

# People With Disabilities WA Conference 2022



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Communities



## Inclusive Communities **PROGRAM**

### Conference Streams

#### **Collaboration**

Working together  
and sharing



#### **Choice**

Empowerment and  
self-determination



#### **Celebrations**

Showcasing innovation  
and best practice



**Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 December 2022**

**Bendat Centre, Wembley**

# PROGRAM: Wednesday 7 December

8.30am

Registrations Open

9.30am

Main  
Auditorium

## Opening Ceremony

**Welcome to Country** Uncle Vaughn McGuire

**Overview** MC Phoebe Kingston: Housekeeping, Program and introduce our Keynote Listeners



9.45am

Main  
Auditorium

## Ministerial Address Hon. Don Punch MLA

Minister for Disability Services; Small Business; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing

10:00am

Main  
Auditorium



## Keynote: Inclusive Communication Drisana Levitzke-Gray

Drisana Levitzke-Gray is the recipient of both the 2015 Young Australian of the Year Award and WA Young Australian of the Year Award, in recognition of her passion and dedication in advocating for the human rights of deaf people. She raises awareness about Auslan (Australian Sign Language), and the right of deaf children in Australia to access Auslan from birth.

An advocate and activist, Drisana seeks opportunities to create a positive social change and to challenge the stigma and misconceptions about Deaf people and sign languages.



10:30am

Morning Tea

11:00am

Main Auditorium

### Keynote: Inclusive Technology Dr Scott Hollier

Dr Scott Hollier specialises in the field of digital accessibility and is the CEO and co-founder of the Centre for Accessibility Australia, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to alleviating hardship caused by digital access issues. With a Ph.D. in Internet Studies and senior management experience across the not-for-profit, corporate and government sectors, Scott is an internationally recognised researcher and speaker.

Scott’s other roles and achievements include Finalist for 2022 Australian of the Year, holding academic positions at Edith Cowan University and the University of South Australia, and is an Invited Expert for the W3C Accessible Platform Architectures Research Questions Task Force.

In addition, Scott is legally blind and as such has both a professional and personal understanding of the importance of accessibility.














### 11:30am Changeover

	<b>Main Auditorium</b>	<b>Tomasi Room (upstairs)</b>	<b>Wellbeing Marquee (East of building)</b>
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11.40am	<p><b>The Neurodivergence Emergence in Women: Why Social Media Matters</b></p> <p>The impact of how sharing lived experience online is leading to a much-needed increase in females being diagnosed as neurodivergent.</p> <p><b>Alana Reeves</b></p> 	<p><b>Celebrating Co-Design Resource for Tenants with Disability</b></p> <p>Our Co-Design project not only designed a Workshop for tenants with disability, along the way we also focused on building our capacity to self-advocate and share information with others in a supportive way. We will celebrate and share aspects of the project.</p> <p><b>Dr Donna Turner</b> Building Tenancy Skills Project</p> 	<p><b>The Pet Effect</b></p> <p>The positive impacts of the “Pet Effect” on our physical and mental health and what Animal Assisted Interventions and Therapies can provide.</p> <p><b>Karen Brown</b> MSWA</p> 
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### 12.10pm Lunch

