

# Disability in Western Australia

Established in 1993, the Disability Services Commission is the State Government agency responsible for advancing opportunities, community participation and quality of life for people with disability.

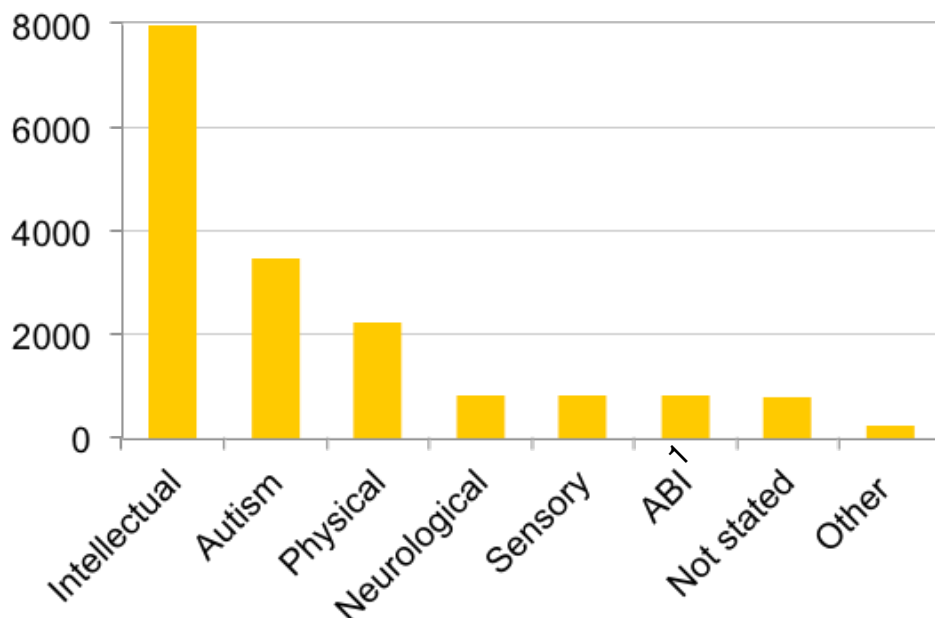
The Commission works in partnership with service providers and other government departments to provide information, supports and services to people with disability, their families and carers. Many people with disability get everyday help from family, partners, friends, carers and community. Ninety per cent of carers are family members who often need support themselves. The Commission recognises and supports the valued role of carers.

## Primary disability of service users

The non-government disability sector provides a diverse range of quality services.

The Commission provided \$496.85m to 120 disability sector organisations in 2012–2013.

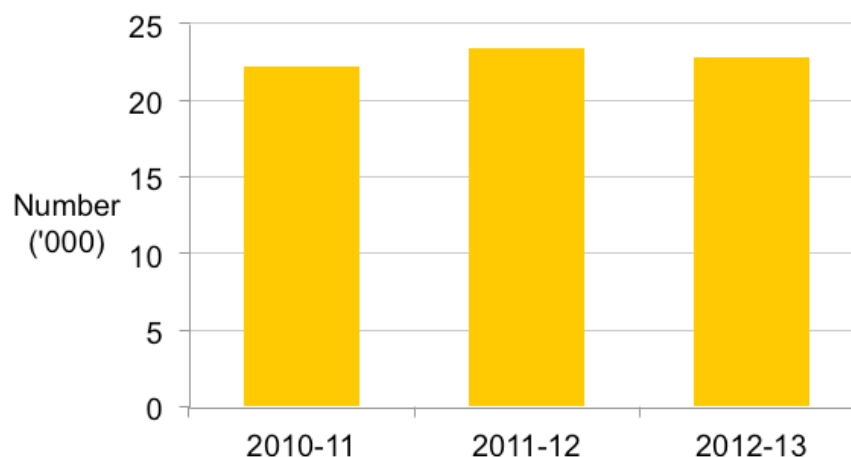
<sup>1</sup> Acquired brain injury



## Disability support service users in WA

In 2012–2013, 22,808 West Australians accessed a disability support service.

The Commission's total expenditure for the year was \$717.88m and averaged \$31,475 for each person receiving funded services.



The 10 organisations with the largest funding allocations from the Commission are:

- The Centre for Cerebral Palsy
- Activ Foundation Inc
- Autism Association of WA
- Perth Home Care Services
- Nulsen Haven Association Inc
- Rocky Bay Inc
- My Place WA Pty Ltd
- Identitywa
- Life Without Barriers
- Therapy Focus Inc.

The State Government is working with disability sector organisations to improve systems and processes. By having input into service design, outcomes and outputs, the Commission and organisations are directly improving services for those who need them most.

Key priorities for the Commission for 2013–2015 include organisational reform and systems reform to increase choice and control through contemporary individualised approaches. This includes My Way and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), procurement reform and changes to accommodation services and early childhood intervention services.

Other key projects include Disability Justice Centres and a range of initiatives to build community access, inclusion and participation. Employment for people with disability, housing, health and education continue to be major areas of activity.

Table 1: Employment in WA

	Employed full-time	Employed part-time	Unemployed
Profound or severe disability	7,300 (45%)	7,100 (43%)	1,900 (12%)
All others with disability	73,100 (62%)	37,300 (31%)	8,300 (7%)
No disability	731,000 (68%)	307,600 (28%)	43,600 (4%)

Table 1 shows employment comparisons between people with disability and without disability. It is estimated that 124,800 (92 per cent) people with disability in the West Australian labour force are employed part-time or full-time (ABS 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers).

