

***FAIRHOLME DISABILITY  
SUPPORT GROUP Inc.***



*Enriching the lives of people with disability, families, significant others and carers.*

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2009/10**

**August 21, 2010.**

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

## Chair's Message

It is with pleasure that I provide you with the key detail as to what has been undertaken by the Group over the past 12 months for the reporting period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. In addition to Group detail the report also includes a brief summary of some of the key achievements within the disability sector, which the Group's Management carefully monitors and provides input where considered appropriate.

The report has been re-arranged to provide greater clarity in that the formal reporting information has been placed at the front with reporting and general information at the rear of the report as detailed in the index.

As in the past it is essential that all of us to the extent to which we have capacity no matter what that may be, to continually place in front of members of parliament both Federal and State as well as peak organisations any issue of concern. Observation and facts demonstrate that what you have experienced is also, in the majority of instances systemic, so speaking out assists others to gain confidence to also pursue the issue hopefully to a satisfactory conclusion.

It is pleasing to note that both the Federal and State Governments' have continued to consider as well as implement significant changes and reforms within the Disability sector. It has now been formally acknowledged what most of us know that people with disabilities, families, significant others and carers experience systemic disadvantage that presents barriers to full participation in the social and economic life of the community. As such, social inclusion is one of if not the most important factors. The Group supports the Governments' will to drive this revitalised and much needed overall reform to bring about lasting change to ensure that all become a greater part of the community. In this regard we welcome the National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy in which we saw a new Disability Services program that commenced in March which is based on demand driven. Hopefully, this will offer greater pathways for all to achieve more.

Another aspect, which the Group has noted with concern for some time is that of ageing parents and the lack of identified pathways available to ensure that they have peace of mind in that their loved one's needs will be adequately taken care of when they are no longer with us. It is hoped that the identified needs, wants etc in the Disability Future Directions document will lead to better actioned outcomes than we have seen in the past in this area of great and justifiable concern.

Overall the view is held that the Group has continued to make a valuable contribution towards better outcomes for people with disability, families, carers and significant others.

## Governance

### Continuous Disclosure

One of the Group's principles is that of continuous disclosure about actual or potentially disclosurable matters or events as when they arise to enable members and significant others to make informed decisions or provide feedback as and when required. All major matters in particular related to policy are always referred to a General Meeting for action resolution.

### Constitution

The Group continues to remain strategic and focused on the key elements of its Constitutional Objects, which translates into continuing positive outcomes in the best interests of people with disability, families, carers and significant others. These being:

- Safeguarding rights through strong advocacy and consultation;
- Promoting equality by way of inclusion to enable individual needs to be better met;
- Enhancing quality of life [all aspects] and promoting independence;
- Assisting the further development and sustainability of an individual's and/or family's capacity;
- Developing and maintaining strong and sustainable collaborative partnerships;
- Advancing knowledge, in the pursuit of change and good practice;
- Encouraging action on issues that affect individuals, families and/or that are systemic; and
- Acquiring funds to provide for, but not limited to, needs such as amenities, programs and services including recreation and leisure.

As in the past, to achieve the best outcomes the Group has continued to use a wide range of strategies, actions and support to effectively meet each identified need.

### Review of Constitution and Associated Documents

As reported last year the Management Committee pro-actively determined that the Group's Constitution and associated documents, in particular Codes and Policies should be reviewed as the

last significant changes were made and endorsed in 2003. Further, during 2008 both the State and Federal Governments' carried out major consultations with the 'not for profit sector' and significant others [partners, donors etc.] to ascertain if the 'not for profit sector' remained efficient and effective with emphasis on governance. It became evident that some changes were necessary which the Group noted and acted upon where it was seen to be appropriate.

It is pleasing to note that the changes to the Constitution as recommended were endorsed unanimously at the Annual General Meeting held on August 15, 2009. Further, the recommended changes to Codes and policies were also unanimously endorsed by members at the same time. All of the constitutional changes were then accepted and endorsed by the Department of Commerce with an effective date from November 10. However, the Department of Commerce recommended that the Constitution could be further strengthened by adding several clauses associated with the Group's common seal and custody of its records, books, documents and inspection by ordinary members. The recommended changes were circulated to members in October and voted upon on November 21, which were unanimously endorsed. Those changes were then accepted and endorsed by the Department of Commerce with an effective date from January 4, 2010.

### **Strategic and Operational Plans – 2009/10 and 2010/11**

As is customary the Management Committee late in June undertook a review of the past strategic and operational plans [2009/10] to ensure that the Group remained focussed on what had been agreed. It was determined that all the plans for 2009/10 were adequately met. At the same time of the review proposed strategic and operational plans for 2010/11 were formulated for consideration and resolution at today's AGM.

One of the key elements that the Management Committee recognises is the extent and degree of stakeholder satisfaction. In this regard the Management Committee resolved that all stakeholders should be surveyed, which will be initiated and conducted over the next two months. It is anticipated that the results, together with any recommendations, will be provided for consideration at the November General Meeting.