	Main Auditorium	Tomasi Room (upstairs)	Wellbeing Marquee (East of building)
1.00pm	<p><b>PANEL</b></p> <p><b>Disability Legal Issues</b></p> <p>People with disabilities still face many barriers when realising their rights. Join us for this insightful panel to explore legal rights and recourse in WA today.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> PENDING</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <p>PENDING Legal Aid WA</p> <p><b>Noel Johnstone</b>, Independent Support Person Project (formerly)</p> <p>PENDING</p> 	<p><b>Building Big Dreams</b></p> <p>“Year 13” students and staff together with Valued Lives have worked together to co-design a program that assists students to find their voices and self advocate to become masters of their future.</p> <p><b>Clare Gibellini</b></p> <p>Valued Lives Foundation</p> 	<p><b>Life Launchpad</b></p> <p>Peers building skills and supports to live equal, empowered lives. Hands on activities aimed to build confidence and capacity of people with mental health challenges.</p> <p><b>Elaine Ashurst &amp; Joy Wells</b></p> <p>Consumers of Mental Health WA</p> 
2.00pm	<b>Changeover</b>		
	Main Auditorium	Tomasi Room (upstairs)	Wellbeing Marquee (East of building)
2:10pm	<p><b>Addressing the Unmet Needs of Young People with Disabilities – Dardy Project</b></p> <p>How can a holistic multidisciplinary approach to the legal problems of young people living with disabilities improve their long-term outcomes?</p> <p><b>Margaret Irvine</b></p> <p>Legal Aid Commission WA</p> 	<p><b>My Voice Help, My Health App</b></p> <p>Learn about the app that aims to support better health outcomes for people with Down Syndrome and how other disability communities might create something to meet their own needs.</p> <p><b>Cassandra Hughes</b></p> <p>CEO Down Syndrome Western Australia</p> 	<p><b>Controlling Smart Phones from Wheelchairs</b></p> <p>This session talks about how people with a disability can use smart phones and computers with limited or no upper limb function.</p> <p><b>Karthik Pasumarthy</b></p> <p>Rehabilitation Engineering Clinic, Department of Health</p> 
2:40pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>		

	Main Auditorium	Tomasi Room (upstairs)	Wellbeing Marquee (East of building)
3:00pm	<p><b>Is it Really Inclusion?</b></p> <p>Unpacking some of the misconceptions and implemented inclusive practices within the sport &amp; recreation sector. Can we do better? Are we going backwards and are we celebrating in the right way?</p> <p><b>Adam Popham</b> <b>Brad Scott</b> Inclusion Solutions</p> 	<p><b>Workshop: Access or Barriers Created by Online Formats</b></p> <p>Many government agencies now deliver services online but does this create or hinder access completely?</p> <p><b>Equal Opportunity Commissioner</b> <b>Dr John Byrne, AM</b> <b>Diana MacTiernan</b> Equal Opportunity Commission WA</p> 	<p><b>Relationships and Sexuality Education as a Pathway to Inclusion</b></p> <p>SECCA has created a free App that teaches critical Relationships and Sexuality Education. This session will introduce the topic and give a demonstration on using the App.</p> <p><b>Jordina Quinn</b> Sexuality, Education, Counselling and Consultancy Agency</p> 
3:45pm	<b>Changeover</b>		
	Main Auditorium	Tomasi Room (upstairs)	
3:55pm	<p><b>PANEL</b></p> <p><b>Sport and Recreation Inclusion and Accessibility</b></p> <p>How accessible are sport and recreation opportunities in WA and what opportunities are there for athletes with a disability? What changes does the sector need for better inclusion?</p> <p><b>Moderator: Brendan Cullinan</b></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <p><b>Adam Popham, Brad Scott</b> – Inclusion Solutions <b>Noel Johnstone</b> – Community Sports Show <b>Rob Geersen</b> – West Australian Football Commission <b>Chris Barty</b> – Football Futures Foundation <b>Jan Saunders</b> – Superfins</p> 	<p><b>Appealing NDIS decisions - how to get what you need</b></p> <p>Legal Aid provides most legal representation in WA's NDIS appeals. The session gives an overview of the NDIS access and processes, and how to appeal a decision. This includes how to submit a successful internal review request and how to navigate an appeal in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.</p> <p>The session will provide lots of practical tips, including advice about how to gather persuasive evidence with a focus on quality rather than quantity. It will also share helpful resources, links and support services.</p> <p><b>Melissa Evans, Amanda Hockless</b> Legal Aid WA</p> 	
4:55 pm	<b>Close</b>		

# PROGRAM: Thursday 8 December

8.45am

Registrations Open

9.15am

Main  
Auditorium

Day 2 Opening

Overview MC Phoebe Kingston

Director General Mike Rowe AM, Department of Communities WA

9:45am

Main  
Auditorium



Keynote: Inclusive Media Julia Hales

Julia Hales is a theatre-maker and performance artist who has dedicated her career to sharing the experiences of people living with disability, in particular Down syndrome.

