



Enriching lives.

ANNUAL REPORT

2010/11

August 20, 2011.



ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

Chair's Message

It is again 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, 2010 to June 30, 2011. In addition to Group detail the report also includes a brief summary of some of the key achievements and actions within the disability sector, which the Group's Management Committee carefully monitors and provides input where appropriate.

The report is separated into several different sections to provide 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 still remains essential that all of us to the extent to which we have capacity 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 witness that our and many others voices have not gone unheard as is noted that both the Federal and State Governments' have continued in major ways 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' voice, energy and 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 still notes with some concern is that of ageing people with disability and their changing health needs and care which in many instances the lack of pro-activeness and understanding of individual needs rather than an apparent clinical approach. It is hoped that identified needs, aspirations etc will be better catered for through the drivers of change [detailed within the report] that lead to better actioned outcomes in the areas of justifiable concern.

It is worthy of note is one of the most significant advocacy actions taken by the Group, that is the instigation of Count Me In – The Great Bike Hike Perth to Broome August – September 2012 which there will be a briefing just prior to the meeting concluding as well as contained in this report.

All were deeply saddened on the death of Dr Guy Hamilton who passed away on December 22. See special memoriam comment.

What an exciting journey the Group has had in particular as this year represents the Group's thirtieth year of operation and therefore a fitting opportunity to celebrate such a milestone after the AGM where we will hear a brief overview of Group highlights while enjoying some fellowship.

I am pleased to say that since inception the Group has continued each and every year to make a valuable contribution towards better outcomes for people with disability, families, carers and significant others and a such has earned much respect from all. Each and everyone who has made a contribution by way of time, talent and financially, can be justifiably proud.

Bevan Dellar
Bevan Dellar

Governance

Continuous Disclosure

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

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, mental illness, 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 by taking an enthusiastic and pro-active approach.

Constitution and Associated Documents - Changes

No recommended changes to any document was brought to notice nor any seen during the past 12 months, however some may be needed if and when changes are made to State and/or Federal legislation of which some are under consideration. Based upon current knowledge, if changes are made it should have little to no impact upon the Group and the manner in which it operates.

Management Committee

At the last annual general meeting we saw one change to those elected to the Management Committee with Garry Postma not seeking re-election and being replaced by Dr Ed LaVertu who was an independent person co-opted [non-voting] onto the Committee the previous year. Whilst Garry is not on the Management Committee he has continued along with Les Goode to provide advice and guidance not only to the Group but also individuals, which is much appreciated. All of the Management Committee has again given a significant amount of time which has been given with enthusiasm and dedication and as can be seen have once again greatly contributed to the Group's continuing success and sustainability.

Group Advisors

As part of the Group's advocacy role, coupled with the ever increasing number of enquiries added to by their complexity due to the changing environment the following appointments were accepted on the recommendation of the Management Committee and endorsed at a General Meeting:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| • Legal | Glen Giles | TaylorSmart |
| • Accounting | Mark Hill | Indian Ocean Group |
| • Financial Planning | Carlo Ricupero and Ray Ong | Wise FP |
| • Multi-culturism | Gudrun Benjamin | Goodrun Solutions |

The Group is most appreciative of all offering their services to provide advice and guidance on a pro-bono basis [free of charge], for this we thank them as well as the assistance given to-date associated with Count Me In - The Great Bike Hike. These appointments have added another significant dimension and strength to the services provided by the Group. In addition other Advisors have been appointed associated with Count Me In – The Great Bike Hike sub-committee.

Strategic and Operational Plans – 2010/11 and 2011/12

As is customary the Management Committee in early July undertook a review of the past strategic and operational plans [2010/11] to ensure that the Group remained focussed on what had been agreed. It was determined that the plans for 2010/11 were adequately met. At the same time of the review proposed strategic and operational plans for 2011/12 were formulated which will be tabled for consideration and resolution at today's AGM.