### **Management Committee**

At the last annual general meeting we saw no change to those elected to the Management Committee. However, to further assist in the decision making process it was resolved that an independent person be co-opted [non-voting] to the Committee. Dr Ed LaVertu who has significant business, academic and philanthropic experience was elected and has greatly contributed to the Group's wellbeing. All of the Committee have again served the Group with enthusiasm and dedication during the past year and as can be seen have greatly contributed to the Group's continuing success and sustainability.

## **Activity Highlights**

To ensure that the Group remained true to its Constitutional Objects its success in part is measured by its achievements and actions throughout the year. This has been achieved by the following activities:

### **Group Membership**

- Disability Development Council of WA [DDC]
- People With Disabilities [WA] Inc. [PWD]  
The Group has voting rights [2] for both the above noted Incorporated Associations.
- Workpower [WA] Inc.
- National Disability Services [WA] [previously ACROD]
- CarersWA
- WISH
- Interwork Inc.
- Pro-Bono Aust.

Membership to the above noted organisations as in the past has provided the Group with greater ability to network and assist in influencing others to achieve, further and better outcomes for people with disability, families, carers and significant others.

### **Partnerships**

The Management Committee has recognised that no single entity can satisfactorily deliver on all challenges on its own and to achieve the best results this can only be accomplished through local and national partnerships as well as the sharing of knowledge and good practices. As such, the Group is again indebted to the following organisations that have partnered the Group in further enhancing support to our constituents:

- Disability Services Commission
- Workpower [WA] Inc.

- DADAA [WA] Inc.
- National Disability Services [previously ACROD]
- WA Disability Council of WA
- People With Disabilities [WA] Inc.
- Advocare Inc
- Carers WA
- Recreational Network Inc.
- Swan Recreational Club Inc.
- Optimum Leisure
- Central TAFE
- Rotary Club of Swan Valley
- Melville Community Arts Assoc. Inc.
- City of Melville
- Freemasons WA
- Swan Districts Lions

Further, the Group is indebted to many individuals who have also assisted by the provision of their wisdom, knowledge, time and energy to enhance progress. We look forward to the continued sustainability and strengthening of all our partnerships so that we achieve greater benefits by the synergy created.

Details of various involvements are contained throughout the report.

### **Advocacy**

The Group has again continued to become more involved with providing advice and support of ongoing and new issues on behalf of all, including but not limited to the private sector [business owners], families, people with disability, individuals and service providers. This has included assisting seniors, determining the capacity of persons to act because of disability, arbitration and conciliation on behalf of families and important others where conflict has arisen and/or where there has been or anticipated life-changing circumstances e.g. entrapment, health, wills succession and estate planning.

Further, Executive Members were also personally asked and provided advice and assistance consistent with their knowledge and skills in areas similar to those noted above.

### **The Lost Generation Project**

Much has occurred since DADAA [WA] and DSC Accommodation Directorate initiated the pilot project in partnership with many other supporting groups to reconnect individuals with their communities through various forms. Through the Project Co-ordinators together with community development, artistic and project management all collectively provided the vital link between participants/storytellers, families and DSC staff. It was pleasing to note that the partnerships in the City of Swan were recognised on October 15 at the Australian Business Arts Foundation Awards in Brisbane as well as the 2009 Toyota Community Award for WA on September 2. These now go with The WA Business Arts Partnership Award in the Development Category awarded by the Minister for the Arts in 2008.

We are all most appreciative of the past, present and continuation of this great partnership project.

### **Central TAFE – Certificates 3 and 4 Fitness Program**

For the third year the Group has provided support to enable people with disability an opportunity to further participate in individually designed fitness programs. The individual development and achievements have continued to be of a high order thanks to the acceptance by students and the enthusiasm of Sally Bower, Course Co-ordinator. The continued support and encouragement by DSC staff to ensure good support, attendance and participation has greatly assisted. Further, by supporting the program the Group has been advised that the majority of past students because of their introduction to people with disability have consciously developed more inclusive and individualised programs to enable people with disability to more effectively participate.

Because of the program's considered effectiveness the Group has again provided scholarships to recognise the achievements of those students who excelled in delivering the program. The scholarship dollars being used to purchase industry specific equipment that will further assist the students to better deliver their programs. Awards were presented by Group and DSC Representatives at Award Ceremonies in December and June.

### **Disability Future Directions – 2025**

The Group was provided with an opportunity and the Management Committee undertook a substantial review on the above noted document. The view was held and then expressed that

some key factors had either not been addressed or insufficiently covered within the initial draft document; these being:

- Government Policy Framework;
- Financial Security e.g. NGOs;
- People With Disability to Participate in Decision Making;
- Linkages to the Disability Services Act, in particular Schedules 1 & 2;
- Rate of Change within the Disability Sector; and
- Insufficient detail at the macro level as to how the outcomes are to be achieved.

It is pleasing that the above noted views were addressed in the final document '*Count Me In – Disability Future Directions*'. It is therefore hoped that implementation and subsequent monitoring will ensure that recommendations are sustainable and achieved at the highest level.

