

December 2022



Cassandra's Corner

2022 has been an exceptional year for DSWA. It has been both challenging and rewarding, and has been a year of significant change.

I wish to thank our members who have attended events, supported activities, participated in the many programs we run, made donations or volunteered your time. Your participation with and support of Down Syndrome WA allows us to continue to provide services, activities and events.

We have had some remarkable support from members of the wider community this year with the association being the beneficiaries of a number of personal/corporate fundraisers and personal donations. I can not express enough our deepest gratitude for all funds that come to the organisation.

2023 is shaping up to be a wonderful year, with increased family support and regional outreach funding, growth in support coordination and an expanding employment program.

The employment program continues to show great promise and attract a lot of interest. We have a number of members ready to join the program in early 2023 and are working with employers to job carve positions for our members. Finding employers will be a key focus for this program in 2023.

Funding of the association will continue to be an important priority for 2023. The future of our association is dependent on a strong business model and independent funding to continue and grow.

The year ahead will also see a significant increase in opportunities for our adult members with increased social group activities, as well as a new skill building program called Broadening Horizons which will offer a series of 8-10 week life skill development programs. The programs will be announced in 2023 and we will send out an expression of interest form for you to indicate what is of interest to you.

The recent housing workshop has been rescheduled to the first quarter of 2023, as most people intending to attend, found themselves busy with end of year activities. Watch out for the new date in the January eNews.

As always, if you have ideas and suggestions for anything to support and grow our service offerings to our membership, I would love to hear from you.

Thank you again to all members, partners and supporters for your unwavering support. To our board for your support and to finally to my DSWA staff team who have worked diligently and passionately to support our community in 2022, thank you for your outstanding contributions.

I wish you all a very merry christmas and a positive, joyfilled 2023.

Warmest regards,
Cassandra



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Board Christmas Message

As we count down the days to year's end, I'd like to take the opportunity to reflect on a few highlights from 2022:

- the Quiz Night, Gala Dinner and StepUp show that we can have fun whilst raising money (and I'd like to acknowledge the incredible amount of work our staff did to pull these events together)

- adoption of a new Constitution (necessary because ours was so out-of-date)

- growth of our Employment program - placing more adults into Open employment than ever before

- confirmation of a larger Telethon grant, which will enable us to develop and expand our Family Support programs, particularly in the regional and rural areas. I would like to acknowledge the great work of our staff to secure this extra funding (we have been the recipients of Telethon grants before but this year the amount is significantly more, covering a broader scope of work).

There are lots of exciting things happening at DSWA and the Board and staff are working hard to ensure that we are growing into a more modern, robust association, supporting people with Down Syndrome, and their families, through all stages of life.

Most of this year has been overseen by Kathryn Salt as our Board Chair. I would like to thank Kathryn for her leadership since taking on the role in July 2021. It is not possible to quantify the hours she has spent "volunteering" in this role.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to wish all of you, families, and friends of our Association, a very Happy Christmas and may the coming year be filled with lots of great memories.

Nia Parker
Acting Chair, Board of Management

Upcoming events

Board Nominations

Food for thought over the Christmas Break! - The Board will be calling for Nominations to the Board early in the new year. Further information will be available in the formal notice to be sent in early January. If you have an interest in being a member of the DSWA board watch out for the email notice in the first week of January, in the meantime if you wish to discuss a board role, please reach out to Chair@downsyndromewa.org.au.

Annual General Meeting

AGM - Save the Date - the date for the delayed 2022 AGM will be Wednesday 22 February 2023.



DSWA's final events for the year were our Christmas Parties.

Our younger members enjoyed the afternoon at Forster Community Centre with a Disco, face painting, crafts, games on the lawn, and of course a visit and presents from Santa.

Thank you to Dylan King music for donating his time to DJ the disco.

Our Teenagers and adult members danced the night away to the tunes played by DJ Incredible. They shared dinner and games, and when the sun went down, the glow sticks and the dance moves really came out.

Thank you to DJ Incredible, Cara, for your amazing music and entertaining the members.

Thank you to our coordinators and supports of all of DSWA's social groups. Your dedication and passion for delivering amazing programs to the Down syndrome WA community does not go unnoticed and is truly appreciated by all.





Dont miss this beautiful film, being screened at the Burswood Community Cinema on Sunday January 22.

The TRIO film aims to defend human rights, to promote inclusive society, to raise public awareness of Down Syndrome globally, to fight discrimination, to support racial equity, and to terminate historic misuse of the term “Mongol”, “Mongolism”, and “Mongoloid”.

Down Syndrome WA have been invited to be a co-beneficiary with the Down Syndrome Association of Mongolia, of all funds raised at the screening of the film in January.

We hope that you will support the film and both Down Syndrome Associations by coming along and supporting the film.

Sunday 22 January 2023
Burswood Community Cinemas.

Here is the booking link:
[Trio at Burswood on 2023-01-22T19:45:00 | Telethon Community Cinemas](https://www.telethon.com.au/telethon-community-cinemas/trio-at-burswood-on-2023-01-22t19:45:00)

Compliments and Complaints

We welcome all feedback and suggestions. Send your feedback to admin@downsyndromewa.org.au or use our [online form](#).

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