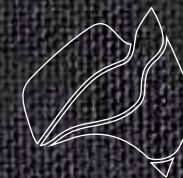


WWDA



www.wwda.org.au

Women With Disabilities Australia
2009-10 ANNUAL REPORT



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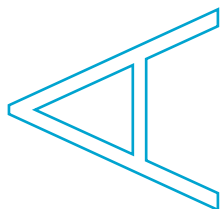
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Winner, National Human Rights Award 2001
Winner, National Violence Prevention Award 1999
Winner, Tasmanian Women's Safety Award 2008
Certificate of Merit, Australian Crime & Violence Prevention Awards 2008
Nominee, French Republic's Human Rights Prize 2003
Nominee, UN Millennium Peace Prize for Women 2000

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INTRODUCTION

Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) is the peak organisation for women with all types of disabilities in Australia. It was formed in 1995 by and for women with disabilities. It is managed by a volunteer Committee of women with disabilities who are located across Australia. Its full time Executive Director and part time Office/Finance Manager undertake and coordinate all activities from a one room office located in Hobart, Tasmania. WWDA is the only organisation of its kind in Australia and one of only a very small number internationally. It operates as a national disability organisation; a national women's organisation; and a national human rights organisation. In cyberspace it has collegiate links with a number of international organisations and networks of disabled women, and increasingly is in demand to support and mentor organisations in developing countries. WWDA is inclusive and does not discriminate against any disability. With more than 2 million disabled women in Australia, WWDA is an organisation

that enables their voices to be heard and represents their collective interests, working systemically at a national and international level to promote and advance the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women with disabilities.

WWDA's work is grounded in a rights based framework which links gender and disability issues to a full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. This rights based approach recognises that equal treatment, equal opportunity, and non-discrimination provide for inclusive opportunities for women and girls with disabilities in society. It also seeks to create greater awareness among governments and other relevant institutions of their obligations to fulfill, respect, protect and promote human rights and to support and empower women with disabilities, both individually and collectively, to claim their rights. A rights based approach also demonstrates, in a

practical way, WWDA's commitment to the implementation of the core international human rights treaties ratified by the Australia Government, in particular the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD), and the *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW).

With a committed membership, and consistently high calibre staff input, WWDA has emerged as a leading and resilient voice in national human rights debates. It is internationally acknowledged as a leader in the growing international disabled women's movement, with groups of disabled women in many different countries seeking to emulate its innovative programs, research and materials.

This document reports on WWDA's key achievements for 2009-2010. More detail on anything in this report can be found at WWDA's extensive website at:

www.wwda.org.au





WWDA PRESIDENT'S REPORT SUE SALTHOUSE

This year, it is with pride that Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) has consolidated its role as a rights based organisation. WWDA is a human rights organisation, and in undertaking our work to advocate for the rights of women with disabilities, we use human rights treaties and conventions as a basis for pursuing feminist rights and disability rights. In doing this WWDA is following strong Australian women who have taken leadership roles in the field of human rights. I particularly ponder the leadership contribution of Jessie Street who was a player in the formation of the United Nations, being the only woman on the Australian delegation to its founding conference in 1945.

WWDA uses the seven core human rights conventions ratified by the Australian government as an underpinning blueprint for our work. Thus, our submission to the National Human Rights Consultation conducted in 2009, was a comprehensive Conventions-based analysis of the status of women with disabilities in Australia. It is an endorsement of the calibre of this paper that it was accepted by the Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as a stand-alone NGO report.

In addition, WWDA will have direct engagement with the United Nations (UN) this year, when Christina Ryan, a WWDA member, represents women with disabilities in the Australian NGO delegation to CEDAW for its 46th session at the UN in July. Her inclusion in the delegation and participation as a representative at international level will demonstrate a recognition by Australian women's organisations of the leadership contribution of women with disabilities.

Leadership is important. It is crucial that WWDA empowers and endorses women with disabilities in leadership roles. We have consistently demonstrated our commitment to doing this through the 15 years since our formation, and many of our members have used WWDA's support and mentoring as one of the tools in their growth.

However, the costs associated with enabling people with physical disabilities to participate can be significant. It is our conviction that direct representation of our issues is essential and a considerable amount of my time this year has been taken in making requests for funding to enable our delegate to go the UN. Part of a commitment to having women with

disabilities in leadership positions, means that government must allocate sufficient funding to enable this. It will also mean ensuring that we are members of future delegations to the UN. This is pertinent in that next year, Australia will present its first report to the Committee on the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

At the UN this year, WWDA will also strongly re-emphasise its long-term advocacy work to bring about prohibition of the non-therapeutic sterilisation of women and girls with disabilities affirmed. WWDA will also specifically address our further grave concerns about the continuing neglect of the high incidence and prevalence of violence against women with disabilities, particularly those in institutions.

This WWDA Annual Report showcases the amazing volume of work that WWDA has done in the course of a single year to enhance the status of women with disabilities nationally and internationally. We are supported in this work through our operational funding from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). I thank them for this support which enables WWDA to pursue a much-

WWDA PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT.

needed agenda. At the same time I have grave concerns that funding restrictions jeopardise the wellbeing of our staff.

I would like to thank all the women with disabilities in Australia, whether officially WWDA members or not, for their work at any level in their communities and our society to further the full inclusion of all our sisters. Within WWDA, I would particularly like to thank our amazing staff, Carolyn Frohmader and Shirley Raspin for working with such commitment, above and beyond what is realistic! I also thank Margie Charlesworth, WWDA Vice-President for her wisdom and support of me in our decision making

processes. My thanks go to the WWDA Committee, for their consistent, strong input to submissions and actions, and to all of those who have represented WWDA during the year.

As WWDA continues to derive validation from the UN Conventions, most importantly at this time, we look forward to the outcomes of the 46th session of CEDAW, and stand ready to be engaged in future processes to promote gender equality and advance the human rights of women with disabilities.

Sue Salthouse
WWDA President





WWDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT CAROLYN FROHMADER

Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) has had an extremely productive and successful year. Our work has had extensive reach and significant impact, and has consolidated our role as the national representative organisation for women with disabilities in Australia. We have strongly pursued our mission to enable and represent the collective interests of women with disabilities, in order to promote their equal participation in all aspects of social, economic, political and cultural life.

