



Association Updates

[CEO's Corner](#)

[Meetings and Association Notes](#)

What's On

[Calendar](#)

[DSWA Gala 2025](#)

[WDSD Family Picnic](#)

[Early Members Morning Tea](#)

[Educator Learning Day](#)

Get Involved

[Patrick's Story](#)

[Congratulations Julia](#)

[Family Support](#)

[Playgroups](#)

[Kids Club](#)

[Open Employment](#)

[Teens and Adults](#)

[Tennis Fundraiser](#)

[Swim School Presentation](#)

Stay Connected

[Disability Royal Commission](#)

[Voting Workshop](#)

[Taxi User Subsidy Scheme](#)

[World Down Syndrome Day Conference](#)

[Compliments and Complaints](#)



While our hard-working CEO Cassandra is taking well deserved annual leave, I am very excited to be welcoming you all to our January Enews.

The team have had a lovely start to 2025, settling into our beautiful new office and welcoming new staff to our team. January has been filled with lots of planning for what is going to be an exciting and busy year.

We are looking forward to engaging with the community during February in many ways. Including the founding members morning tea and the Peel regional outreach launch. You can find more details of how to attend these later in the Enews.

DSWA's social groups return this month after a break over the summer holidays. Keep reading for more information on our Playgroups, Kids Club and Teens and adults social groups.

Nikki

Nikki Schwagermann
Acting CEO



The **DSWA Disaster and Emergency Plan** is available on our website at:

<https://www.downsyndrome.org.au/wa/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2025/01/DSWA-Disaster-and-Emergency-Plan-Jan-25.pdf>

For any comments, or if you require further information, contact Cassandra Hughes, DSWA CEO - ceo@downsyndromewa.org.au

Upcoming Board Meetings

24th February

17th March

14th April

19th May

What's On

6 February PCH Outreach	7 February Playgroup North	9 February Circus Workshop Kids Club
10 February Playgroup South	13 February PCH Outreach	14 February Playgroup North
15 February Let's Go Surfing Teens and Adults	21 February Professional Learning Day for Educators	27 February Peel Regional Outreach Launch
10 March Playgroup South	11 March PCH Outreach	11 March Ready for Work Upskilling & training
14 March Playgroup North	22 March WDS Family Picnic	3 May Gala Dinner 2025!


DSWA Gala 2025

We are thrilled to share that the 2025 Gala Dinner tickets are on sale!

In 2025 the gala theme is "The Difference Support Makes." This aligns with the 2025 World Down Syndrome Day (WDS) theme.

It's all about celebrating the incredible value of community and recognising everyone who supports us, our members, and the wider community.

 When: Saturday, 3rd May 2025

 Where: Pan Pacific, Perth

Tickets are now on sale! Don't miss out—book yours here: <https://www.trybooking.com/CXYJW>

We can't wait to see you there for an unforgettable night of connection, celebration, community and a bit of a boogie!

There are a few things that are important to know.

- Your ticket includes a 3 course meal, live band and lots of fun. Drinks can be bought at the bar.
- In the past, DSWA has charged cost price for tickets to cover food. As we all know costs for everything have increased and as such, ticket prices have increased.
- There are discounted fixed price tickets (at cost) for people with Down syndrome - \$115/each
- Early Bird tickets are available until 23 February \$150. There can be NO extension on Early Bird, even if you have held a table.
- Table Holds - please send a table number request to admin@downsyndromewa.org.au. Holding a table, doesn't hold the early bird price.
- Full price after early bird \$175
- Until we can upload a floor plan, please assume that Table 1 is at the front of the room and table 42 is at the back.
- DSWA cannot provide companion card exemptions.



Save the date for our annual World Down Syndrome Day Family Picnic.

Saturday 22nd of March, 10.30am-1pm

BYO picnic lunch and come and connect and celebrate with the DSWA community!

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY FAMILY PICNIC

Save the date for our annual
World Down Syndrome Day
Family Picnic.