Julia has just returned from touring her autobiographical play You Know We Belong Together in London, Edinburgh and Sydney.



10.15am

Morning Tea

Main Auditorium

Tomasi Room (upstairs)

10:45am

How You Can Influence an Inclusive Community

Join the Executive Director, Department of Communities for a conversation about what we can all do to make Western Australia a truly inclusive community.

**Marion Hailes-MacDonald**

Executive Director,  
Department of Communities



Yarning Circle







Brain Injury Yarning Circles provide the First Community support groups for Aboriginal people after acquired brain injury. Let's have a yarn about what we do and who we do it with.

**Kerri Colegate and Beth Armstrong**

ECU - Brain Injury Yarning Circles





11:45am	<b>Changeover</b>		
11:55am	<b>Main Auditorium</b>	<b>Tomasi Room (upstairs)</b>	<b>Wellbeing Marquee (East of building)</b>
	<p><b>Community Disability Advocacy in the Community</b></p> <p>Learn about how PWdWA are creating pathways for people with disabilities to collaborate with communities for positive local change. Share your stories and learn about ways to bring your people together to take action.</p> <p><b>Chris Chambers</b> PWdWA </p>	<p><b>The Hospital Stay Guidelines: Strengthening Your Say</b></p> <p>Learn about the new Hospital Stay Guidelines which inform people of their rights, roles and responsibilities throughout a hospital stay.</p> <p><b>Jocelyn Franciscus, Stephanie Coates, Danielle Loizou-Lake</b> Disability Health Network, Department of Health </p>	<p><b>Moorditj Kaart, Koort, Weirn</b></p> <p>A participatory experience of art therapy, including painting and braiding, to showcase the holistic healing of Yorgum for our First Nations mob.</p> <p><b>Sufya Nahid Sheryl Wong</b> Yorgum Healing Services </p>
12:35pm	<b>Lunch</b>		
1:45pm	<b>Main Auditorium</b>	<b>Tomasi Room (upstairs)</b>	<b>Wellbeing Marquee (East of building)</b>
	<p><b>PANEL Royal Commission Update into the Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disabilities</b></p> <p>Key themes from the DRC and the process from now.</p> <p><b>Chair: Senator Jordon Steele-John</b></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> <b>Demi Thackrah</b>, Your Story Disability Legal Support, Legal Aid <b>Leia Robinson</b>, People With disabilities WA </p>	<p><b>Young People with Disabilities: Creating Inclusive Nightlife</b></p> <p>Young people have a unique experience of disability, resulting in unexpected and complex forms of inaccessibility.</p> <p><b>Isabella Choate, Anneka Bodt</b> </p>	<p><b>Learn, Cook, Eat, Connect!</b></p> <p>Come along and learn, cook, eat, and connect at an interactive nutrition and cooking workshop based on Foodbank WA's Healthy Food for All Abilities program.</p> <p><b>Hope Resta, Libby Swanson</b> Foodbank WA </p>

2.45pm

## Afternoon Tea

3.10pm

Main  
Auditorium

### Keynote: **Inclusion and Intersectionality** Wayne Herbert

Wayne is a prominent, in-demand, and outspoken international public speaker, presenter, comedian, and author promoting the rights of and opportunities for people with disability and people in the LGBTIQ community.

Wayne's career is focused on assisting people with disability into employment and training, ensuring that full participation in both work and community life is realised.

He knows all too well that as a country, Australia cannot let the skills and talents of people with disability go to waste.



3:40pm

Main  
Auditorium

### Closing Ceremony

**Brendan Cullinan, CEO, People With disabilities WA**

4:00pm

### Sundowner

**including a performance by Grace King**

Cocktail food and soft drinks provided.

Bar open to buy your own wine and beer.