Over the past year, WWDA has strengthened our work in the human rights arena, working hard to ensure that Governments are held to account for the human rights conventions and instruments they have ratified. Our work has also sought to create greater awareness among governments and other relevant institutions of their obligations to fulfil, respect, protect and promote the human rights of women and girls with disabilities. As a member State of the United Nations, and as a party to a number of human rights conventions and instruments which create obligations in relation to gender equality, Australia has committed to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to ensure equality between men

and women. Australia has also agreed to take all appropriate measures to ensure that disabled women and girls experience full and effective enjoyment of their human rights. In this context, WWDA has been particularly active in the international human rights treaty monitoring processes, contributing to both government and non-government reports and processes. We have had notable achievements in relation to the engagement of women with disabilities in the reporting processes of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), and these achievements are highlighted later in this Report.

WWDA has continued to take up opportunities to ensure the voices of disabled women are heard in national and State/Territory based initiatives. We have participated in many consultation processes and reviews, and developed detailed Policy Submissions across a broad range of portfolio areas. In the past year, WWDA has contributed more than 25 formal policy submissions and responses at both national and state/territory levels and been represented at/on more than 75 forums, events, advisory structures and other fora.

In late 2009, we published our new five year *Strategic Plan 2010-2015*, which incorporates the key policy priority areas identified by our members, including for example: the right to freedom from violence and abuse; the right to bodily integrity; the right to the highest attainable standard of health; and the right to reproductive freedom, including the right to found and maintain a family. This Annual Report is structured to report against the five goals of our Strategic Plan:

- Promote and protect the rights of women with disabilities nationally and internationally.
- Undertake systemic advocacy in specific areas of concern to women with disabilities.
- Continue to build on WWDA's key role in the consolidation, production and dissemination of high quality information, publications and research on issues relevant to women with disabilities.
- Further develop the internal and external operations of the organisation in order to achieve its vision, goals and objectives.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of Australian Government policies affecting women with disabilities.



WWDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONT

During 2009-2010, we researched and published a major Policy Paper on **'Women With Disabilities & The Human Right to Health'**, continued to publish our international quarterly Newsletter **'WWDA-News'**, further developed our website (which now boasts over 1,150 separate titles), disseminated information to our extensive and ever-growing membership, and sent more than 70,000 emails. We presented papers and showcased our work at international, national, and state based conferences and forums, developed new partnerships and collaborative relationships, and furthered strengthened our existing relationships within the disability, women's, and human rights sectors. WWDA's productivity, standard of work and achievements are particularly impressive, given that the organisation has only two paid staff and relies heavily on the commitment, goodwill and dedication of its Management Committee and its members.

As Executive Director, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue Salthouse (WWDA President) and Margie Charlesworth (WWDA Vice President), for their commitment and dedication to their roles, and for their support of the WWDA staff. My thanks go to the WWDA Management Committee members for their contribution and support over the past 12 months, and I would particularly like to acknowledge the many WWDA members who have undertaken representative work on our behalf over the past year. A big thanks too, as always, to Shirley Raspin, WWDA's Office & Finance Manager for her exceptional work in the WWDA Office.

The following report gives a brief synopsis of WWDA's performance and key achievements over the past 12 months.

Carolyn Frohmader
WWDA Executive Director



PROMOTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES NATIONALLY & INTERNATIONALLY

Over the past year, WWDA's input to, and participation in, the preparation of government and NGO reports to the human rights monitoring bodies has been a key focus of our work. WWDA has also been active in utilising other processes within the United Nations to promote the human rights of women and girls with disabilities.

WWDA provided a detailed Submission to the Australian Government to inform its initial report to the monitoring Committee on the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**. WWDA also contributed extensively to the nationwide consultations to develop the **NGO Shadow Report to the CRPD**, to be submitted in late 2010. WWDA's input to both these processes focused on the ongoing violation, denial and infringement of disabled women's human rights, and the lack of specific measures undertaken by Governments to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by women with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I wish to thank you for the amazing report you did to inform the Beijing + 15 Review for Australia. Without the WWDA Report, many voices of women with disabilities would be missing. You are inspiring women.

Carole A Shaw
JERA International

In March 2010, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) undertook its fifteen-year review of the implementation of the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA)**, adopted by member states, (including Australia) in 1995, and re-affirmed in 2000. WWDA provided extensive input to the nationwide consultations to inform the Australian NGO Report *'Working Together for Equality'*, with women with disabilities attending many forums around the country. WWDA's written Submission addressed in detail, the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as information on emerging issues. WWDA's Submission was extremely well received and many of the issues WWDA raised were included in the NGO Report.

To meet its reporting obligation under the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, the Australian Government submitted its Country Report to the CEDAW Committee for review at the 46th CEDAW session in July 2010 in New York. The women's non-government sector submitted its complementary (or 'Shadow') NGO Report to provide independent information and critique for the CEDAW Committee to take into account while reviewing the Australian Government Report. WWDA was involved in the process of developing the CEDAW NGO Report, and issues facing women with disabilities were well covered in the sector wide Shadow Report. However, for the first time, the CEDAW Committee accepted a stand-alone **NGO Shadow Report from WWDA**, focusing solely on the situation of women with disabilities in Australia. This was a major achievement not only for WWDA, but women with disabilities globally.

Australia is scheduled to appear before the CEDAW Monitoring Committee at the 46th CEDAW session in July 2010 in New York. The Australian Government delegation will be required to address its Country report. An Australian NGO delegation will also be



PROMOTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES NATIONALLY & INTERNATIONALLY CONT

appearing before the CEDAW Monitoring Committee to address the CEDAW NGO Shadow Reports. A major achievement for WWDA in this regard was having one of our members, Christina Ryan, selected as part of the seven member **Australian NGO delegation** to appear before the CEDAW Committee in New York in July 2010. This was again a first, to have a woman with a disability as part of an Australian NGO delegation to CEDAW. Christina will have the opportunity to speak to WWDA's Shadow Report, raising issues of concern to women with disabilities in Australia, directly with the CEDAW Committee.

We have been extremely impressed by the work of Women With Disabilities Australia. Your articles have been incredibly valuable tools in strengthening our knowledge on women's disability rights, and the variety of concerns that women with disabilities currently face in Australia.

Daniela Ramirez
Human Rights Watch, New York

During the past year, WWDA also contributed to the Government and NGO reports to the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** of Australia. The UPR is a unique process of the United Nations which involves regular review of the human rights records of each country in the world. The UPR aims to improve the human rights situation in all countries, by creating a process where governments are held to account by other countries for their human rights record. Each country is considered under the UPR every four years, and Australia's review will occur in early 2011. WWDA developed a Submission to the Australian Government on priority human rights issues for women with disabilities to be included in the Australian Government's National Report for the UPR. WWDA also contributed to the **Joint NGO Submission to the UPR of Australia**, where WWDA's priority issues of sterilisation and violence were included.