**SATURDAY
22ND
MARCH**

10.30am-1pm

EVERYONE WELCOME



Early Members Morning Tea

The DSWA board would like to meet and celebrate the founders and early members of Down Syndrome WA with a morning tea in February 2025. We invite all founding members and early member families of the association to join us for morning tea at our new premises at The Belmont Hub, 213 Wright St Belmont.

The event can be found on Trybooking where you can book a place so we can determine numbers and manage the RSVP's please click this link

- <https://www.trybooking.com/CXNRC>

For enquiries please contact admin@downsyndromewa.org.au.

Many early members of the association are no longer connected with DSWA and we are keen to locate and invite as many of the early families as possible. If you are reading this, and think of an early family that may not receive the E-News, please forward the information to them.

We hope to bring you together, to share your history of the association and to share

with you the new Adult project which we hope will offer beneficial resources and activities for older members living with Down syndrome. We would also like to discuss the 40th Anniversary which occurs in 2026.

INVITATION TO

Founding and Early members Morning Tea



The DSWA Board invite founding
members and early member families
to join them for morning tea
Thursday 20 February 2025



Educator Learning Day

Our annual Educating Children with Down syndrome Professional Learning Day is back in 2025, and it's the perfect professional learning opportunity for teachers, education assistants, and school administrators.

This full-day professional development will focus on practical strategies for supporting students, including:

- Classroom adaptations
- Pre-reading and numeracy
- Boundary setting and understanding behaviour
- Classroom management

When: 21st February 2025

Where: In Person at the Belmont Hub, 213 Wright St, Cloverdale (includes morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea) or Online via Zoom.

How to Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/CWYOB>

Help us spread the word! Share this with your school and encourage your teachers to join us for this incredible day of learning.

For more info, contact the DSWA Team at admin@downsyndromewa.org.au or 08 6182 3690.

Educator Professional Learning

A full day workshop, with multiple presentations to support Educators, Education Assistants and Administrators to teach and support a child with Down syndrome in their classroom. (May have relevance to children with other similar Intellectual Disability)



DATE Friday February 21st, 2025

TIME 9:00am to 4:30pm

VENUE The Belmont Hub
213 Wright St, Cloverdale, 6105

TICKETS <https://www.trybooking.com/CWYOB>



Get Involved

Patrick's Story

Patrick Ricciardo is used to being a leader. Not only is he a member of the Down Syndrome WA Advisory Network but he is a role model for making a positive contribution in our community, both through his work and with his peers through his different sporting activities.

Just recently, Patrick joined a national research team based at The Kids Research Institute Australia to help develop a grant for submission to the Federal Government's Medical Research and Futures Fund. Patrick is a Chief Investigator on the grant. The project will use co-design to develop a program that enables community-based physical activity opportunities for adolescents and young people with intellectual disability, test the program in a clinical trial, and then work out how to tell people about the work.

If the project is funded, Patrick will be an adviser during the study meetings and will have a co-chair role for the Study Steering Committee – to make sure that his experiences and perspectives guide how the study runs.

Good luck to Patrick and the team!



Congratulations to DSWA member Julia Clare Hales for her medal of the Order of Australia.

See below Julia's interview with the ABC.:

Julia Clare Hales OAM

Perth actor and writer Julia Hales has been recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia for her services to people with disability, and to the arts.

"It's just incredible," Ms Hales said. "It's all kind of sinking in, I have no idea who nominated me."

Ms Hales's 2018 play *You Know We Belong Together* has had a major impact, attracting multiple awards and even going overseas.

She wants to continue working in the arts, including acting, and plans to use her experiences to help others.

"I've been working with a lot of people with disabilities for a long time," Ms Hales said. "I want to help them bring their projects out to the world, to listen to them and what they want."



Family Support



We are so grateful to Telethon for continuing to fund our Family support team. With their generous grant, I am happy to say our team is growing again. I would like to welcome Paula Salgado to the team. Paula will be working two days a week. We are also welcoming Zali Stipanicev to our team as admin. Zali has worked at DSWA for over a year in a variety of other roles. We are excited that she will be dedicating 3 days to help support Paula and Nikki.