Logo



The Management Committee recommended to members that the logo [previous on the left] be changed to be more relevant with respect to the Group's Objects and state-wide coverage. This was accepted and the services of SolutionsTwo produced three logos with the one depicted on the cover of this report and

above [right side] being accepted unanimously by members at the February General Meeting. Feedback by peers and others has been very complimentary.

The logo depicts energy and vitality and a demonstration that people with a disability and mental illness are the sunshine in the lives of their loved ones. The rays of sunshine denotes the radiating way in which the Group operates with enthusiasm within the community at large, enriching the lives of people with disability ,mental illness, their families, significant others and carers.

Group Web-site Upgrade

The Management Committee resolved that the web-site be upgraded to ensure compatibility and consistency with the platform being adopted in conjunction with *The Great Bike Hike*. As a consequence a design brief is to be provided to website developer Zeta Tech Pty Ltd for liaison with the graphic designer SolutionsTwo. The up-grade will enable independent interactivity, user friendly upload and download of Group content and facilitate continual maintenance as well as an up to date link to other primary websites including *The Great Bike Hike*.

Appropriate protocols and authority levels have been formulated to ensure the website content is centrally controlled and only modified by an authorised user.

Both the Group [upgrade] and The Great Bike Hike [new] web-sites will be launched today and be on display.

Activity Highlights

Life Membership Presentations

At the conclusion of the last Annual General Meeting those present together with family and friends witnessed the Chair Bevan Dellar assisted by Rev. Les Goode and Lillian Flynn award Group Life Membership to Keith Hill, and Lesley and Garry Postma. The Life Memberships were bestowed in recognition of the outstanding contributions each had made over many years of service not only to the Group but also the sector. All have had strong commitment and advocated with energy and passion to protect, enhance and enrich the lives of their loved ones but equally for others with a disability, families and carers. The presentations were followed by Keith, Lesley and Garry thanking the Group as well as sharing their experiences.

To ensure that the Group remains true to its Constitutional Objects its success in part is measured by its achievements and actions throughout the year. This has been achieved by but not limited to the following:

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]
- CarersWA
- WISH
- Interwork Inc.
- Pro-Bono Aust.

Membership to the above noted organisations has as in the past continued to provide 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 on its own satisfactorily deliver on all challenges and to achieve the best results can only be accomplished through local and national partnerships, 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 Institute of Technology Perth [previously Challenger TAFE]
- Rotary Club of Swan Valley
- Melville Community Arts Assoc. Inc.
- Lotterywest
- Freemasons WA
- Swan Districts Lions

The Group applied and was accepted to become a community partner with United Way which will continue to be beneficial both financially, but of equal importance by way of support, experience and resources.

In mid November the sector saw Carlo Calogero resign as State Manager National Disability Services WA. The Group wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution he made to the sector not only as the State Manager but also in his previous appointments. We welcome the new State Manager Mr Terry Simpson having previously worked in the fields of child protection and justice in Queensland and Western Australia.

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

Details of various involvements are contained throughout the report.

Disability Future Directions - 2025

- **Count Me In - The Great Bike Hike Perth – Broome – August - September 2012**



In last year's report comment was made about Disability Future Directions – 2025 and the endorsement of Government Policy which was documented in the publication '*Count Me In – Disability Future Directions*'. Just after this the Group was presented with an idea – a bike hike Perth to Broome – that would meet one of the Group's key **Objects** and **Count Me In** principles in that people with a disability and mental illness as citizens have a right to equal participation in community life. Further, as an advocate the Group saw it provided an excellent opportunity to:

- Identify relevant information, resources and strategies that would as an example actively promote people with disability to exercise their rights as citizens;
- Develop and implement a range of targeted systemic strategies and activities to assist with the removal of identified barriers, structures and systems that prevent people with disabilities from exercising their rights and responsibilities as citizens; and
- Actively develop and implement a range of strategies and activities that positively influences community responsiveness towards the disability and mental health communities.