### **Policy and Operational Guidelines for Effective Engagement, Communication, Consultation with Families and/or Significant Others**

As stated last year, after a number of years attempting to establish a more workable policy and operational guidelines, this was accomplished by way of agreement and sign off in late June with implementation commencing in July 2009. As a consequence the Group prepared and introduced its own Policy/Guidelines after endorsement at its November 21 General Meeting to compliment and support both DSC and Group actions. The changes have been closely monitored to ensure that the outcomes being sought have been fully met. DSC has scheduled a review of the above policy and guidelines for July this year and from the feedback received to-date little to no change should be required.

Further, the Group has continued to work with DSC to review other key associated operational policies and guidelines to ensure that they mirror the recent changes. Two key areas namely Lifestyle Planning and Key Worker documentation have for some time been identified as a starting point. The view is held that change is necessary to meet the needs of both DSC and families so that there is clear expectation and agreement reached of what each will undertake to ensure the best outcomes are achieved. Further, it is considered that the time is opportune with introduction in July of the Quality Management Framework to incorporate its principles because they allow focus on the outcomes of services and supports provided at both individual and organizational levels. The Management Committee is committed to ensure that this is a priority area for resolution in the forthcoming year.

### **DSC – Accommodation Services Division Brochure**

DSC provided the Group an opportunity, as a representative and key stakeholder to formally make comment and then discuss the draft version of the brochure relating to the role and services of the Commission for families and new entrants to Accommodation Services Directorate facilities. The review was constructive, positive and a worthwhile exchange of ideas which, through a team effort, resulted in many of the discussion points being adopted to provide a quality and purposeful document. The Group on behalf of families is appreciative being provided with the opportunity to have input.

### **Guardianship and Administration**

As an ongoing commitment the Group continues to monitor previous and/or new concerns to ensure that past satisfactory service is not eroded.

As advised last year, the Group took up with the State Administrative Tribunal problems that were/are encountered when people – in particular extended family members, had taken responsibility [least restrictive practices]. As such they do not have either a Guardianship or Administrative Order as neither is required under the Act. As a consequence of not having one or both including the appropriate documentation in many instances extended family members have not been able to access/acquire necessary documentation. On the same basis, a matter has been referred to a major health service provider for their comment on possible future action to avoid similar instances. These matters have yet to be resolved to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Advice received is that due to the complexity in nature of some instances, and ever changing staff and their ability to be well informed by way of training, significant change has yet to be instigated with any of the Agencies.

Further, assistance and advice has also been provided to members and others on request as to best handle some of the issues, which were confronting either their family or those who they were representing.

### **Pride of Workmanship**

On Saturday May 15 the Group in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Swan Valley presented a Pride of Workmanship Award to Jilani Khan, Pharmacist and Principal of Kiara Pharmacy for his exemplary vocational service contribution to the disability sector that was considered more than worthy of public acknowledgement.

DSC Accommodation Directorate and Kiara Pharmacy through Jilani over the past 10 years have built a strong partnership and developed a top quality medication management system which has been recognised by the industry peak body and other providers of residential services. In addition Jilani has significantly contributed to monitoring and audit of the mix of prescribed and administered medications. This has complimented with his ongoing meetings etc to ensure the service Kiara Pharmacy provides more than meets the needs of all and that any issue is resolved quickly.

Jilani and his staff were sincerely thanked by Jeff Clapton [DSC – Accommodation Manager], Keith Hill [FDSG and as a parent] and Rachel Ivic [Swan Valley Rotary Club] for the great difference and contribution made, in particular, over the past decade for people with a disability.

### **DSC Accommodation Managers**

Meetings were held with DSC's 3 Accommodation Managers during the year to discuss matters of mutual interest as well as emerging issues; all being productive.

### **Other Inputs**

The following inputs are in addition to those noted elsewhere in the report:

- Review of DSC Policies/Standards;
- Training and Development [Induction, Certificates 3 & 4]
- NDS – Finance Advisory Committee
- Artists by the River – Working Group & Financial Support; [See separate note]
- Disability Future Directions; [See separate note]
- Quality Management Framework and Independent Evaluation [See separate note];
- National Disability Standards Review;
- Shut Out: The Experience of People with Disabilities and their Families;
- Culturally Inclusive Disability Services Standards;
- Project Planning and Management;
- Delegation of Authority to Act with Government Departments;
- Medical Checks and H1N1 Swine Flu Vaccinations;
- disAbility Day - December 2009;
- disAbility Day – West Australian Newspaper Supplement Publication – December 2010;
- Garden Maintenance; and
- Representation to various Federal and State Ministers/Politicians.

Whilst the Group dealt with or submitted comment on other areas the above noted sixteen are considered to be of significance. These will, where appropriate be closely monitored and actioned accordingly. In addition, Group members were consulted, and because of their knowledge, were asked and represented at a number of forums.