Employment participation rates for people with disability in WA have remained relatively stable. This is reflective of the rest of the nation. Rates are however still well below those of working age people with no disability. WA is implementing a range of strategies across the public and private sectors to increase the rates of employment for people with disability.

## Services

Over the next few years, the Commission will move away from providing services on the basis of specific programs as it focuses on more individualised approaches. The range of services currently funded or directly provided by the Commission includes:

- accommodation support
- advocacy
- alternatives to employment
- continence services
- equipment and technology
- intensive family support
- local area coordination
- recreation
- respite
- school leavers support
- therapy services.

## Local Area Coordination

The Commission's Local Area Coordination program has been supporting West Australians with disability since 1988. Through education, advocacy and strong partnerships with both business and community, Local Area Coordinators (LACs) work to help make local communities more inclusive and welcoming.

Each LAC works with 50 to 65 people with disability, providing support that is personalised, flexible and responsive. LACs assist people who are under the age of 65 years at the time they apply for support and have a disability that is intellectual, physical, cognitive, sensory or neurological.

The Commission has LACs in Western Australia who can advise people with disability about where they can access help. Contact details are on the Commission's website at [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > For individuals, families and carers > Your local support directory. Alternatively, phone 9426 9352 or 1800 998 214, or email [dsc@dsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:dsc@dsc.wa.gov.au) for contact details.

## My Way and the National Disability Insurance Scheme

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.

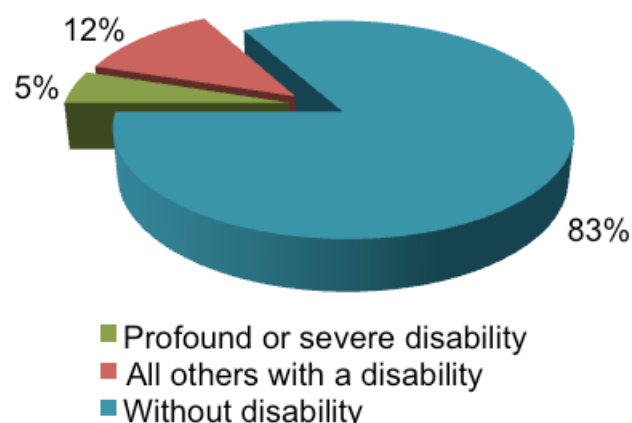
The two models will be independently evaluated to help inform the way disability supports and services are provided in Western Australia into the future.

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

# Australian Bureau of Statistics – 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

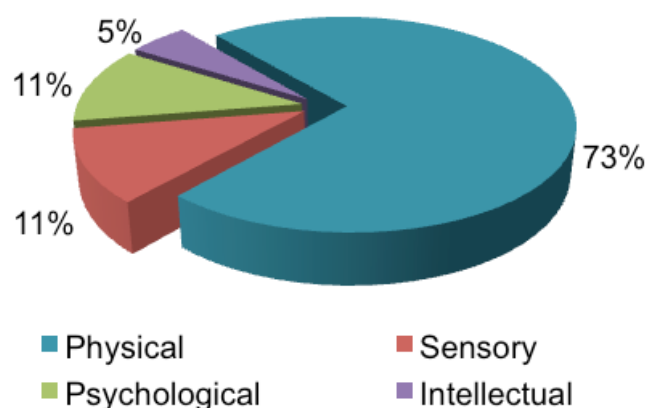
## People with disability in WA

The pie chart to the right shows that about 106,600 people (five per cent) of West Australians have a profound or severe disability limiting their mobility, self-care and or ability to communicate.



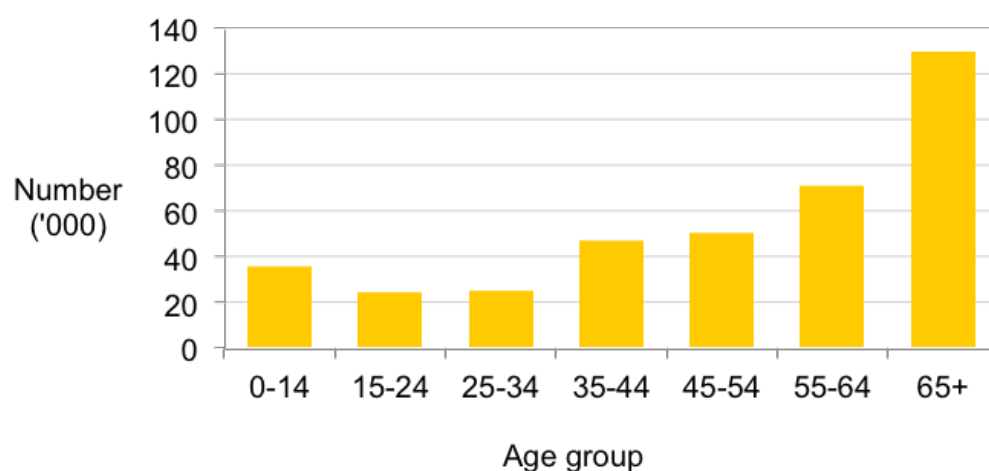
## Primary disability in WA

The pie chart to the right shows the percentages of primary disability in WA across four categories of disability – physical, sensory, psychological and intellectual.



## Age and disability in WA

The chart below shows the number of people in WA with disability across seven age groups.



The data presented above are small area estimates of disability produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: tables for Western Australia. It is anticipated there are differences between the estimates and the actual number of people with disability in some regions.