As a consequence the Group established a sub-committee in November 2010 with delegated authority to progress the project. Current members who have played a major role are Georgina Patior, Maurice Embley, Keith Hill and Bevan Dellar. Since its establishment the sub-committee has undertaken significant planning which has resulted in the following key actions:

- Formulation of a Business Plan and complementary documentation;
- Development and Actioning Project Plan;
- Planning and design of web-site to specifically meet the needs of the project as well as complementing the Group's web-site;
- Appointment of specialist Advisors;
- Development and application submission for funding from Lotterywest to undertake Feasibility Study [#];
- Formulation of a Marketing and Public Relations Plan; and
- Establishment of Bike Ride organisational structure, route and timetable as well as the associated traffic, riding and emergency management plans.

[#] As detailed in the Financial and Audit section the Group was successful in securing a Lotterywest Grant in April enabling the sub-committee to further progress all matters as identified. All of the Consultants that were identified and appointed are collectively with the sub-committee now progressing to establish a robust and effective project.

All are confident that the project will make a difference and that the agreed outcomes will be met.

For full details please go to www.greatbikehike.org.au and we encourage you to follow the progress until the project concludes late in 2012.

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” - Henry Ford.

Advocacy

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

Further, Executive Members along with the Advisors [when formally requested] were asked and provided advice and assistance consistent with their knowledge and skills in areas similar to those noted above.

Minister for Disability Services

On December 14 we saw a reshuffle of Ministerial portfolios with Hon Simon O'Brien MLC being given new portfolios and the Hon Helen Morton MLC being appointed Minister for Disability and also Mental Health. On March 29 the Minister met with the Management Committee and parents discussing a variety of matters and was particularly interested in The Great Bike Hike detail as reported in the minutes of that meeting. The Minister also took the opportunity to meet with residents and staff of the houses located in Market Street Guildford.

The Group thanked the Hon Simon O'Brien MLC for his overall contribution to the sector not limited to his role as Minister and we have no doubt that he will continue to be pro-active.

The Lost Generation Project

Once again we are all appreciative of the past, present and continuance of this great partnership project.

Central Institute of Technology Perth – Certificates 3 and 4 Fitness Program

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

Because of the program's overall and continued effectiveness the Group has again provided scholarships to recognise the achievements of those students who excelled in delivering the program. The scholarship dollars were 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 held on November 26 and June 28. At the latter a new award known as *Fairholme Disability Support Group Training Award* was presented to Carmel Migro who excelled in the area of special needs both in class practicals as well as a volunteer. This award will continue to be awarded at each award ceremony.

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

From a Group point of view, it is pleasing to note that since its introduction the Policy, which provided a consistent reference frame-work, has proved to be beneficial. Whilst people have, but to far lesser extent than previously found to be useful and good point of reference.

Personal Code of Conduct

During discussion and formulation of the Policy and Operational Guidelines for Effective Engagement, Communication, Consultation with Families and/or Significant Others it was considered that there was a need for greater clarity in respect to achieving the best possible outcomes. Follow up action was initiated in November, 2009 that a draft document be formulated with the view to progressing further educative processes that are coupled to the introduction of the Quality Management Framework [July 2010].

In this regard it was considered that to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved the Disability Services Commission would seek from an individual, family and significant other a participation commitment required and agreed. Consequently five key elements were determined and included in the draft Code.

Whilst the initial draft was agreed in principle in January no further known action has been taken. However, the reason for the Code's initial development together with the identified key elements and as to how they may fit will be considered by the Individual Planning Review Advisory Group.

DSC – Accommodation Services Division Brochure

Since the brochure has issued it is pleasing to note that only one recorded question has had to be answered where as previously many were received each year.

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. Only one significant instance was brought to the attention of the Group and assistance and advice provided. However, many sought general assistance and advice how they may best handle some of the issues, which confronted either their family or those who they were representing. Feedback received confirmed the assistance was most beneficial.