### **Barnsley Street - Beautification**

After much planning and significant input by DSC staff led by Sue McArthur and generous donations by the business sector the external area –side B - was completely revitalised and refurbished to enable residents' greater access, and a more friendly, welcoming external environment. In addition, Workpower [EMS Plant Production] provided many different native plants to beautify the outer yard. Workpower, DSC staff in conjunction with Group members assisted with the planting and reticulation rectification to coincide with Water Awareness Week [October 17 -23]. At the conclusion a celebratory BBQ was held and enjoyed by all. Overall the project was a great success with residents and staff enjoying this great and valued outside refurbished area. Thanks to all concerned for making it possible.

### **Disability Service Awards**

The Group nominated Suzanne Kay [DSC - Acting Local Area Supervisor] for the significant role she played as co-ordinator and facilitator of the inaugural Artist by the River Project. Suzanne amongst other things produced high quality portfolios for each participant as well as the DVD used at the Exhibition opening. For her untiring efforts Suzanne received recognition as a finalist and we further congratulate her for ensuring the Artists by the River project had many and varied excellent outcomes.

The Awards evening was well attended and successfully provided recognition to the highly dedicated, respected and experienced support workers throughout the State. The Group was represented at the Awards ceremony on Saturday March 27 by four members and much was learnt of the many and varied projects undertaken to meet the various needs of either an individual and/or a number of persons receiving a service.

*Friendship makes prosperity more shining and lessens adversity by dividing and sharing.*

#### **Workpower [WA] Inc.**

The Group has again continued to work in close liaison with Workpower on items of mutual interest and as a consequence has established regular meeting.

Key issues which have and/or are being addressed include:

- State funded ATE;
- National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategies;
- Respite Services – Provision and Funding;
- Effective Communication Framework;
- Workpower - Vacation Breaks;
- Explore Traveller – Holiday Programs;
- Celebration of Achievements;
- Lotterywest Grant Applications; and
- Review of Constitution.

The Group commends Workpower for their continual pro-active approach and subsequent achievements that have further enhanced the quality of life, in particular, for those people with moderate to severe disability and recently mental illness. The services provided in this category, as we understand it, are unique in Australia. Their annual general meeting as well as their annual report provides an excellent overview of achievements and financial viability.

It is considered that the interaction, respect for each other's views and subsequent action taken on many of the issues, which both parties have an intense interest in, has proved to be most beneficial. This was particularly evident with the relocation of all from Grey Street, Bassendean to the new facilities in Century Road, Malaga.

#### **• Celebration of Achievements 2010 – March 6**

This inaugural celebration was truly an exciting and well attended night with well over 500 employees, staff, family and friends. The Group was represented by seven of its members. People have not stopped talking about all the things that made such a great night – friendship, fellowship, food and the band. The highlight of the evening was the presentation to 10 category winners from 32 nominees.

The Celebration was designed to recognise and celebrate the achievements of people with disability and mental illness accessing Workpower's services.

The Group sincerely thanks all who made it a totally professional, inspirational and truly unforgettable celebration. You can all be justifiably proud of this achievement.

#### **• ISO 9001 Accreditation of Quality Management Systems and Processes**

Workpower is congratulated on being accredited after a comprehensive audit further enhancing with confidence that it provides a substantial measure of quality and service delivered to both internal and external stakeholders.

#### **Winter Solstice**

Due to many people not being able to attend the Christmas Party because of competing commitments the Group decided to change and conduct a Winter Solstice lunch on July 11, 2009. Whilst all had an excellent time it was not as well attended as was expected, however the Group raised some funds, which have/will be put to good use. The second Winter Solstice was held on June 12 however it was again not well attended but despite this all enjoyed themselves and were entertained by the band 'Loose Teeth'.

#### **Artists by the River Project No. 2 [2 Programs] and Exhibition**

The project was again conducted at the Atwell Arts Centre and Gallery, the home of Melville Community Arts Association Inc., 586 Canning Highway, Alfred Cove. Whilst the Group facilitated the project it was supported financially by the City of Melville City [major sponsor], DSC, Freemasons WA and the Group. In addition a significant amount of in-kind support was provided by DSC, Melville Community Arts Association and the Group. Much was learnt from the first project and the excellent outcomes achieved that is, but not limited to:

- Local and cross sector partnerships were maintained as well as new ones established to further enable participation and inclusion in the short and long terms thus making the project more sustainable;
- Continued enhancement of relationships between DSC direct care staff, stakeholders and partners to participate, identify and better achieve aspirations;

- Provision of additional and meaningful access to:
  - ❑ Other Community based settings; and
  - ❑ Pathways to other activities that assisted participants to better achieve their goals and aspirations.
- Participants exposure and experiences has enabled them to:
  - ❑ enhance their independence;
  - ❑ attain greater skills;
  - ❑ modify behaviour; and
  - ❑ improve their health and wellbeing.

The initial program commenced on Saturday September 13 and concluded on Saturday November 15, 2008 – 10-week duration and the second program commenced on Saturday February 7 and concluded on Saturday April 4. This was followed by an exhibition of the majority of works [very successful] from Monday 6 to Saturday April 18.