PCH Outreach

Don't forget, Thursday is PCH Outreach day!

If you are at Perth Childrens Hospital as an inpatient on the ward, or just there for an appointment, make sure you let me know by emailing familysupport@downsyndromewa.org.au or 0480311739.

I look forward to supporting you and buying you a coffee.

Regional Outreach

We are excited to be extending our Regional Outreach program and will be creating new groups in the wheatbelt and Peel regions. On the 27th February, from 10am-1pm we'll be launching the Peel Regional Outreach program. See all the details below.

What is regional outreach you might ask.

The regional outreach program was created to connect families in regions. Hold catch ups, dinners, share information and build a supportive network. DSWA come and visit the regions during the year, and while we are there, we meet with potential employers and groups to join together.

Join your region here:

DSWA Great Southern Support Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/562813961781133>

DSWA South West Support Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/677923213272854>

DSWA Midwest Support Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2502984533353870>

DSWA Peel Support Group

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/fUhrnQvNdyS11U3Q>

DSWA Regional Rural and Remote Support Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/357663433068076>

Interested in a group in your region? Send us an email
admin@downsyndromewa.org.au

Peel Regional Outreach Launch

Join us to celebrate the launch of the Peel Outreach Programme. Down Syndrome WA is hosting a special event on Thursday, 27th February, with the venue and time to be announced soon.

The event will feature an afternoon tea and a wine and cheese gathering, providing an opportunity for members and the wider community to come together in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. The launch event is open to all, reflecting the inclusive spirit of the initiative and its goal to foster stronger connections.



**PEEL
REGIONAL
OUTREACH
LAUNCH**

SAVE THE DATE!
THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/399481359497440>

Playgroups



Playgroup South

Playgroup South hopes you have had a safe and happy holiday break. We are looking forward to seeing our regular and new families coming along to Playgroup this new year.

Morning tea and coffee and tea is provided for the parents/carers. Please bring snacks, drink, hats, and shoes for the little ones as the ground gets hot in the summer.

We commence on Monday the 10th of February 9.30am to 11.30am at Baldivis South Community Centre, 13 Lamorak way, Baldivis.

Look forward to hearing about your holiday adventures, much love Renee and Nicole xx

Renee and Nicole
playgroup@downsyndromewa.org.au

Playgroup North

New Year New Faces!

Happy New Year to all our beautiful families, we hope you've all had a wonderful Christmas and summer break. Anita and I are so very excited to begin Term One and we've got loads of fun planned.

We're lucky enough to have 10 weeks this term and we've planned loads of themed activities plus we've a few big events to celebrate as well including Valentine's Day, World Down Syndrome Day and Easter. We are so excited for 2025 and can't wait to see you all soon.



The first playgroup of the year is on Friday the 7th February.

Karina and Anita
playgroup@downsyndromewa.org.au

Kids Club

Supported by



STAN PERRON
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

Happy new year! The Kids Club joined Studio Dre for the first event of the year. Studio Dre is a professional training facility teaching Breaking Dance, Parkour, Tricking, Acrobatics and more! Everyone had a go learning dance moves, taking on obstacle courses, ninja style acrobatics, and finally having a go at the mega warped wall.

The next Kids Club event is a circus workshop with Circus WA.

Date: Sunday the 9th of February

Time: 9:00am-11:00am (Arrive at 8:50am for a 9:00m start)

Location: The Freo Big Top, 90 Adelaide St, Fremantle WA 6959

Price: Members with DS Free, \$5 per sibling

Book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/CYETQ>

If you have a child aged 5 to 11 with Down syndrome and would love to connect with other families to encourage peer relationships, social skills and networking for parents, please contact Siobhan Painter at kidsclub@downsyndromewa.org.au for registration details.



Teens and Adults

As you will have seen in last months Enews, we are changing the way that our Teens group (Friends for Life) and our Adults group (Aim High) are running. See below for the information for the February and March events.