During 2009-2010, WWDA continued its work to promote the interests and concerns of women with disabilities through **representation** on relevant committees, advisory bodies and other relevant fora. WWDA members have represented the organisation at/on more than **75** forums, events, advisory structures and other fora, covering a wide range of portfolio and interest

areas. This is clearly a worthy achievement given that the majority of WWDA's representation work is carried out by WWDA members on a voluntary basis. Much of WWDA's representation work was in areas consistent with the organisations key systemic advocacy priority areas including: the right to freedom from violence and abuse; the right to bodily integrity; the right to the highest attainable standard of health; and, the right to reproductive freedom, including the right to found and maintain a family. Examples of WWDA's representation work for the year is provided in Appendix 2.

WWDA's increasing profile both nationally and internationally, along with the recognised high standard of our work, has seen the organisation sought out by bodies and individuals from around the world for support, mentoring and sharing of our expertise. In March 2010, WWDA member Associate Professor Helen Meekosha, delivered the **Keynote Address at the Regional Conference on Women With Disabilities**, held in Guangzhou City, China, and organised by the Guangzhou Association of Disabled Women. The Keynote address *'Recognition, respect and rights: disabled women in a globalised world'*, developed by Professor Meekosha and WWDA Executive Director Carolyn Frohmader, was extremely well-

PROMOTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES NATIONALLY & INTERNATIONALLY CONT

received and was subsequently re-published in a number of academic journals, newsletters and other publications. Whilst in China, Associate Professor Meekosha met with a number of disabled women activists, and facilitated the formation of an **Asia-Pacific Forum on Women With Disabilities**. Associate Professor Meekosha also gave a number of interviews to the Chinese media, including a radio interview of the issue of sterilisation of women and girls with disabilities.

Thank you for the information you have been disseminating and let you know it is very useful for us.

Sylvana Lakkis
Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union

WWDA has continued to be an active participant in the **International Network of Women with Disabilities (INWWD)**, an email based network made up of more than 200 women from international, regional, national or local organisations, groups or networks of women with disabilities. Through our role on the INWWD, WWDA has contributed to the development of issue based INWWD position statements, as well as Submissions to human

rights treaty monitoring bodies, governments and other institutions.

Thank you for your kindness and all your help. By sending us this very good books, that is a good support to our organization.

Maria Un
Ketua Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Cacat Indonesia (HWPCI)

WWDA has supported the development and growth of organisations of disabled women around the world. For example, in early 2010, WWDA assisted the **Association of Disabled Females International (ADFI)** in Liberia, to write a funding Submission for the AusAID Human Rights Grants Scheme. WWDA worked with the **Indonesian Association of Women With Disabilities** to develop a Leadership Workshop for thirty-five disabled women in Makassar. WWDA was also able to provide complimentary copies of our **Leadership and Mentoring Resource Kit for Women with Disabilities** to the women participating in the Workshop.

I admire very much all of your work and follow very closely your publications which I always find very enriching.

Ana Pelaez
Member, UNCRPD

WWDA's reports, papers, kits and other resource materials, are being translated into other languages. For example, WWDA's Policy Paper **'Parenting Issues for Women with Disabilities in Australia'** which was published in May 2009, and was very well received internationally, was translated into Spanish following a request to WWDA from Ms Ana Pelaez, a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and President of the European Disability Forum (Women's Committee) and Chair of the Spanish Disability Council.



PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

Violence against women with disabilities remains a key policy priority for WWDA, and this is reflected in WWDA's Strategic Plan 2010-2015. Over the past year, WWDA has undertaken an extensive program of work, which has been far reaching and had significant impact. We have continued to work hard nationally and internationally to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women with disabilities, in all its forms.

A great result.credit to WWDA for excellent and continued lobbying.

Graeme Innes AM
Disability Discrimination Commissioner

Congratulations and look forward to the insight & change this representation can bring to the issues faced by women with disability.

Patricia Donovan
Dale Street Women's Health Centre

During 2008-2009 WWDA campaigned intensively to redress the omission of disabled women's representation on the Government appointed National Council

to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children. WWDA received widespread support for our campaign. WWDA's lobbying was successful, with the announcement by the Government on 1 October 2009, that WWDA's [then] President, Annie Parkinson, would be appointed as a member of the newly established **National Violence against Women Advisory Group (VAWAG)**. The VAWAG's role would be to provide independent and expert advice to the Australian Government in developing an innovative plan to reduce violence against women and their children. Over the past year, Annie has represented the interests of women with disabilities on the VAWAG, and advocated for the inclusion of women with disabilities into all aspects of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women, due for release in late 2010. WWDA also continued our **representation** on the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse Reference Group, and state/territory based advisory structures, including for example the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (CDFVR). Such representation provides WWDA with critical avenues to foster and promote the inclusion of women with disabilities in violence prevention initiatives.

Council commends your organisation for this submission and notes the relevance and appropriateness of the content.

Jason Reid
Principal Community Development Officer
Logan City Council

Part of the Government's national violence prevention agenda included a review of Family Violence Laws, which included identifying what improvements could be made to relevant legal frameworks to protect the safety of women and their children. In June 2010, WWDA provided a **Submission to the Australian Government Consultation Paper: 'Family Violence – Improving Legal Frameworks'**. WWDA's Submission recommended that State and territory family violence legislation, along with the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) should contain the same, comprehensive definition of family violence which includes the broadest possible definition of acts of family violence and relationships within which family violence occurs. WWDA's Submission also recommended (amongst other things) that relationships with carers and domestic workers - including those who are

PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE CONT

paid and/or unpaid, formal and/or informal, should be included in the relationships covered by State and Territory family violence legislation.

WWDA continued our advocacy and lobbying work with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure inclusion of women with disabilities in violence prevention frameworks, strategies and initiatives. WWDA lobbied the Australian Government to argue for inclusion of questions in the **National Personal Safety Survey (PSS)** to enhance national data collection on violence against women with disabilities. We also wrote formally to the Minister for the Status of Women to request that information on violence against women with disabilities be included in Australia's response to the **United Nations database on violence against women**. Each issue of WWDA's quarterly Newsletter '**WWDA-News**' has contained a Violence Prevention Update which has included up to date information of a wide range of violence prevention initiatives from both Australia and around the world.

WWDA's expertise in the area of violence, gender and disability has seen an increase in requests for our input to a wide range of inquiries, research studies, projects,

consultancies and reviews, along with a substantial increase in requests for WWDA publications and resource materials relating to violence against women with disabilities. For example, WWDA developed and provided an **Annotated Bibliography of Resources on Violence Against Women with Disabilities** to inform the development of an INWWD Position Paper on Violence Against Women with Disabilities. The Western Australian Government's Family Domestic Violence Unit (FDVU) reproduced WWDA materials for inclusion into its **Western Australia Best Practice Manual for Working with Victims of Family Domestic Violence**. The highly regarded international organisation **Human Rights Watch** is using WWDA's publications and resources to strengthen their knowledge on women's disability rights, including in the area of violence.