On Tuesday March 30, Richard Hardwick, President Melville Community Arts Association President facilitated the proceedings with Bruce Langoulant, Chair Disability Services Commission opening the exhibition. In excess of 100 people attended the opening, as well as enjoying fellowship and being entertained by the band *Loose Teeth*. From March 31 to April 10 the public took the opportunity, to view the exhibition [73 pieces of art] as well as a DVD that showed the week by week progress of each Artist. Good feedback was received, in particular, with many acknowledging they gained greater appreciation of what the Artists were capable of accomplishing.

In conclusion, art has again proven to be a powerful conduit to community access and participants wellbeing and the achievements of this project were no exception. The Committee is now working towards establishing Project No. 3 provided grant funding can be obtained.

Congratulations and a big thank you to all who made this such a great project, which has gained further recognition and respect from many because of the many positive outcomes.

### **Website Upgrade**

The Group's website has been continually upgraded since early in the year and we thank Sheldon Levis for his efforts to ensure the information contained is more relevant to members and the public at large.

## *Financial and Audit*

### **Treasurer's Report and Audit Report**

#### ❑ **Compliance**

The Group's financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations WA Act [1987] and Charitable Collections Act (1946), Regulations (1947). The Management Committee has determined that the Group is not a reporting entity.

In addition the Group was compliant with its own Financial Compliance and Public Fundraising Code, which includes the reporting of the Group's accounting practices including financial reconciliation and statement preparation [based on historical costs] in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

#### ❑ **Financial Statement**

Copy of the Group's financial report is attached at the rear of the report.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for 'a not for profit' Association for the year ended June 30, 2010, together with the Management Committee's Report and letter that were provided to the Auditor are available to members on request.

It should be noted the Group has been able to more than adequately meet all of the financial requests that have been asked of it. Further, at the time this report was prepared the Group remains solvent.

#### ❑ **Grants**

##### ➤ **Lotterywest**

Financial assistance by way of a grant program through Lotterywest enabled the Group to apply for \$5,000 for the purchase of technology (i.e.: laptop, printer, projector, digital camera, display stands etc.). The Group's application was successful and we acknowledge the support which has allowed the Group to be more independent as well as do much. Some of the equipment has been loaned to several of Group's partners to further enhance their activities.

Further, acknowledgement is made to Donor Tec who link with Microsoft and provided the necessary suites of software at minimal cost to enable the Group to undertake its administrative tasks more efficiently and effectively.

➤ **Melville City Council**

The Group as part of its role facilitated an application for funding towards stage 2 of the Artists by the River Project [No.2] and was successful in receiving \$3,270. Please see the comments under Artists by the River Project.

□ **Special Donation**

It was with regret that SPA Inc. which had operated very effectively for almost 20 years was dissolved due to the small number of ageing members.

In accordance with the Associations' Incorporations Act SPA kindly offered to donate their surplus funds of \$2,291.13 to the Group on winding up. This was put at our Group General Meeting held on Saturday November 21 and I am pleased to advise it was resolved to accept this generous gesture with \$1,000 being placed in Trust to provide for the future needs of those residing at Colstoun Road, Ashfield.

□ **Audit**

An independent audit was carried out by Kelvin Westaway and Associates and in their opinion found that the financial reporting of the Group was presented fairly and in accordance with all requirements. Copy of that opinion is available to members on request.

It is noted that all requirements under the Associations Incorporations WA Act [1987] and Charitable Collections Act (1946), Regulations (1947) for 2008/09 were fully met as reported to the Department of Commerce in September 2009.

## *Acknowledgements*

### **In Memoriam**

The Group as well as many more whose lives were touched were deeply saddened at the death and loss of long time residents Ricky Zaza, Trevor Olsen and Michelle Hill at Market and Brooke Streets. Our sincere sympathy was extended to all the families.

Further, the Group wishes to acknowledge and say a sincere and big thank you to all support staff for giving so generously of your time, care, love and devotion. All this has, as many have witnessed so often, made our loved ones, one of your own family. For this, all can be justifiably proud of what you unselfishly give, particularly in times of special need. Further it is recognised that you are all driven by strong individual values and cause, and that great Australian ethos '*service above self*'. For this we are sincerely indebted to you all.

### **Disability Services Commission**

On behalf of the Group we sincerely acknowledge and give overwhelming commendation to all DSC accommodation staff, DSC Executive and Management for their continued untiring efforts to ensure that all residents and others receive maximum support. This has been appreciated by all.

### **Partnerships**

Partnerships and sponsors have again allowed the Group to continually achieve, for this we wish to acknowledge each and everyone and thank you for your contributions and the difference you have helped us make.

### **Management Committee**

This past year has been no different in that the Group has been faced with challenges, so on behalf of all – members, stakeholders and personally, I extend sincere thanks and appreciation to the Group's executive, management committee members and partners, for untiring professionalism and service, which has once again contributed to the Group's ongoing success.