February Event

Disabled Surfers Association- DSA WA Perth Lets Go Surfing Day- *A day dedicated to providing people of all ages and disabilities a surfing experience.*

Date: Saturday 15th Feb

Time: 8.30am – 11.45am

Venue: Leighton Beach North Fremantle

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages welcome

Important details:

- Each participant MUST have their own support person stay with them for the whole duration of the event. As this is not a NDIS event, DSWA will not be providing supports and you will not be charged.
- Bring lots of water, sunscreen and your own snacks.

Nikki from DSWA will be there with a shade for everyone to meet and congregate at. We look forward to seeing you down at the beach.

Book now!! <https://events.humanitix.com/dsa-wa-perth-let-s-go-surfing-day-15-february-2025/tickets>

Any queries please email admin@downsyndromewa.org.au

March event

We will be heading to the Zoo. More details to come.

February Event! Teens and Adults

**Disabled Surfers Association WA
Perth Let's Go Surfing Day**

**Date: 15 February
Time: 8.30 am - 12 noon
Ages: All ages welcome
Cost: Free**



Book at <https://events.humanitix.com/dsa-wa-perth-let-s-go-surfing-day-15-february-2025>



Open Employment Program

Employment

It has been a great start to the year, with lots of action and a bit of excitement aswe have an extra team member in Employment.

Zali has joined forces with Stephanie and together they hope to place many more of our members into Open Employment. However, we would be grateful for your help. Do you own a business? or do you know someone who does?

We are looking for opportunities to speak with businesses about our Open Employment and prospects for jobs for our members looking for work. Please reach out to Stephanie and Zali and learn more about the program at employment@downsyndromewa.org.au.

It is a wonderful initiative for both businesses and participants alike. Reach out for a chat. It may not be a fit for you but it also may very well be a great fit.

Ready for work

If you have just finished school and are interested in some ready for work upskilling/training, please reach out to us.

DSWA will be running a Six Week Ready for Work programme commencing on 11th March 2025. The programme will run weekly on a Tuesday at our office in Cloverdale.

Register at employment@downsyndromewa.org.au

Are you

Ready for Work in 2025

Have you just finished school?

**Tuesdays weekly,
commencing
11th March, 2025**

6 week course

- ✓ Goal setting
- ✓ Preparing your Resume
- ✓ Preparing for work
- ✓ Looking for work
- ✓ Interviews

Register Now

and for more information email:
employment@downsyndromewa.org.au

Part of a National Capacity Building Program run by DSA and funded by the Australian Government through the Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Grant program



\$1126

This may be funded
through your NDIS plan.
Check your plan today.

Open Employment

DSWA member, Rachel Parker is thriving in the world of work.

Rachel works in open employment at a dental clinic in Rockingham, doing two shifts a week. She loves every aspect of her work.

Check out this Chamber of Commerce video of Rachel at work.



[How a dental clinic in Rockingham is championing disability employment – CCIWA](#)

Employment Ambassadors

Let me introduce you to our four new Employment Ambassadors.....



The role of the Employment Ambassadors is to work with Down Syndrome WA to talk to businesses about employment for people with Down syndrome.

The goal is to support DSWA with the National awareness campaign, promoting the Open Employment Program.

By sharing their experience and ideas, they will be helping people with Down syndrome looking to work.

Cooking and Kitchen Skills program – Registration of Interest

In the interest of building your employment prospects or just your independence, if you are keen to build your kitchen skills. Register your interest in a Cooking and Kitchen Skills program by emailing employment@downsyndromewa.org.au.

Grow your competence, and foster your talents with:

- Safety in the kitchen
- Food safety and hygiene
- Knife skills
- Cooking simple meals

Cooking & Kitchen skills program

Registration of interest

Learn:

*Kitchen safety
Food safety & hygiene
Knife use
Cooking simple meals
How to make healthy choices*

**To register your interest or
for further information**

employment@downsyndromewa.org.au



Tennis Fundraiser

The Parker family is hosting a fundraiser at the Bullcreek Tennis Club for DSWA!

