferencing workshops are being held to provide training and assistance to both therapists and families living in rural and remote areas as they deliver programs to children and adults with disability including autism.
- Training has been made available to therapy assistants who provide services to children with an autism diagnosis in rural and remote WA. The training ensures that individuals receive quality therapy services which are delivered in a timely manner.
- The waitlist times for autism assessments for children have been reduced by contracting additional psychologists and speech pathologists.
- A DVD was produced to assist wheelchair users living in rural and remote areas, to carry out their own maintenance when access to technicians is limited.

## **Remote Area Strategy**

The Commission's Remote Area Strategy (RAS) enables people living in rural and remote parts of the State to access supports and services through community partnerships that build upon local resources and relationships. Discussions with Aboriginal people reinforced this view and consultations with a range of stakeholders suggested flexible approaches based on partnerships with locally-based generic service providers were the most effective way to provide responsive services in remote locations. Initially piloted as a two-year project, the success of the scheme has enabled it to continue with a number of projects running across WA including Kimberley Remote Areas Strategy initiatives in Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Balgo.

## **WA school holiday program**

The WA school holiday program is being extended into four additional regional or remote communities over the next two years. In 2011 Inclusion WA undertook a community development initiative in the Pilbara region, working with stakeholders in local communities to develop an inclusive school holiday program which built connections between local sporting clubs, educational institutions, local government, local media and community members. Inclusion WA is building on this low-cost, effective option by partnering with local sporting clubs as they develop sport training sessions or school holiday programs for children with disability and their siblings. The long-term goal is to merge programs with existing mainstream school holiday programs, enabling them to become self-sustaining. For more information visit the Inclusion WA website at [www.inclusionwa.org.au](http://www.inclusionwa.org.au) > Inclusion.

# Collaborative responses to people with disability who are ageing

## Retirement project

People with disability are living longer lives. As workers with disability age they require access to retirement planning and inclusive and responsive retirement options. In December 2011, the Commission hosted a Round Table Forum with stakeholders from Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs), disability sector organisations, carers and local government representatives to explore the urgent and growing need for retirement options for workers with disability. A project plan with four components was developed to identify the impact of retirement upon ageing workers with disability, their families and carers, their accommodation options and communities, and to examine evidence about the best ways to support people through transition to retirement. These include:

- identification and mapping of the retirement supports and services in WA available to mainstream seniors and those that include people with disability
- consultation with carers through Carers WA to identify the impact on carers when a person with disability retires from work
- demonstration projects with four local government authorities to promote the active inclusion of people with disability who are ageing into local active ageing and retirement activities
- two projects undertaken by NDS WA. The first is a case study involving 24 people with disability working in ADEs. It involves the development of person-centred retirement plans, providing funding for them to trial the community activities of their choice and supporting them to retire into their chosen activities. The second is an analysis of staff training needs and development of a staff training tool for conducting person-centred retirement planning.



Retirement planning forum held in 2012

# Personalised supports and services

Watch this space 2013 to 2014

## My Way

My Way builds on the strengths of Western Australia's Local Area Coordination program, which has been operating since 1988. It is based on flexible, responsive and person-centred approaches which place choice and control in the hands of people with disability, their family and carers. It also focuses on a strong partnership approach between government and the community sector and connection with mainstream supports and services.

My Way has been developed in consultation with more than 1,300 people and includes feedback and knowledge drawn from people with disability, their families, carers and disability sector organisations. It is currently being implemented in four locations in Western Australia: the Lower South West, Cockburn-Kwinana, Perth Hills and Goldfields. For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > My Way.

## Finalising Sector Development Plan

A total of 15 Area Profile Consultation Documents comprising the first phase of the Sector Development Plan are available on the Commission's website. Based on groupings of local government authorities, each document defines and describes the demographics in an area, the supports and services accessed by people with disability and their families and includes consultation questions designed to draw feedback and qualitative information about the area from people living and working in that location. Area Profile Consultation Documents and information about how to provide feedback can be found at [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Sector Development > Sector Development Plan > Sector Development Plan Area Profile Consultation Documents.

## Disability Justice Centres

New WA legislation is being introduced to establish two disability justice centres to improve social and legal justice for people with intellectual disability who are charged with offences but are deemed unfit to plead as a result of their disability. Currently the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board, which determines outcomes for people with intellectual or cognitive disability who are deemed unfit to plead, only has two options – jail or community release. A third option, known as a declared place, is included in the relevant Act, however currently there is no declared place for people with intellectual or cognitive disability. In 2013, two locations were identified for establishing disability justice centres in the Perth metropolitan area. The centres, to be run by the Commission, will provide safe, independent living in a restricted secure environment for people of different genders and cultures, and aged 16 years or older. Residents will be secured in the centres and have opportunities to develop life skills to maximise their successful transition back to community life. The centres are expected to be running within two years. For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Disability Justice Centres.

# Where to from here?

In the midst of significant change within the disability sector, the Count Me In framework remains a sound framework to guide future development. While the My Way project and the emerging NDIS tackle priorities within the personalised supports and services area of focus, it is important to simultaneously develop strategies that promote economic security, accessible homes and communities and participation and contribution for all.

The Count Me In stocktake outlines an array of contemporary and innovative initiatives undertaken over the past three years. In the coming years these initiatives will be extended and new areas added. Most importantly the following questions will be tackled:

- What impact are Count Me In initiatives having on the lives of people with disability, their families and carers?
- Which priorities need more focus to make a difference? Which need less?
- Are there new Count Me In priorities and pathways to be added in response to new and emerging issues and trends?