Over the past year, WWDA has also collaborated on the '**Living Safer Sexual Lives Project**' - a national Respectful Relationships Project being undertaken over a two year period by Dr Patsie Frawley from the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS). The Project has been funded by the Australian Government to develop, trial and evaluate a peer led

primary prevention of violence against women program for people with intellectual disabilities and other cognitive disabilities. WWDA established a small Project Reference Group made up of women with disabilities with expertise in the area of violence against disabled women, to advise the project researcher.

WWDA has made use of a number of opportunities to raise awareness of women with disabilities' right to freedom from violence, abuse, maltreatment and exploitation. For example, WWDA President, Sue Salthouse gave a paper and presentation entitled '**Shh! We're "Keeping Mum"**' to examine the continuing silence in acknowledging and addressing domestic violence issues for women with disabilities - at the **Responding to Family Violence Conference** in the ACT. Sue's presentation examined the factors which predispose women with disabilities to an experience of higher levels of domestic violence than any other population group. It also highlighted that the Australian Government's ratification of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol carries an urgent obligation to address the inequities which exist for women with disabilities.



PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

During the past year, WWDA continued its work to advance women and girls with disabilities' right to reproductive freedom. A primary focus of this work was continuing WWDA's campaign on the issue of non-therapeutic sterilisation of minors, specifically WWDA's call to the Australian Government to develop universal legislation which prohibits sterilisation of any child unless there is a serious threat to health or life.

WWDA's **campaign and position on sterilisation** was brought into the national spotlight following the media's reporting of a Family Court judgment in Queensland in February 2010, where the judge authorised the performing of a hysterectomy on an eleven year old disabled girl. WWDA's views on these issues were sought out by the media, and although WWDA did not comment on the Queensland judgement, we did reiterate our long standing position on the issue of non-therapeutic sterilisation of girls and women with disabilities. We further highlighted Australia's obligations under the international human rights treaties it has ratified, particularly in relation to a person's right to bodily integrity, to retain their fertility, to found a maintain a family, and to freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

I appreciate the wonderful work of WWDA - an organisation of great integrity in this country.

Donna Justo
Queensland

In March 2010, WWDA developed a **Submission to the Federal Attorney General on the issue of Sterilisation of Minors**. WWDA's Submission was prompted in part by information provided by the Australian Government to the United Nations (UNESCAP) Questionnaire for Governments on Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000). In Australia's response to this questionnaire, the Government conceded that children [girls] with disabilities continue to be sterilised in Australia, and claimed that *'evidence indicates that alternatives to sterilisations are increasingly available and seem to be successful in the most part'*. It further claimed that it *'was not possible to be definitive due to limitations in the available information'* regarding sterilisation of minors with disabilities. WWDA's Submission to the Federal Attorney General raised a number of concerns with the Australian Government's

response and sought detailed information in relation to the response. WWDA's Submission, endorsed by organisations and individuals from around the world, also urged the Australian Government, through the Attorney-General, to act under its external affairs power to legislate to prohibit non-therapeutic sterilisation of minors unless there is a serious threat to health or life. At the time of writing this Annual Report, WWDA is awaiting the information we requested in our Submission.

WWDA's Submission to the Federal Attorney General was also formally submitted to the **United Nations Special Procedures** process. Under this process, WWDA lodged our Submission with the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. The Submission was also provided to the United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force – made up of the Directors of UNESCO, ILO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO.



PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

During the past year, WWDA undertook an extensive program of work in our policy priority area of promoting women with disabilities right to the highest attainable standard of health. During 2009, the Australian Government conducted nationwide consultations to inform the development of its new National Women's Health Policy. WWDA members from around the country participated in these consultations. WWDA, in conjunction with the Queenslanders with Disabilities Network (QDN), hosted a **Women with Disabilities and Health Forum** in Queensland. Information gathered at this Forum was used to inform WWDA's written **Submission to the National Women's Health Policy Discussion Paper**, which was submitted to the Australian Government in August 2009. WWDA's Submission examined women with disabilities' right to health under the relevant international human rights treaties to which Australia is a party, and argued that women with disabilities must be included as a priority in the new National Women's Health Policy, due to be released in late 2010.

Well done Carolyn and all involved, it was a great submission and will be extremely useful to refer to as an example of access to health services.

Keran Howe

Victorian Women with Disabilities Network

WWDA continued our national campaign to have the provision of **adjustable-height examination beds** made mandatory in the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standards for General Practices. In late 2009, WWDA, in conjunction with People With Disability Australia (PWDA), the Physical Disability Council NSW (PDCN), and Council on the Ageing NSW (COTA), developed a joint **Submission to the RACGP** as part of the consultations for the Review of the RACGP Standards for General Practices. The new edition of the Standards are due to be finalised in late 2010. The joint Submission clearly articulated our long held position that the provision of adjustable-height examination beds be made a 'flagged' (mandatory) requirement in the RACGP Standards for General

Practices. Previous editions of the Standards included the provision of adjustable-height examination beds as an 'un-flagged' item (ie: not mandatory). The National WWDA Office circulated the joint Submission and co-ordinated its subsequent endorsement by more than 200 organisations and individuals.

The WWDA policy paper on women's human right to health was very informative. Thank you.

Angeline Chand

Pacific Disability Forum, Fiji

In May 2010, WWDA published our major **Policy Paper on 'Women With Disabilities & The Human Right to Health'**. In keeping with our systemic advocacy work to create greater awareness among governments and other relevant institutions of their obligations to fulfil, respect, protect and promote the human rights of women with disabilities, WWDA's Policy Paper examines what is meant by women with disabilities right to health. It places this fundamental human right in the context of Australia's obligations under three of the



PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH CONT

key human rights conventions it has ratified: the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD), the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (CESCR) and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW). WWDA's Policy Paper demonstrates that full enjoyment of the right to health still remains a distant goal for women with disabilities. It highlights the ways in which women and girls with disabilities in Australia are denied the freedoms and entitlements necessary for the realisation of their right to health, and provides an overview of a range of key policy initiatives required to address the structural, socioeconomic and cultural barriers that currently deny women with disabilities their right to health. The paper includes key strategies for consideration by the Australian Government, across a range of portfolio areas.