Other Inputs

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

- Review of DSC Policies/Standards;
- NDS – Finance Advisory Committee;
- National Disability Insurance Scheme;
- NDS – Funding Community Services Policy – Disability Sector Working Group
 - Outcome Based Contracting;
- Artists by the River – Working Group & Financial Support; [See separate note]
- Count Me In: Disability Future Directions; [See separate note]
- DSC Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015;
- Quality Management Framework and Independent Evaluation [See separate note];
- National Disability Standards Review;
- Project Planning and Management;
- disAbility Day - December 2010;
- Individual Needs Planning Review;
- Garden and Building Maintenance; and
- Representation to various Federal and State Ministers/Politicians.

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

Drivers of Change

As stated in the Chair's report there is much change taking place worthy of note and detailed as follows:

- Significantly more national and international research;
- National Disability Agreement;
- National Disability Services;
- Productivity Commission Report;
- Economic Audit Committee Report; in particular
 - Purchase of Community Services – Outcome Based Contracting [#]
- Commission Count Me In: Future Directions;
- DSC Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015;
- Quality Management Framework; and
- National Disability Standards Review.

Further and better particulars can be provided on any of the above on request.

[#] As roll out is due to commence on July 1 it is important to note that the following are forecasted as being some of the future benefits.

- People with disability, families and carers;
 - Increased control, choice and decision making;
 - Services designed around the individual.
- Disability sector organisations;
 - Greater authority to plan and employ flexible service options;
 - Better outcomes for people accessing services.
- DSC;
 - Shared success;
 - Procurement of quality and value for money;
 - Continued accountability and management of public funds.

Merian Close - Beautification

After much planning, significant input by DSC staff and generous donations of time the external areas – sides A and B - were completely revitalised and refurbished to enable residents' greater access, more friendly and welcoming external environment. Great support was provided by students from the Cannington Community Education Support Unit. At the conclusion of the works program a celebratory BBQ was held and enjoyed by all. Overall the project was a great success with residents and staff enjoying the much valued outside refurbished areas. Thanks to all concerned for making it possible.

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 Alternative To Employment;
- National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategies;
- Respite Services – Provision and Funding;
- Workpower - Vacation Breaks;
- Explore Traveller – Holiday Programs;
- Lotterywest Grant Applications; and
- Review of Constitution.

The Group again commends Workpower for their continued financial viability, 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 mental illness. This has been achieved by creating opportunities through employment, recreation, leisure, community participation, alternatives to employment and respite programs. Of note Workpower assists well over 500 people with disability and mental illness to secure and maintain employment. Their annual report and general meeting once again provides an excellent overview of achievements. Group members were well represented at the AGM once again.

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 proposed Whittome Street Redevelopment.

Artists by the River Project No. 3 [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 Healthway [minor sponsor], DSC, Rotary [4 Clubs] and in part by the Group. In addition, a significant amount of in-kind support was provided by DSC, Melville Community Arts Association and the Group.

The initial program commenced on Saturday October 16 and concluded on Saturday December 18, 2010 and the second program commenced on Saturday February 5 and concluded on Saturday April 9, 2011. This was followed by an exhibition of the majority of works [very successful] from Tuesday 12 to Saturday April 23, 2011.

Much was learnt from the first two projects and excellent outcomes achieved once again. This highly successful and rewarding project culminated in the official launch held on Tuesday April 12, 2011. Delivery of Program 3 saw further settling in of the principles of the project and marked enjoyment by participants, staff, carers and families as they adopted and supported the positive outcomes provided through the use of art as a medium of expression. Participants included new and returning artists as well as teaching and support artists. Thirteen pieces of art were sold at the opening. The evening was attended by over 100 supporters, public and dignitaries including Dr Ron Chalmers Director General DSC. Melville Community Arts Association President Richard Hardwick was the MC for the evening and the Group's Patron Hon. Donna Faragher MLC officially opened the exhibition. The continued support and enthusiasm of the Gallery is highly commendable with the program now a respected 'on calendar' event for the Association and recognised as a way of 'giving back' to the community. Further DSC, Minister for Disability as well as Hon Donna Faragher MLC has featured the Artists, and the project in various ways including the proposed use of the art work being displayed on the 2012 calendar.