### **Members**

Also, all other members are acknowledged for continual support and encouragement to enable the Group to sustain its position of strength and credibility within the disability sector and with the community at large. For this we are most grateful.

### **Patrons**

The Group is again most appreciative of Hon. Donna Faragher [MLC] and Hon. Eric Ripper's [MLA] strong support, attendance and important contributions made throughout the year, not only to the Group, but also to the disability sector.

## Conclusion

As Chair for the past five years I feel honoured and privileged to be able to report the achievements of the Group which will turn 30 next year. It has been noted that the Group has strong governance, communication and that it continues to remain true and focussed, so all can be justly proud. The Management Committee remain confident that the Group's performance, positioning and profile will continue and that it can more than meet its Constitutional Objects in the forthcoming year.

I have stated in the past that we have and will continually be challenged to further assist in making a difference and that your endeavours no matter how small will make any achievement during 2010/11 a difference to the quality of life for all of us.

*Bevan Dellar*

**Bevan Dellar**

**Chair**

**August 16, 2010**

## Reporting Information

### Incorporation

Fairholme Disability Support Group Inc. was previously known as Parents and Friends of Fairholme Association Inc. and was incorporated in accordance with provisions of the Associations' Incorporations Act 1987 (section 9 (1)) on the May 29 1989. The name change became effective from September 22, 2003.

### Membership

Ordinary Members 41 Associate Members 11 Life Members 12

This year we have seen an increase of 20 (over 60%) compared to membership the previous year.

### Patrons

Hon D Faragher MLC Hon E Ripper MLA

### Group Representation

Due to changes in the then Constitution in 2003, representation is now as broad as what members' or those in need seek to make it. The Group has continued in the main to assist those in supported accommodation provided by Disability Services Commission, as well as people with disability, families, carers and significant others. However, this is continually changing because many individuals as well as other Groups have sought to join with the Group when making representation.

It is pleasing to note that when the Group has represented and/or been consulted on matters and consensus reached on an issue/s there has been little to no anxiety about any proposed outcome. All parties who have been involved are commended for their co-operation and a willingness to listen, make suggested changes and then receive feedback to achieve the best possible outcome/s.

### Meetings

The Group has continued to meet quarterly and conducted its general meeting on each third Saturday in the months of August, November, February and May. In addition, the Management Committee met at least once between each general meeting. The Management Committee comprises of the Group's five office bearers and three general members elected at the annual general meeting.

At General Meetings the Management Committee highlight opportunities for the Group to expand, develop and/or improve its services in the most efficient and effective way. As well as advocating, it provides advice but not limited to such matters as legislation, new policies, emerging issues and likely changes in the manner in which DSC and/or other service providers may operate.

The role of the Management Committee has been to research, advise and consult as widely as is practicable on any issues and/or make recommendations requiring decision at general, extraordinary or annual general meetings. Matters dealt with by the Management Committee have been reported to all members at each general meeting and circulated through various minutes and notes.

Detail of formal meetings and other activities is as follows:

- Annual General Meeting - 1
- General Meetings – 4 with an average attendance of
- Extra-ordinary Meetings - 2 [See notes on Constitutional changes]

- ❑ Management Meetings - 8 with an average attendance of 6
- ❑ Sub-Committee Meetings – 6
- ❑ Consultations, Seminars, Briefings etc. - 12
- ❑ Briefings including Ministers, Members of Parliament, Senior Public Servants – 9
- ❑ Attendance at General Meetings at organisations, which the Group has an affiliation - 3
- ❑ Exhibitions – 2
- ❑ Project Meetings – 11
- ❑ Presentations - 4

It must also be noted that almost on a daily basis Management Committee Members, in particular the Executive, deal with a variety of matters which, in the majority of instances, were satisfactorily actioned.

#### **Registered Australian Business [ABN]**

The Group is registered [ABN 21 902 498 771] with the Australian Taxation Office [ATO] as an Australian Business effective from November 1, 1999.

#### **Public Benefit Institution [PBI] and Deductible Gift Recipient [DGR]**

As the Group is for public benevolence and non-profit making the ATO allows any donation over \$2.00 to be tax deductible. This was by way of Group endorsement on September 14, 2007 as a deductible gift recipient [DGR] under section 30B of the Income Assessment Act 1907.

#### **Charitable Collections Licence**

The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection [now Department of Commerce] initially granted the Group a Licence No. 20543 on November 17, 2006, which is now valid until September 11, 2012.

The Group has complied with its Code - Financial Compliance including Public Fundraising - during this past financial year and arranged for its financial statements to be audited in accordance with the Code. Please see Financial Report which includes the Audit.