WWDA continued our collaborative work with the Australian Women's Health Network (AWHN) to assist in the planning of the **AWHN National Conference**, held in Hobart, 18 - 21 May 2010. WWDA assisted the organising committee to make the event accessible for women with disabilities, and ensured women with disabilities were represented at the Conference as both

presenters and delegates. WWDA also recommended Dr. Marsha Saxton (World Institute on Disability, University of California, Berkeley) as a Keynote Speaker for the Conference. Dr. Saxton's Keynote Address '*Towards Empowerment: Understanding the Complexities of 'Vulnerability' to Abuse and Violence for Women with Disabilities*', examined amongst other things, models of independence and empowerment which can enable women with disabilities to deflect disempowering conditioning, and learn responses which enable them to recognise and resist abuse as well as to seek appropriate help.

I was inspired to join WWDA after hearing your rep speak at the National Women's Health Conference in Tasmania and have also been on your website for information that has contributed to our strategic planning. We have included women with disability in all our key focus areas.

Julie Hawke, Centre Coordinator

Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre, WA

As a direct result of WWDA's involvement in the Conference planning, women with disabilities were well represented at the AWHN Conference. WWDA was able to support a number of members to attend the Conference, and was further assisted in this way by AWHN, who provided WWDA with two free Conference registrations. A number of **Conference papers** were presented by WWDA members. Karin Swift (Queensland) presented a paper co-written by herself and Carolyn Frohmader, entitled '*Our Rights Denied: Women with disabilities and the human right to health*'; Sue Salthouse (ACT) presented '*Downward Spirals*' which looked at the effect of economic shock on the health status of women with disabilities, and also co-presented a paper on work done in the ACT to begin improving the accessibility of its residential Domestic Violence Crisis Services (Women with Disabilities Accessing Domestic Violence Crisis Services in the ACT). Keran Howe (VIC) presented '*Responding to Violence Against Women with Disabilities: The policy and practice in Victoria*'.





PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH CONT

For the first time at a conference, WWDA also took part in the **Conference Trade Table** displays in the main conference hall. The WWDA booth sported trademark posters, a display banner, and myriad photos of WWDA members at work around Australia and internationally, at various conferences and workshops over the past decade. The booth acted as a focus point for women with disabilities to meet up during the breaks and also attracted attention from other conference participants, so that sales of publications and WWDA memberships were brisk over the three days.

With so many women with disabilities present, WWDA seized the opportunity for an impromptu meeting during a lunch break. With about 12 women with disabilities present, a **Conference Communiqué by Women With Disabilities** was drafted, to be incorporated into the final conference outcomes statement. The Recommendation from Women With Disabilities at the Australian Women's Health Conference highlighted the extraordinary absence of gender in Australian health and social policy, and called for more gendered research and data - disaggregated for disadvantaged population groups, including women with disabilities.



WWDA members Kerry Snell (L), Shirley Raspin (centre) and Sue Salthouse setting up the WWDA Trade Table

BUILDING ON OUR KEY ROLE IN THE PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

Over the past year, WWDA has strengthened our work in the production, provision and coordination of information, publications and research.

I find your web site the most informative I have ever come across. Easy to follow links and useful info. Thanks.

Judy Pine

The **WWDA website** is a critical component of our core business, and its value has been recognised nationally and internationally. As at 30 June 2010, the WWDA website contained over **1,150** separate titles (includes publications). Every publication and resource available on the WWDA website is annotated. In mid May 2009, WWDA added a data tracking system (Google Analytics) to its website in order to collect detailed data on site usage, to assess how users interact with our site, and to enable WWDA to make informed site design improvements and drive targeted traffic to the website. Google Analytics provided the following data about the WWDA website usage for the 12 month period **July 2009 – June 2010**:

- There were 93,413 unique visits to the WWDA website (this means that 93,413 different computers accessed the WWDA website). 84.23% of those were new visitors to the site in the 12 month period.
- The users came from 193 countries/territories, using 83 languages. The top ten countries were: Australia, USA, UK, Canada, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Philippines, Nigeria and Pakistan. Other users country of origin included for example: China, Iran, Sierra Leone, Yemen, Iceland, South Korea, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Indonesia, and South Africa.
- 76,615 visitors (82.02%) were directed to the site via search engines; 8,461 (9.06%) were direct traffic; and 8,337 (8.92%) were directed to the site from referring sites. A total of 62,943 keywords/search terms were used. The most popular search terms used were: WWDA; women with disabilities Australia; euthanasia articles; women with disabilities; hate crimes against disabled people; al anon; women with disabilities media portrayal; poems about disabilities; disability policy Australia; WWDA sterilisation; domestic violence.
- The ten most popular pages visited (in frequency order of visits) were: 1) Home Page 2) Contents Page 3) WWDA Newsletter 4) WWDA Submissions to Government 5) Women With Disabilities and Family and Domestic Violence 6) Sterilisation of Women and Girls with Disabilities 7) Hate Crimes Against People with Disabilities; 8) Poems by Women with Disabilities 9) Australian Government Disability Policy 10) Information & Referral Directory - Alcohol and Drug Services.
- Pages on the site were viewed a total of 146,585 times.

Just wanted to drop you a quick note to say thanks for the very high quality newsletters throughout the year. I find them so useful, and get a lot of helpful material from them.

Sally Robinson

BUILDING ON OUR KEY ROLE IN THE PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH CONT

During 2009-2010, WWDA continued to produce its very popular and highly successful quarterly Newsletter **'WWDA-News'**. The Newsletter is published electronically in a range of formats, disseminated by WWDA directly to recipients and also made available for download on the WWDA Website. WWDA also mails out hard copies to WWDA members who do not have access to email. WWDA-News is widely distributed both within Australia and around the world, and WWDA continues to receive positive feedback from the **WWDA-News** readership. Over the past year, a number of organisations have sought permission to re-publish WWDA News articles in their own publications.

Carolyn, saw your newsletter - great job.

Marcia H. Rioux, Ph.D.
Professor, School of Health Policy
York University, Canada

We have received your toolkit, researches, & useful information regarding reproductive rights of disabled women. We really appreciate your kindness.

Kriangsak
Disabled Peoples' International- Asia Pacific

WWDA has developed an extensive database of individuals, organisations and agencies spanning a wide range of sectors, both within and outside Australia. For many years now, WWDA has played a pivotal role as a conduit for disability, gender and human rights information between a range of sectors and the community. WWDA's wide ranging and extensive networks are well known and WWDA is often called upon to assist in the dissemination of information. WWDA's general, direct distribution database totals

more than 10,000 individuals, organisations and other stakeholders throughout Australia and overseas. Naturally, the reach of WWDA's information is far greater than this figure, given that direct recipients of WWDA's communications continue to disseminate information through their own established networks.