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. 4 provided grant funding can be obtained.

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

For details and photographs please visit the Group's web-site www.Fairholmedsg.com.au

Stakeholder Survey

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 was initiated and conducted in August and September. Despite sending to all members and significant others on the Group's mailing list just under 15% responded. Whilst the response was not as high as expected those who did respond reported a very high level of satisfaction of the Group's overall performance.

Key highlighted factors were the Group's on-going and sustained energy, pro-activeness and pursuit of continuous improvement.

Adopt a Politician Scheme

In October 2010 the Group along with sector representatives as well as adopted and many other politicians were provided with an opportunity to hear of new joint initiatives between Disability and Youth sectors. The forum was held at Parliament House during the evening meal break. Detail was provided by the then Minister for Disability Services [Hon Simon O'Brien MLC] and Minister for Youth [Hon Donna Faragher MLC], in relation to the furtherance of Post School Options [Alternatives to Employment], which will assist in overcoming some of the voids that occur after a student has left school. The initiatives detailed were well accepted and evidence to-date is that they are making a difference.

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, financial reconciliation and statement preparation [based on historical costs] in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

□ Financial Statement

A copy of the Group's financial report is provided separate to this report.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for 'a not for profit' Association for the year ended June 30, 2011, together with the Management Committee's Report and letter 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 commitments and/or requests that have been asked of it. Further, at the time this report was prepared the Group remains solvent.

□ Grants

➤ Healthway

\$2,500 was provided in November to assist with the commencement of phase 1 of Project 3 of Artists By The River. This was greatly appreciated because it assisted with the purchase of material, room hire and payment in part of the teaching artists.

➤ Lotterywest

An application for \$26,550 was made to enable a Feasibility Study to be undertaken associated with The Great Bike Hike, which was approved in April. This work has commenced and is proving to be most valuable and should ensure that the project is most successful. For this we are indebted to Lotterywest.

➤ Sydney Meyer Foundation

The Group was unsuccessful in its application for \$13,400 to assist with the part financing of Artists By The River Project 4, 2011/12.

➤ Australian Council for the Arts

An application for \$33,620 to fund in part Artists By The River Projects 4 and 5 during 2011/12 and 2012/13. Advice of the outcome is awaited.

➤ FACSIA – Volunteers

An amount of \$5,000 is being sought to assist in meeting fuel costs in the main associated with The Great Bike Hike. Advice of the outcome is awaited.

□ **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 October, 2010.

The Group wishes to acknowledge and sincerely appreciates Kelvin's contribution by undertaking the Audit free of charge.

Acknowledgements

In Memoriam

As reported in the February 19 General Meeting minutes Members reflected and paid tribute to the remarkable, determined and inspirational life of Dr Guy Hamilton who passed away December 22. Dr Hamilton was a visionary and as such instrumental in revolutionising and addressing change for the inclusion, betterment and enrichment of life for people with a disability, insisting on improved standards and service delivery. His ground breaking and lasting work took place over four decades. L Goode stated that in attending the funeral service he was privileged to listen to outstanding tributes given by Dr Ron Chalmers among others in celebration of Dr Hamilton's many achievements. Dr Hamilton was a tireless campaigner well known for his persistence in stressing disability as a social issue as opposed to a health issue, and insisting people with a disability be continuously regarded as valuable citizens and included within our community. In honour of Dr Hamilton's work, many in the disability sector will continue to draw on his inspiration.

Those associated with the Group as well as a significant number of others are indebted to all that Dr Hamilton achieved and inspired in others, for this we thank him.

Disability Services Commission

On behalf of the Group we again sincerely acknowledge and give overwhelming commendation in particular to accommodation staff, DSC Executive and Management for their continued untiring efforts to ensure that all residents and others receive maximum support. Also on behalf of not only the Group but other consumers the opportunity provided to be on various review committees and or being asked to provide an opinion to further assist in striving to achieve the best possible outcome. For all of this we thank you as it is appreciated.