Key priorities for the next two years include:

- **Housing** – Embedding universal design through Liveable Homes into public, private and community housing. Improving access for people with disability into affordable housing.
- **Employment** – Increasing employment for people with disability in the public and private sectors and local government.
- **Health** – Improving access to health services through the Disability Health Network and Disability liaison officers.
- **Community engagement** –
  - Increasing the influence of Count Me In Ambassadors to spread messages of access and inclusion across WA
  - Working strategically in the arts, sports and recreation fields to promote the Count Me In message
- **Emerging technology** – Increasing take up of the array of emerging technology by people with disability, families, carers and service providers to assist people with disability to live more independently.
- **Sector Development Plan** – Through state-wide consultation, identifying strengths and gaps in local supports and services for people with disability and using this information to grow more targeted and responsive supports.

# Count Me In Matrix

This is a cross-reference to the original Count Me In document

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Pathway</b>	<b>Page</b>
Concessions WA	Economic security	2	9
Local government access grants	Well-planned and accessible communities	1	11
Prepare for Take Off booklet	Well-planned and accessible communities	1	11
You're Welcome – Access WA website	Well-planned and accessible communities	1 - 2	11
Access to Premises Standards	Well-planned and accessible communities	3	11
Liveable Homes resource pack	Universally-designed housing	All	12
Affordable City housing	Economic security	4	9
Home ownership	Economic security	4	9
National Disability Insurance Scheme and My Way	Economic security	1	9
Promoting Liveable Homes	Universally-designed housing	All	12
Count Me In Ambassador program	Welcoming communities	1 - 2	14
The Great Bike Hike	Welcoming communities	1 - 2	14
The Ride DVD	Welcoming communities	1 - 2	14
Leadership for young people	Welcoming communities	1 - 3	14 -15
The Lost Generation project	Welcoming communities	1 - 3	14-15
Local government initiatives	Welcoming communities	3	14-15
Family leadership	Welcoming communities	1 - 2	14
Community initiatives	Welcoming communities	3	14 -15
Arts and Health Outcomes conference	Welcoming communities	5	15
Disability Sport and Recreation Review	Welcoming communities	5	15
The Ride in regional and remote areas	Welcoming communities	1-2	14
Arts and disability	Welcoming communities	2, 3, 5	14-15
Physical activity	Welcoming communities	2, 3, 5	14-15
WA Football League (WAFL) Round	Welcoming communities	5	15

Tessa's Best Friend – teacher's booklet	Lifelong learning in inclusive settings	2, 3, 6, 10	16 - 17
Augmentative communication curriculum	Lifelong learning in inclusive settings	4	16
Transition from high school	Lifelong learning in inclusive settings	7	17
Ambassadors promoting transition	Lifelong learning in inclusive settings	9	17
School to adult life transition	Lifelong learning in inclusive settings	7	17
Count Me In awards for education	Lifelong learning in inclusive settings	9	17
Education Memorandum of Understanding	Lifelong learning in inclusive settings	2	16
Public sector employment	Secure employment in meaningful work	3 - 5	18
Employment in private business	Secure employment in meaningful work	3 - 5	18
Australian Disability Enterprises	Secure employment in meaningful work	4	18
GAIN employment project	Secure employment in meaningful work	4,5	18
Government procurement of services	Secure employment in meaningful work	8	19
Local government employment	Secure employment in meaningful work	2-4	
Public sector strategy	Secure employment in meaningful work	2, 8	
Disability Health Network	Access to health and mainstream services	2	20
Health inequalities for people with intellectual disability	Access to health and mainstream services	2	20
Technology in the disability sector	Enabling information and technologies	1	21
Telecommunications and internet use	Enabling information and technologies	2	21
Digital art and communication	Enabling information and technologies	5	21
Refurbished equipment	Enabling information and technologies	5	21
Emerging technology	Enabling information and technologies	1-6	21
Self-directed services	Innovative and responsive supports	1-8	24-25
Sustainable non-government sector	Innovative and responsive supports	5-6	25
Shared living framework	Innovative and responsive supports	1-3	24-25
Partners in Change	Innovative and responsive supports	5	25
Quality Service Improvement Grants	Innovative and responsive supports	5	25
Shared Management Model	Innovative and responsive supports	5	25
Disability workforce	Innovative and responsive supports	4	25
Training and professional development	Innovative and responsive supports	4	25

Resource manual for Chief Executive Officers	Innovative and responsive supports	4	25
Sector Development Plan	Innovative and responsive supports	5	25
Workshops on contemporary practice	Innovative and responsive supports	5	25
Support group grants	Innovative and responsive supports	6	25
Affordable homes	Innovative and responsive supports	1-3	24-25
Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)	Innovative and responsive supports	7	25
People with Exceptionally Complex Needs project	Lifelong security for people with complex and high needs for support	2	27
My Way project	Personalised Supports and Services	1-3	24-25
Finalising Sector Development Plan	Personalised Supports and Services	8	25
Disability Justice Centres	Lifelong security for people with complex and high needs for support	2	27
Relationships for people in supported accommodation	Lifelong security for people with complex and high needs for support	1, 4	26 - 27
Positive Behaviour Strategy	Lifelong security for people with complex and high needs for support	2	27
Respite houses	Strong, supportive partnerships with families and carers	2-7	28-29
Support for siblings	Strong, supportive partnerships with families and carers	2-7	28-29
People and Communities magazine	Strong supportive partnerships with families and carers	3	28
Statewide Specialist Services in rural and remote areas	Responsive approaches in rural and remote areas	1 - 5	30-31
Remote Area Strategy	Responsive approaches in rural and remote areas	1 - 6	30-31
WA school holiday program	Responsive approaches in rural and remote areas	1, 2, 4, 5	30-31
Retirement project	Collaborative responses to people with disability who are ageing	1, 4	33

## Notes

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## Notes

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