*Each time someone stands up for an idea, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against an injustice, they send forth a tiny ripple of hope.*

## *General Information*

### **National Disability Agreement [NDA] previously known as The Commonwealth-State/Territory Disability Agreement [CSTDA]**

As previously reported the aim of the NDA is to improve and increase services for people with disability, their families and carers. The agreement reflected a strong commitment from both levels of government to provide more opportunities for people with disability to participate in and enjoy Australia's economic and social life. The 2008 agreement was designed specifically to assist people with disability to live as independently as possible, by helping them to establish stable and sustainable living arrangements, increasing their choices, and improving their health and wellbeing. At the same time, the agreement focuses on supporting families and carers in their caring roles.

All agreed to concentrate initial national efforts in identified priority areas to underpin the policy directions and achieve reforms in the disability service system. Please see other commentary where some action in this regard has been lifted to a higher level. Also in the majority of areas we have seen increased funding [see Federal and State budget detail] but it is acknowledged that there still remains some unmet need.

### **Budget Allocations [State and Federal]**

#### ➤ **State Budget - 2010/11 and outgoing years**

Overall the Disability Services Commission (DSC) budget continues to show strong growth and a parallel escalation in key service areas. The DSC 2010/11 budget will increase by \$51.9 million to just over \$540 million, a 10.6% increase on the previous year's allocation.

In summary, the estimated expenditure by service area is as follows:

- Accommodation Support Services: \$330.4 million (10.2% increase)
- Individual Support: \$120.6 million (10.6% increase)
- Individual Coordination: \$24.0 million (6.1% increase)
- Family and Carer Support: \$63.2 million (14.9% increase)
- Community Access and Inclusion: \$1.7 million (3.4% increase)

➤ **Federal Budget – 2010/11**

The following is a brief overview.

The sector view is that it is a tight Federal Budget for Commonwealth-funded disability services.

- While it is acknowledged the 2010-11 Federal Budget includes significant growth in Commonwealth disability funding to the States, it offers little in the year ahead to the disability services the Commonwealth directly funds. Under the terms of the National Disability Agreement funding to the States rises from \$903.7 million in 2009-10 to \$1,052 million in 2010-11. Even excluding the Disabilities Assistance Package which was folded into the Agreement, the estimated growth factor is still significant at 6.8%.

The key identified areas that will receive increased funding are:

Disability Employment Services  
Employment Innovation  
Job Capacity Assessment  
Vocational Education and Training  
National Disability Strategy and Human Rights  
Special Disability Trust

The breakdown of Commonwealth disability funding to the States and Territories in the current year and the year ahead is as follows:

2009-10 \$million	NSW 302.2	VIC 208.2	QLD 171.7	WA 77.5	SA 93.1	TAS 28.2	ACT 13.1	NT 9.7	Total 903.7
2010-11 \$million	NSW 349.2	VIC 246.9	QLD 201.7	WA 94.4	SA 101.2	TAS 31.4	ACT 15.6	NT 11.5	Total 1052.0

**Standards Monitoring and Quality Management [QMF] – Independent Evaluation**

The Group was not contacted by any Monitor with respect to any Standards monitoring during the past 12 months. However, several parents did contact the Group to seek advice/clarification on matters referred to in reports provided concerning the accommodation, where their family member was a resident.

As from July 1 this year Standards Monitoring in its current form will cease and be replaced by the use of a Quality Management Framework that has been developed over the past 3 years. In summary, the Quality Management Framework is based upon the principle that it will provide an opportunity to ensure decisions relating to an individual, family and carer are based on the Disability Services Standards [9] and clear goals that result in plans of action, which result in lasting change and improvements e.g. timely and dignified support.

The Group's Chair, Bevan Dellar has been appointed by the Disability Services Commission as an Independent Evaluator – Consumer Representative.

**Legislation**

The Group has continued to monitor all associated legislative issues and identified the following that needed direct input.

• **Associations' Incorporations Act [Green Bill 2006]**

As stated in the last report a thorough analysis of the Green Bill resulted in:

- Draft model rules;
- New recommended legislative [Act] clauses; and
- Further guidance to support new and existing incorporated associations.

Since the change of Government little to no further action has been taken to progress the proposed legislative changes due to other higher priorities as well as what may be taking place at Federal Government level. Please see next comment.

• **Commonwealth Senate Standing Committee on Economics – Review of Regulation of Non-Profit Organisations in Australia**

It was considered by the Federal Government that there were many inconsistencies between State and National Regulations, policies and operating procedures, which are often burdensome and at times conflict with each other. As a consequence a Senate Standing Committee was established to undertake a review and the Committee's findings proved this to be correct. The Group provided comment on its experiences because many of the key factors at a national level were similar to those at the State level, which is understandable. It is hoped that the outcomes will achieve greater national uniformity and avoid much duplication.

# Management Committee Profiles

*Help from those with enthusiasm and vision.*

**Chair: Bevan Dellar - BBus, Dip Admin**

Bevan has had extensive senior management experience in both the private and public sectors as a Director and Consultant. In addition he has served for over 25 years as a Director, Advisor and Consultant on National and State Boards, Committees and Working Groups [government and non-government] in particular those associated with people with disability including mental illness. Bevan has as a consequence been and remains a strong advocate at all levels including Government for people with disability, their families and carers. Bevan has been a member and officer bearer [Secretary/Treasurer and Chair] and a member of the Group for over 25 years. Bevan and wife Dianne is the Carer of Dianne's brother Kevin.