During 2009, Carolyn Frohmader, Associate Professor Helen Meekosha and Dr. Leanne Dowse (University of NSW) collaborated to co-author a chapter for the book **'Women and the Law in Australia'**, edited by Dr. Patricia Easteal with the Governor General, Her Excellency Ms. Quentin Bryce, contributing the foreword. The first of its kind, the book not only highlights problems that women experience with the legal system, but acts as a hands-on resource for all people, including legal practitioners and policy-makers, providing practical advice and remedies for



BUILDING ON OUR KEY ROLE IN THE PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH CONT

dealing with issues in the practice of law that are of particular importance to women. Our chapter *'Intersectionality: Disabled Women'* examines some of the areas of discrimination and exclusion that disabled women experience in their encounters with the law and the legal system – focusing on access to justice and the law; violence; sterilisation; motherhood and parenting; employment; and criminal justice. 'Women and the Law in Australia' will be launched by the Governor General in August 2010.

Your achievements, your vision and your work is very impressive. Congratulations!

Helen Sara
Fecca Women's Chair

In 2010, WWDA contributed to The **Link Magazine feature issue on Women With Disabilities**. Link Magazine is a national publication of and for people with disabilities. The feature issue included a condensed version of the paper *'Recognition, respect and rights: disabled women in a globalised world'*, developed by Helen Meekosha and Carolyn Frohmader. A feature article on WWDA President, Sue Salthouse was also included. WWDA's work was also featured in a number of other newsletters and journals during the year, including for example the NSW Government's Disability Newsletter *'Connections'* and the proceedings of The national Feminist Conference, held in Sydney in May 2010.

During the period July 2009 – June 2010, WWDA sent **70,200** emails and received **51,848** emails. This saw an increase from the previous year (2008-2009) of 30.41% in the numbers of emails sent and a 37.19% increase in the number of emails received.



DEVELOPING THE INTERNAL & EXTERNAL OPERATIONS OF WWDA

Congratulations on your Strategic Plan. The graphics are drop dead gorgeous and the text is beautifully scripted, clear and measurable. And thank you for sharing your efforts. It will encourage the rest of us in this sector to raise the bar.

Dona L. Graham, CEO
Disability and Aged Information Service Inc

WWDA's **Strategic Plan 2010-2015** was published in late 2009. The 5 year Strategic Plan was developed following extensive input from WWDA members, and a three day Strategic Planning Forum of the WWDA Management Committee and staff in Hobart in early 2009. A Summary version of WWDA's Strategic Plan 2010-2015 was also published to give an overview of the key elements of the Plan. The Strategic Plan is grounded in a rights based framework which links gender and disability issues to a full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It incorporates the key policy priority areas identified by our members, including the right to freedom from violence and abuse; the right to bodily integrity; the right to the highest attainable standard of health; and the right to

reproductive freedom, including the right to found and maintain a family. Copies of both the Summary version and the Full version of WWDA's Strategic Plan 2010-2015 were widely disseminated and have been made available on the WWDA website.

WWDA received a special purpose top-up grant from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) in early 2010, to enable us to conduct a **WWDA Governance Forum** in Hobart in April. WWDA was able to use this opportunity to hold a face to face meeting of the

WWDA Management Committee. This is a rare event, as these meetings usually take place via teleconference due to lack of funding.

A full day was devoted to discussion about aspects of the governance of the organisation, including for example: Management Committee Operations and Effectiveness; Strategic Planning Progress & Review; Work Program Implementation and Evaluation; Funding Stability; Financial oversight; Constituent Representation; and External relations.



Some of the members of WWDA's Management Committee, Hobart 2010



DEVELOPING THE INTERNAL & EXTERNAL OPERATIONS OF WWDA CONT

Following the WWDA Governance Forum, WWDA hosted a **WWDA Members & Friends Meeting** in Hobart. The ten Tasmanian members who were able to come, have a wide range of experience, backgrounds, professional qualifications and sheer talent. The Hobart women expressed a desire to meet up with each other more often for peer support, to address Tasmanian state matters, and to look at the wider national, international and human rights issues together. WWDA will investigate how this can be facilitated. Many of the women are already contributing to WWDA's work through representation and writing.

How WWDA operates has been an inspiration – both in terms of your excellent network of committed representatives, the quality of the policy and research, and the strategy on key issues. So thanks for providing something to aim for.

Dinesh Wadiwel
National Ethnic Disability Alliance

WWDA's increasing profile both nationally and internationally has seen us develop a range of new and exciting partnerships over the past year, as well as collaborate on a wide range of projects and programs. Along with the many collaborative partnerships already highlighted in this report, WWDA continued our work with the **Equality Rights Alliance** (formerly the Womenspeak Network) and the **Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO)**, contributing to a number of sector wide policy submissions throughout the year. We worked with a number of other international, national and state/territory disability, women's and human rights organisations on issues of shared concern, including for example: sterilisation of minors, violence prevention, parenting rights, human rights treaty reporting, homelessness and housing, legal issues, and much more. WWDA continued to work with the **Women's United Nations Report Network & Program (WUNRN)**, a worldwide information center and forum which acts as a catalyst to encourage women's NGO's, other organisations and programs to exchange information on research and practical programs to promote tolerance and end discrimination against women. WWDA

also continued its long established relationship with the **Global Fund for Women (GFW)**, acting as an advisor to the GFW on relevant funding applications received from the Asia-Pacific region.



CONTRIBUTING TO GOVERNMENT POLICIES AFFECTING WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

...You and your committee should be congratulated for achieving so much for women with disabilities in advocacy, representation and strategic planning.

Jodie Willmer , CEO
Travellers Aid

Over the past year, WWDA has contributed more than **25 Formal Policy Submissions** and responses to a number of reviews and inquiries at both a National and State/Territory level. WWDA has provided advice to Governments on policy, program and service delivery issues emerging from our membership, and advised Governments on the impact of social policy initiatives on women with disabilities.

...The Office for Women values the work your organization does in raising issues about women with disabilities and advocating for women's rights.

Julia Burns, Executive Director
Australian Government Office for Women

WWDA's formal submissions demonstrate the breadth and scope of the organisation's work, with submissions developed across a diverse range of issue areas, including for example: violence prevention; human rights treaties monitoring; disability policy; health policy; telecommunications; sport; sterilisation; and ageing (see Appendix 1 for a listing of WWDA's Policy Submissions 2009-2010). WWDA's Submissions have been widely

disseminated and made available in accessible formats on the WWDA website. We have regularly received acknowledgement for the impact, quality and standard of our policy submissions.

