



people with
disabilities
western
australia

LETTER OF SUPPORT

**NATIONAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY FRAMEWORK 2022-2025
SUBMISSION**

Dear Disability Advocacy secretariat,

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this consultation on the draft for a new **National Disability Advocacy Framework 2022-2025** (the Framework).

People With disabilities WA Inc. (PWdWA) would like to add our support to the submission by **Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA)** on the draft Framework and what is needed to realise its intended Outcomes.

Since 1981 **PWdWA** has been the lead member-based disability advocacy organisation representing the rights, needs, and equity of all Western Australians with a physical, intellectual, neurological, psychosocial, or sensory disability via individual, self and systemic advocacy. We provide access to information, and independent individual and systemic advocacy with a focus on those who are most vulnerable.

PWdWA is run by and for people with disabilities and aims to empower the voices of all people with disabilities in Western Australia.

With regards to Framework submission, we would like to add particular emphasis to;

- The section of Definitions to be re-drafted so all six models of advocacy are included and accurately represented.
- The definition of disability advocacy should be adjusted to fully reflect its scope and purposes.
- The definition of Self advocacy should be adjusted to additionally reflect the collective work of Self Advocacy groups to make change.
- The *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* should also be listed in the Framework.

- Other relevant international human rights treaties should be included in the list of documents in the *Principles* section of the Framework.
- Under Person-Centred Approach, the principle that “advocacy should be directed by the will, preference and rights of the person with disability” should be added.
- The need for advocacy support to meet the diverse needs of people with different disability types and multiple disabilities should be better represented in the principles.
- The Framework should include an Outcome about building the capacity of people with disability to self-advocate.
- The Framework should include an Outcome recognising the importance of systemic advocacy, such as “there are systemic improvements reducing the barriers and disadvantage experienced by people with disability”.
- The Framework should specify a commitment *by both Federal and State/Territory governments* to fully fund disability advocacy organisations to meet demand and need in a timely and consistent manner. This commitment should include ensuring sustainability and stability of the disability advocacy sector and funding for systemic advocacy.
- The Outcome about improving coordination and communication should specifically refer to the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission.
- Increase community awareness of, and enhance access to, advocacy for people with disability.
- Strengthen the inclusion and involvement of people with disability in decision making, co-design and organisational governance.
- Develop the disability advocacy sector to enhance professionalism and consistency of advocacy support for all people with disability.
- Streamlining of Federal and State/Territory funding and administrative systems to increase access, efficiency, improved outcomes and so that “no door is the wrong door” for people with disability
- Develop effective systems for ensuring access to advocacy as part of safeguarding rights of people with disability and ensuring all people have the

right to pursue any grievance or complaint without fear of retribution or disadvantage.

- All governments working together to streamline and build capacity for the collection of data and to remove administrative and financial burdens on organisations in complying with multiple data collection and reporting systems and ensuring effective data collation and analysis of trends. Any data collection that is undertaken should include a transparent process for sharing the aggregate data to inform systemic advocacy. Disability advocacy organisations must be consulted when interpreting advocacy program data.

We urge the Disability Reform Ministers and their respective governments to prioritise this work and make strong commitments on disability advocacy funding and collaboration to help realise the vision of Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-31 and the National Disability Insurance Scheme: an Australia that includes and values people with disability and respects human rights for all.

Yours Sincerely,



Brendan Cullinan
Chief Executive Officer

8 July 2022