**Deputy Chair: Keith Hill –ACIS, CPA**

Keith first became involved with administration in the disability sector 40 years ago when his daughter Michelle took advantage of the facilities offered by the Government of the day. Keith has a background of 18 years senior management in TAFE including State and National Education Working Groups and Committees. Since joining the Group Keith has and continues to bring a wealth of knowledge and experience as well as representing and advocating on behalf of the Group on key issues. Keith as Deputy Chair has taken up the challenge of further sustaining and increasing the Group's partnerships as well as assisting with the development of policy submissions.

**Secretary: Rachel Ivic – Dip Bus (NZ)**

Originating from New Zealand, Rachel moved to Perth in 1998 after completing her secondary education. Developed strong administrative and secretarial skills during the 8 years spent working for one of Australia's largest agricultural exporters, and currently employed as an Accountant within the earthmoving and mining industry. Rachel first joined the Group in 2001 and has been on the Management Committee since 2003 undertaking the role of Secretary in 2005. Together with family Rachel and husband Shane assist in caring for their sister Katica, an intellectually disabled adult living within DSC supported accommodation. Rachel brings with her as Secretary a high degree of efficiency and effectiveness to ensure that the Group remains proficient in all things that it undertakes and contributions but not limited to legislative, policy and administrative/governance matters.

**Treasurer: Jan Ricks - B.Bus (Acctg); Adv Cert Bus (Real Estate); Cert SAP**

Jan commenced working life with Bank of New South Wales and was with the Bank for 7 years both in Western Australia and New Zealand. Joined NCR (NZ) Ltd (400 employees) as Financial Accountant for 14 years and returned to WA. Joined Peet & Company Limited as Management Accountant for 16 years. In 1996 started own business and purchased Cosmic Realty in 1999. Jan is Licensee and Director of Cosmic Realty. Jan is past Secretary of the Business Chapter and life member of Edith Cowan University Alumni. She is currently a Director of Amaroo Aged Care Services Inc and office bearer of the Group. Jan and her brother are the guardians of sister Delys. Jan plays a significant role with respect to the operating and corporate governance of the Group plus knowledge with regarding partnership maintenance and establishment.

**Group Advocate: Anna Mortimore**

Anna has recently retired but prior worked within the disability sector and committed well over 30 years of her life to enhancing the quality of life for people with disability. This has included a strong emphasis on the inclusion and fostering of family engagement as well as the supporting agency/s. Further Anna has held various positions from primary care provider to management. In addition she has played a major role in the development of both staff and those that reside in supported accommodation which has being greatly valued and respected by all. Anna has a reputation of ensuring fairness, equity and good conscience and as a consequence has been able to successfully negotiate and find common ground where conflict has arisen. Overall Anna brings a significant amount of enthusiasm, knowledge and experience which no doubt contribute to better outcomes for people with disability -residents and others, families and significant others, along with carers.

**Committee Members [3]**

**Leanne Michielsén**

Leanne and her sister Janice is the guardian of their brother Maurice. She took over the provision of significant support from her parents who were inaugural members of the Group when it was established over 25 years ago. Leanne has had extensive Committee experience and has taken a leading role in representing the Group, in particular the establishment and continuation of partnerships. This role has been and continues to be of significant importance as the Group has and is expanding its activities to more adequately advocate for people with disability, parents and carers. Leanne has been on the Management Committee since its inception

**Lesley Postma**

Lesley is a mother of an intellectually disabled son Jonathon. Lesley worked for many years as a registered nurse and was instrumental in setting up and running a centre for disabled children in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. Lesley has also served for many years on committees for people with disability e.g. Slow Learning Children's Group (Bunbury), Bindi Centre for Disabled (Alice Springs), Milford Parent's & Friends Association, member and past Chairperson of the Group. Lesley has served on and is still active on external Committees and Working Groups. Lesley has just vacated the position of Deputy Chair as she has recently relocated to Mandurah.

**Garry Postma – Dip. Accountancy**

Garry has spent the majority of his working life in administration and middle management in a State Government Agency. For many years he was Secretary to a major Board and a number of committees. He has for many years held and continues to hold leadership positions in his local church. Garry became involved with people with disability when he married Lesley. Since then he has taken a keen interest in the welfare of her son, other people with disability as well as being an active member of the Group in particular assisting with legislative, policy and administrative matters.

**Ex Officio [Non voting]**

**Dr Ed LaVertu PhD MBus Admin, BCom**

Ed brings to the Committee independence as well as a wealth of commercial, business, academic and philanthropic experience. Ed has played an active role in both the Rotary Clubs of Bassendean and Swan Valley in supporting the Group as well as that of Handi-camp for over 20 years. Ed has and will no doubt continue to bring a questioning but open and refreshing approach to the activities of the Group, which is bringing greater added value.