As the national representative structure for women with disabilities in Australia, enabling and representing the collective interests of disabled women, WWDA has continued to seek out opportunities and avenues to increase its representation on relevant National, State/Territory and local working parties, committees, advisory bodies, and other fora. During the past 12 months, WWDA members have represented the organisation at/on more than **75** forums, events, advisory structures and other fora, covering a wide range of portfolio and interest areas.



AWARDS

Over the past year, WWDA staff and members have been recognised for their contributions to the work of WWDA, and to advancing the rights of people with disabilities in Australia. In August 2009, Executive Director, Carolyn Frohmader was inducted into the **Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women** for her services to human rights. Carolyn's inauguration to the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women followed her late mother Wendy's induction to the Roll in 2008, when she was posthumously awarded the honour for services to education and training. In late 2009, Carolyn was also selected as one of four Tasmanian finalists for the **Australian of the Year Awards** (Tasmania), in recognition of her contribution locally, nationally and internationally in promoting the human rights of women with disabilities.

In May 2010, WWDA President Sue Salthouse was recognised for her contribution to advancing the rights of women with disabilities by being awarded an **Edna Award** for her contribution to feminist activism in Australia. The Edna Awards, administered by the Women's Electoral Lobby of Australia, celebrate the life and work of Edna Ryan (a feminist icon in Australia).

In March 2010, WWDA member, and former WWDA President, Keran Howe, was formally inducted into the **Victorian Honour Roll of Women 2010**. Keran was recognised for her efforts and commitment to promoting the human rights of women with disabilities. Keran is currently the Executive Officer of the Victorian Women With Disabilities Network (VWDN).

In December 2010, WWDA member Kate Locke was awarded the **Human Rights Community (Individual) Award**, by the Australian Human Rights Commission. Kate was recognised for her passion and dedication in increasing awareness and overcoming discrimination against deaf and hearing impaired people within Australia.

In June 2010, WWDA member Faye Druett from NSW, was awarded a **Medal of the Order of Australia** for service to the community, particularly through executive and advocacy roles with organisations assisting people with a disability.



WWDA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2009-2010



Sue Salthouse
President



Margie Charlesworth
Vice President



Pamela Menere
Treasurer



Rayna Lamb
Secretary



Annie Parkinson



Helen Meekosha



Kate List



Sheila King



Vicki Alipasinopoulos



Samantha Jenkinson



Jo Dixon (stepped down April 2010)

WWDA STAFF



Carolyn Frohmader
Executive Director



Shirley Raspin
Office & Finance Manager



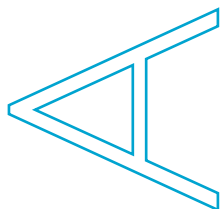


www.wwda.org.au

Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

PROFIT & LOSS [LAST YEAR ANALYSIS] – JULY 2009 THROUGH JUNE 2010

	This Year	Last Year
Income		
General Income		
Donations	5,764.69	4,999.25
Interest Received	7,556.68	9,639.57
Memberships	11,210.41	7,140.00
Project Management Income	0	3,325.00
Miscellaneous Income	13.95	7,500.00
Consultancy	10,000.00	0
Reimbursed Expenses	5,111.76	7,986.01
Sitting Fees	548.00	0
Total General Income	40,205.49	40,589.83
Grants Received		
Grants - FaHCSIA Operational	162,366.00	160,966.00
FaHCSIA Face 2 Face	16,450.00	0
FaHCSIA Prod Com Inq	30,000.00	0
Grant – Telecom Consumer Rep	0	14,900.00
ACT Women's Grant	0	3,000.00
Nat Women's Health Policy	0	5,000.00
Total Grants Received	208,816.00	183,866.00
Income from Sales		
Publication Sales	95.00	339.59
Violence Resource Manual	1,086.00	4,050.24
Total Income from Sales	1,181.00	4,389.83
Total Income	250,202.49	228,845.66
Expenses		
Administration Expenses		
Accommodation, Meals etc	11,406.35	13,929.02
Accountancy & Audit Fees	900.00	1,280.00
Bank Charges & Govt Taxes	238.27	270.30
Bad Debts	421.36	0
Conference Registrations	1,709.10	1,992.05
Consultancy	5,400.00	8,900.00
Depreciation	1,759.79	2,945.21
Donations	0	1,500.00
Electricity	1,736.19	2,221.64
Insurance	3,580.44	3,345.93
Internet	1,596.13	1,565.92
Information Technology	2,164.95	2,050.45



PROFIT & LOSS [LAST YEAR ANALYSIS] – JULY 2009 THROUGH JUNE 2010

	This Year	Last Year
Expenses (continued)		
Administration Expenses (continued)		
Membership Fees	337.72	765.00
Office Supplies & Equipment	4490.03	3,883.35
Postage & Freight	2,216.40	3,252.73
Printing & Publication Design	9,306.25	4,676.26
Project Management	0	3,105.00
Registrar General Fees	33.00	61.00
Rental Costs	6,834.15	6,636.25
Sitting Fee & Report Writing	811.00	3,825.00
Staff Welfare	0	260.00
Subscriptions & Publications	525.57	708.64
Sundry Expenses	3,747.10	2,242.05
Taxi	4,556.92	2,617.18
Telephone & Teleconferences	3,848.73	3,639.26
Training	0	550.00
Travel	18,076.55	12,808.69
Total Administration Expenses	85,696.00	89,030.93
Employees Expenses		
Leave Provision	8,836.06	8,146.52
LSL Provision	2,347.23	1,932.34
Superannuation	10,406.13	9,975.67
Wages & Salaries	109,428.80	104,087.55
Workers Compensation	659.28	591.64
Total Employee Expenses	131,677.50	124,733.72
Total Expenses	217,373.50	213,764.65
Operating Profit	32,828.99	15,081.01
Other Income		
Other Expenses		
Net Profit / (Loss)	32,828.99	15,081.01



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNT POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the reporting requirements of the Members. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 110	Events Occurring After Reporting Date

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standard Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on a cash basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuation of non-current assets.



WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES AUSTRALIA INC. OFFICERS ASSERTION STATEMENT


The officers have determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee, the attached financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Women With Disabilities Australia Inc as at 30 June 2010 and its performance for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Women With Disabilities Australia Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and behalf of the Committee by:

Dated at Hobart this 11th day of August 2010



.....
PRESIDENT

.....
TREASURER





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Women With Disabilities (Australia) Inc.

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose report, of Women With Disabilities (Australia) Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30th June 2010, the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the officers' assertion statement.

OFFICERS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The officers of Women With Disabilities Australia Inc. are responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporated Act 1964 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The officers' responsibility also includes such internal control as the officers determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error:

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the officers, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

QUALIFICATION

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for Women With Disabilities (Australia) Inc. to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations, fundraising and other income until their initial entry into the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to donations, fundraising and other income was limited to amounts recorded.