Enjoy an afternoon of social tennis, a free sausage sizzle and drinks for purchase.

Suitable for all ages, abilities and skills. Everyone is welcome!

Registration fee is \$50 which will be donated to DSWA.

Bookings at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1288840>



Click Me to Book

TENNIS FUNDRAISER



REGISTRATION
FEE
\$50



For

Down Syndrome
Western Australia

**SUNDAY
16 MARCH**

**12.30 –
5.00 PM**

Come and join us for an afternoon of Social Tennis,
a Free sausage sizzle and drinks available for
purchase. Suitable for all ages, abilities and skill.

All registration fees will be donated to
Down Syndrome WA

LOCATION: BULLCREEK TENNIS CLUB

Benningfield Rd & Parry Avenue, Bull Creek WA

For more information Contact Mario -0417 186 590

Swim School Presentation

Cassandra and Nikki presented to City of Swan's swim school teachers from Beechboro, Ballajura and Midland on Tuesday afternoon.

The tailored presentation covered what Down syndrome is, what DSWA do, specific tips for teaching swim students with Down syndrome, appropriate communication and visual aids to use during sessions.

We received great feedback from the group

Comment from the workshop survey from one of the swim teachers -

"Loooove the work you're doing to break down generalisations, assumptions and stigma. These have no place in society, let alone lessons. As a swim teacher with considerable experience, I found the information about common physical health and intellectual development informative. I think there's a space for different

presentations....for beginners and also for more advanced? All in all, best PD I've had for a long time. Thank you keep up the great work."



The Disability Royal Commission – WA Implementation Road Map is available at:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/disability-royal-commission-wa-implementation-roadmap>



The upcoming Developmental Disability WA On the Couch event "Voting - What You Need to Know" will be presented by WA Electoral Commission.

When: Thursday 20th February 2025, 4 - 6 pm

Where: City West Lotteries House

Cost: FREE

Who is invited:

- People over 18 years old with an intellectual disability.
- First timers are very welcome.

Your support worker or carer can stay with you for the event if you like, or they can drop off and pick you up after the workshop is finished.
There is an afternoon tea. Please include dietary needs when completing the registration form.

Register at <https://ddwa.org.au/events/on-the-couch-event-voting-what-you-need-to-know/>

If you have questions, please contact the DDWA office:
Email ddwa@ddwa.org.au or Phone (08) 9420-7203



Taxi User Subsidy Scheme

TUSS is being updated by the WA Government.

It will change to a new digital system which will include:

- a new smartcard to replace the current participant card, which will be scanned by the taxi driver to start and end a trip; and
- a digital system for taxi drivers that will record all the trip details, saving time and improving fare accuracy.

New PTSS cards are set to arrive from late January 2025.

To read more, watch a video or see Easy Read documents go to <https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/on-demandtransport/about-the-tuss-reform.asp>