Partnerships

Partnerships and sponsors have because of their interest and commitment again allowed the Group to continually achieve, for this we wish to acknowledge each and everyone and thank you for your contributions in many different forms and the difference you have helped us make.

Management Committee

Each year tends to be much the same and this past year has once again been no exception in that the Group has been faced with challenges, so on behalf of all, members, stakeholders and personally, I extend sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Group's executive, management committee members and partners, for making a difference by giving up their time, providing talent and financial assistance and their untiring professionalism, which has once again contributed to the Group's ongoing success.

Members

All other members are also acknowledged for continued support and encouragement which has allowed the Group to sustain its position of strength and creditability within the disability sector and with the community at large. For this we say thank you.

Patrons

The Group is again most appreciative of Hon. Donna Faragher [MLC] and Hon. Eric Ripper [MLA] for their 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 six years thank you for your confidence as I consider it to be a privilege and honour that has been given to me to be able to lead the Group once again and report on the achievements which first began 30 years ago. It has been noted that since inception the Group has had strong governance, communication and that it has continued 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 Count Me In - The Great Bike Hike will be further testament that amongst other things it can more than meet its Constitutional Objects in the forthcoming year.

As always, all of us will in one form or another again be challenged to make a difference and that all of endeavours no matter how small will make the quality of life for all of us that much better.

Bevan Dellar

Bevan Dellar

Chair

August 16, 2011

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	34	Associate Members	10
Organisational/Company Members	3	Life Members	14

Patrons

Hon D Faragher MLC Hon E Ripper MLA

Group Representation

In 2003 due to changes in the then Constitution, 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.

As noted earlier the Group has formally appointed Advisors to ensure that people's can be better met in this ever changing environment.

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 is to but not limited 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
- ❑ Management Meetings - 6
- ❑ Sub-Committees [2]
 - Artist By The River – Meetings 10
 - Count Me In - The Great Bike Hike - Meetings 14
- ❑ Consultations, Seminars, Briefings etc. - 15
- ❑ Briefings including Ministers, Members of Parliament, Senior Public Servants – 8
- ❑ Attendance - General Meetings at organisations, which the Group has an affiliation - 2
- ❑ Exhibitions – 2

- ❑ Project Meetings – 5
- ❑ Presentations – 4
- ❑ Advisory Working Groups – 3
 - Meetings - 8

Registered Australian Business [ABN] and Goods and Services Tax [GST]

The Group is registered [ABN 21 902 498 771] with the Australian Taxation Office [ATO] as an Australian Business effective from November 1, 1999 and for GST in February 2011 to further assist in becoming a Grant recipient in particular for requests for over \$15,000.

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

- **Federal and State Budgets 2011/12**

The following is an overview of main points having been delivered in the recent Federal and State Budgets.

Federal Budget

The following is a summary of key initiatives as published by National Disability Services:

- a substantial funding package for mental health
- \$200 million to support the education of children with disability
- tax changes that will affect some not-for-profit organisations
- a Commonwealth funding increase to the States and Territories for disability services of \$156 million

In a welcome move, the Government has announced that it will lift the hours DSP recipients can work. People who began receiving DSP after 2005 are subject to a 15 hour a week work test. The new measure will enable them to work up to 30 hours a week without affecting their eligibility for DSP. The income test will still apply.

Employment

- wage subsidies of \$3,000 will support the employment of about 1,000 job seekers registered with a DES who have been unemployed for 12 months or more;
- employers will get \$2,000 to assist with training and supervising a worker employed under the Supported Wage System

Australian Disability Enterprises

The Budget contains \$9.8 million new funding in 2011-12 for Australian Disability Enterprises, but around \$3 million of this is to make up a short-fall from last year.