QUALIFIED OPINION

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial

report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Women With Disabilities (Australia) Inc. as at 30th June 2010 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the **Association Incorporated Act (1964)**.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND RESTRICTION ON DISTRIBUTION

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Women With Disabilities Australia Inc. to meet the requirements of the **Association Incorporated Act (1964)**. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Michael Burnett FCA
Registered Company Auditor
PARTNER, Accru+ Hobart
Dated: 31st July 2010

Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
Sydney + Melbourne + Brisbane
Perth + Adelaide + Hobart + Auckland

Level 3, 6 Bayfield Street, Rosny Park Tas. 7018
Ph: (03) 6244 5044

PO Box 28, Rosny Park TAS 7018
www.acru.com

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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AUDIT CERTIFICATE

Program Funding Recipient: Women With Disabilities (Australia) Incorporated
 Type of Funding: National Secretariat Program
 Profit and Loss Statement for the period: 01/07/2009 to 30/06/2010

I have audited the Final Acquittal Report and Profit and Loss statement of the organisation for the period indicated and provided answers to the following questions. Where a "No" answer is given I am providing an accompanying note to the certificate.

1. I have read the Conditions of Program Funding under which payments have been made to the organisation by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for the audited period.	Yes
2. I am satisfied that all payments made to the organisation by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in, or for, the audited period were spent for the agreed purpose(s) or, if not yet fully spent, have been accounted for in the audited financial statements.	Yes
3. I am satisfied that the organisation observed all Conditions of Program Funding relating to the organisations audited financial statements.	Yes
4. There were no other matters of a material nature that came to my attention, other than those noted in my audit report.	Yes

Name of Engagement Partner: Michael Burnett

Signature of Engagement Partner:



Name of Audit Firm: Accru+ Steele Burnett & Nelson
 Address: Po Box 28 Rosny Park TAS 7018
 Telephone No: (03) 62 445 044
 Fax No: (03) 62 447 319
 Date: 2nd August 2010



APPENDIX I WWDA POLICY SUBMISSIONS 2009-2010

Submission to the Australian Government initial report to the monitoring Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Submission to the NGO Shadow Report to the CRPD

Submission to the Beijing +15

WWDA NGO Shadow Report to the CEDAW Monitoring Committee

Submission to the Women's sector NGO Shadow Report to CEDAW

Submission to the Australian Government Draft Report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Submission to the Joint NGO Submission to the UPR of Australia;

Submission to the Australian Government Consultation Paper: 'Family Violence – Improving Legal Frameworks'.

Submission to the Australian Government on the National Personal Safety Survey (PSS)

Submission to the Federal Attorney General on the issue of Sterilisation of Minors

Submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

Submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

Submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

Submission to the United Nations United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force

Submission to the National Women's Health Policy Discussion Paper

WWDA Submission to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standards for General Practices;

Joint Submission to the RACGP on adjustable-height examination beds

Policy Paper on 'Women With Disabilities & The Human Right to Health'

Submission to the Productivity Commission long-term care and support Inquiry

Submission to the Draft National Advocacy Framework

Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Planning Options and Services for People Ageing with a Disability

Submission to the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO) PDF Accessibility Review

Submission to the AGIMO Draft National Transition Strategy –Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0

Submission to the Harmonisation of Disability Parking Permit Schemes – National workshop

Submission to the Australian Sports Commission 'Disability Sport Research Project'



APPENDIX 2 WWDA REPRESENTATION 2009-2010

Dr Henry Lantman Seminar
Attorney Generals NGO Forum on Domestic Human Rights
Multiple Sclerosis Australia National Advocates Program
Human Rights - Improved Protection for the Rights of People with Disability
Yajilarra Screening
"Impact of Recession on Women" - Launch
Beijing + 15 Caravan Consultations
Asia Pacific Breakthrough Pre-Summit Reception
AHRC Adjustable Height Beds Consultation
Social Inclusion National Compact
AHRC, NSW Office of the Public Guardian, UNSW Disability Studies and Research Centre - Forum on Article 12: Equal Recognition Before the Law
South Australia Cervical Screening Workshop
Victorian Women with Disability Network Leadership Forum
Canberra National Womens Health Policy Consultation
Hobart National Womens Health Policy Consultation
Rhonda Galbally presentation "Shut Out"
Sydney National Womens Health Policy Consultation
Adelaide National Womens Health Policy Consultation
Violence Against Women Advisory Group
Alice Springs National Womens Health Policy Consultation
Review of Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace
Perth National Womens Health Policy Consultation
Melbourne National Womens Health Policy Consultation
Social Policy Research Network Seminar
Sydney CRPD Shadow Report Consultation
Brisbane CRPD Shadow Report Consultation
Adelaide Impact of the Recession on Women in the Workforce
Melbourne CRPD Shadow Report Consultation
Harmonisation of Disability Parking Permit Schemes in Australia
Sydney Impact of the Recession on Women in the Workforce
Canberra CRPD Shadow Report Consultation
RACGP Standards for General Practice



WWDA REPRESENTATION 2009-2010 CONT.

Melbourne Impact of the Recession on Women in the Workforce
National Disability Awards Ceremony
Hobart Impact of the Recession on Women in the Workforce
Adelaide CRPD Shadow Report Consultation
Hobart Consumers Health Forum Quality Use of Pathology Workshop
Perth CRPD Shadow Report Consultation
CRPD Shadow Report Project Consultation
National Launch Companion Card Scheme
Perth Consumers Health Forum Quality Use of Pathology Workshop
Adelaide Consumers Health Forum Quality Use of Pathology Workshop
This is My Home Seminar: Belonging, Disability & Diversity
Australian Federation of Disability Organisations Member Meetings
Living Safer Sexual Lives Reference Group
FaHCSIA/AFDO Funding Review Workshop
AFDO Strategic Planning Workshop
Unifem Gender Analysis Workshop
Personalising Support Seminar- Who decides what's best?
International Regional Conference on Women with Disabilities
AFDO Disability & Support Worker Conference
Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Forum
Domestic Violence is a Workplace Issue Forum
WWDA Face 2 Face Management Committee Meeting
Julia Farr Association 2nd Loop Workshop
Responding to Family Violence Conference
Happy Healthy Women, Not Just Survivors -National Sexual Violence Summit
6th Australian Women's Health Conference - Presenters
6th Australian Women's Health Conference - Attendees
National Disability Strategy 1st meeting with Peak Organisations
National Disability Strategy 2nd meeting with Peak Organisations
Long Term Disability Care & Support Public Hearing - Adelaide
Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) Meeting