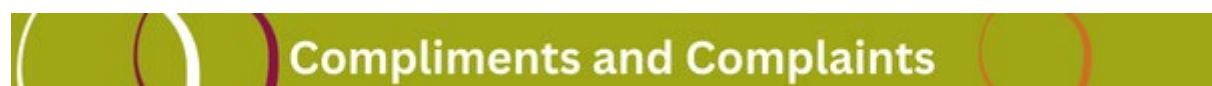
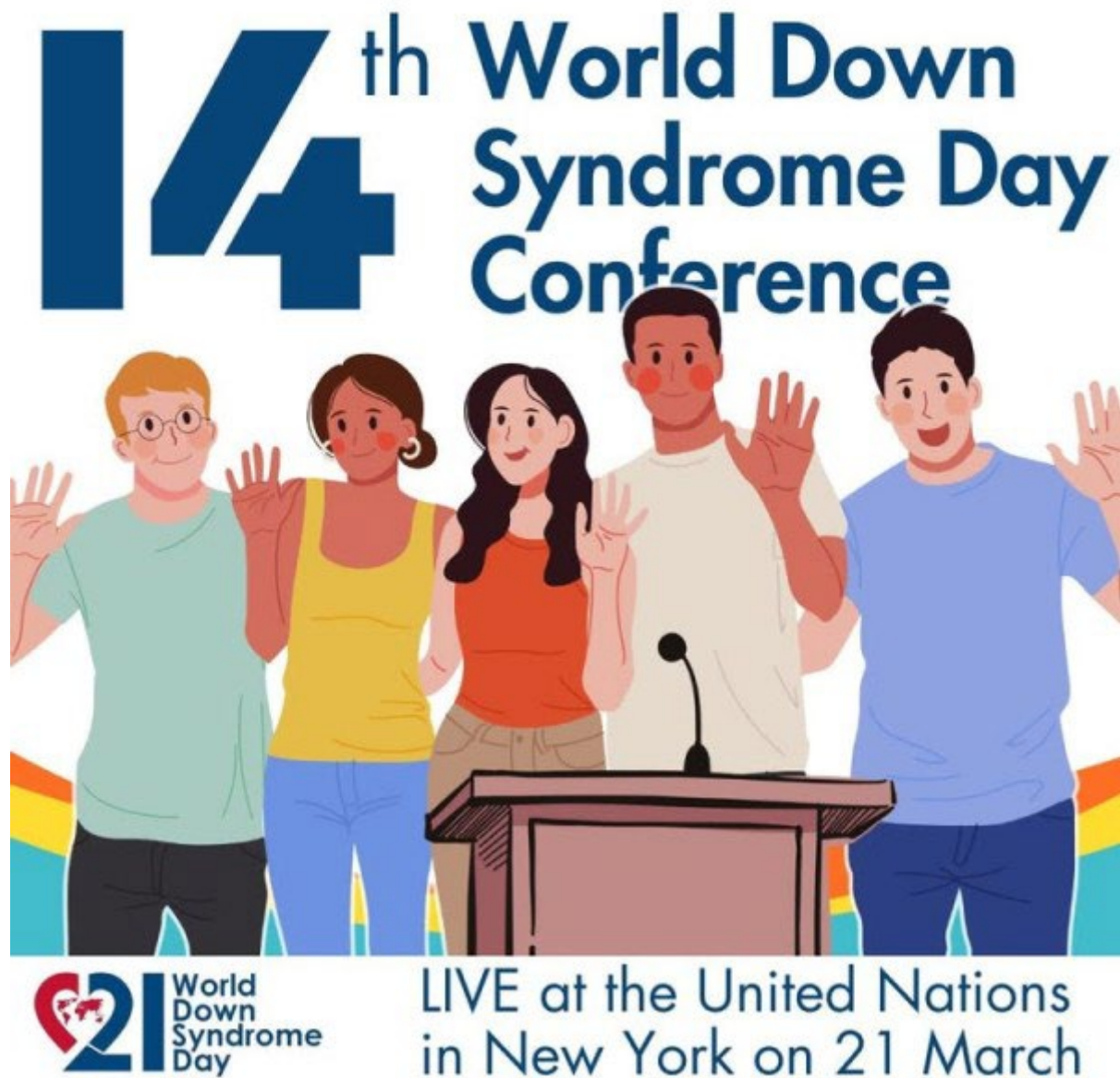
WDSD Conference

Join Down Syndrome International for the 14th World Down Syndrome Day Conference.

Apply to speak at the conference, register to attend or watch the action from wherever you are in the world.

The whole event will be streamed LIVE for you to watch from wherever you are.

See all the details at <https://events.ds-int.org/14thWorldDownSyndromeDayConference>



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



Copyright @Down Syndrome Western Australia, All rights reserved

{{msdyncrm_contentsettings(9345d3f5-4a4a-eb11-a812-0022480fea01).msdyncrm_addressmain}}

<http://downsyndrome.org.au/wa/>

(08) 6182 3690

complaints@downsyndromewa.org.au

You are receiving this email because you have previously indicated that you would like to receive updates from Down Syndrome Western Australia.

[Unsubscribe](#) or **[contact us to opt out](#)**