Not-for-Profit Reforms

- an end to tax concessions of some unrelated commercial entities. Commercial activities that further the altruistic purpose of a not-for-profit entity (as well as small-scale unrelated commercial entities) won't be affected.
- the establishment of an Australian Charities and NFP Commission to develop guidelines for the not-for-profit sector, and assess the charitable status of entities.
- legislation to define a charity for all Commonwealth laws and all State/Territory laws if States and Territories agree.

National Mental Health Reform

The Budget details the expenditure of \$2.2 billion over five years on mental health initiatives, \$1.5 billion of which are new initiatives. They include expanding access to allied psychological services; the establishment of a National Mental Health Commission; more community mental health services; and coordinated care and flexible funding for people with 'severe and persistent mental illness'.

Children

- \$200 million over two years to increase the support for students with disability.

National Disability Agreement

Commonwealth funding to the States and Territories will increase significantly from \$1.052 billion in 2010-11 to \$1.208 billion in 2011-12.

State Budget

The following is a summary of main points from the DSC Budget Bulletin which can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/dscwr/_assets/main/report/documents/pdf/2035_budget_bulletin_book_2011.pdf

- \$95.7 million over three years for housing for people with disability who have high support needs. The three year plan aims to build or buy 169 homes for 340 people with disability.
- \$18 million over three years commencing in 2012–2013 for the delivery of support to residents in these homes.
- \$25 million for people with disability to live in their own homes or with family or carers.
- an increase in growth funding for services of \$45 million in 2011– 2012
- the Alternatives to Employment program will receive an additional \$2.7 million in the next financial year and the Post School Options program will receive \$5.6 million.
- Disability Professional Services will receive growth funding of more than \$2 million in 2011–2012 to enable people with disability to receive necessary specialist disability services.
- more than \$5.7 million of additional funding has been allocated to Intensive Family Support and plans through the Family Living Initiative.
- A growth funding commitment of \$1.96 million a year has been made to secure the future of the Neurodegenerative Conditions Coordinating Care Program (NCCCP)
- \$1.6 million over four years to the West Australian Motor Industry Foundation to increase its vehicle fleet by 10 vehicles each year

Quality Management [QMF] – Independent Evaluation

As reported last year as from July 1 2010 Standards Monitoring in its current form ceased and was replaced by the use of a Quality Management Framework that had been developed over the past 3 years. The Group was contacted on several occasions with respect to any Standards monitoring during the past 12 months. However, parents, carers and significant others did contact the Group to seek advice/clarification on letters received as well as matters referred to in reports concerning evaluation of accommodation and alternatives to employment.

The majority of concerns were about the lack of prior communication and understanding of the process and the right to have input. In addition it was stated that little to no staff had an appreciation of Quality Management but it was acknowledged in some instances that despite this staff were striving to get the best possible outcome. These issues are being followed up in particular through feedback in the reports as well as other forums etc and in particular through the Individual Needs Planning Review process.

Legislation

The Group has continued to monitor all associated legislative issues but no direct input was provided. However, the Group did participate with input to third parties such as NDS at both State and National levels.

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 also played a major role in getting youth with a disability accepted into scouting as well as assisting in the establishment/consolidation of CanTeen, McCusker Foundation for Alzheimer's Disease Research and associated Centre of Excellence. 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 almost 30 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 over 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 Michielsen

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.

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.

Advisors**Rev. Canon Leslie Goode**

Les is the father of Sharyn, an adult living with an intellectual disability within a group home under the DSC care program. He has advocated extensively for Sharyn and her peers for the past 40 years. He was a member and Vice President of the Active Industries Board and was a Foundation member of the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal, serving for 11 years. He has served on many boards, committees and task groups for both the government and non-government services. Les is a member and past chaplain of Crosslinks, an Anglican support Group for Sharyn and her peers. He is a member and past President of the Group and his current role is Advisor, offering a listening and advisory role in particular matters relating to Guardianship and Administration.

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. Garry now plays a vital advisory role in particular providing advice with respect to financial and estate planning associated with but not limited to ageing and changing needs associated with health.