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Dear Members,

Heading into spring hasn't it been lovely to see some bright and sunny days. With the sun, 5 people attended the first of the All Ability Hikes. DSWA partnered with Hike West to develop and deliver a trial run of All Ability Hikes. This is a fantastic initiative by Hikes West and is such a positive step to growing inclusion in the Hiking community and promoting the benefits of being outdoors. We hope that more of you will be able to attend the next 2 hikes.

DSWA continues to put forward a strong annual plan of events, activities, workshops and gatherings to provide learning, skill development, social interaction and community connection. This winter has affected so many families, which of course has also affected registration and attendance rates. We hope that as the sun shines, we will see more of you at events and activities. Some of our activities are largely grant funded, and some are not funded at all so successful delivery does to some extent require numbers of people at events. This isn't only to ensure we deliver the grant outcomes, but to enhance the experience of members who are attending. I invite you to jump in, join with others in the community to attend one of the many, many events and activities we hold each month. There is something for everyone. 0-5yrs, Parent & Bub morning teas 0-2yrs, we now have three

playgroup locations, Metro & South running weekly during school terms and East - held in Belmont, at the request of members, running monthly. KiDS Club 6-12 continues to run fabulous activities every month, at very low cost for families, siblings and children with Down syndrome. Friends for Life - whilst our format changed away from an NDIS service, we are still running fantastic monthly events, thanks to the Family Support team. We would welcome any input, volunteering or support from families to further boost this program, which does not receive grant funding. We are also continuing with the Adult Social Program, again with a move away from NDIS. All of these only benefit members with sufficient attendance.

Of course, our next event is the fabulous StepUP and Dance for Down Syndrome on Sunday 12 October. StepUP is for families of all ages, and we encourage you to come along, mingle with other families, support the market stalls, participate and have fun. StepUP is our major FUNdraiser of the year, which is critical to support the operational costs of the association that allow us to deliver our programs and support to you. Thank you to the amazing fundraising teams that are working so hard. We look forward to more of you joining in. Remember, registering online prevents you having to line up. Entry is \$20 per person. See you there!

Next week, you will see a separate email in your inbox with the 2025 DSWA Member Survey. Your feedback, input and participation in the association is our strength, and our future. I encourage, in fact I am directly asking, that you please complete the survey and help us continue to grow the association and positively impact our future.

2026 is our 40th year and we are beginning planning. If you have an interest in the 40th year activities please reach out directly to me. I am also really looking forward to connecting with our founding and early families to gather stories and information about our history. The other major activity for 2026 is the development of DSWA Strategic plan. There will be a number of consultation opportunities for the community to contribute to the new strategy.

As you will all know, there is currently a lot happening in the disability sector. The Disability Discrimination Act is under review, and I encourage all members to have your say. I attended a community consultation on the review last week and DSWA will be putting forward a submission. If you wish to contribute to the submission, please email me directly. The ongoing changes to the NDIS has increased the stressors for many of our families and we are working with DSA and the rest of the consortium members on providing feedback.

I was fortunate to meet with Minister Beazley who was very interested in the work of DSWA, we spoke of the ongoing challenges in Education, Health and Employment for our members.

The DSWA AGM is coming soon, see more information later in the ENews, again all are welcome. The AGM is a great opportunity to meet the board and raise any questions.

I hope you enjoy the September Enews. See you at StepUP.

Warm regards
Cassandra

Cassandra Hughes
ceo@downsyndromewa.org.au



Notice of Annual General Meeting

The DSWA Board invite you to the 2025 Annual General meeting.

Date: Wednesday 22 October 2025

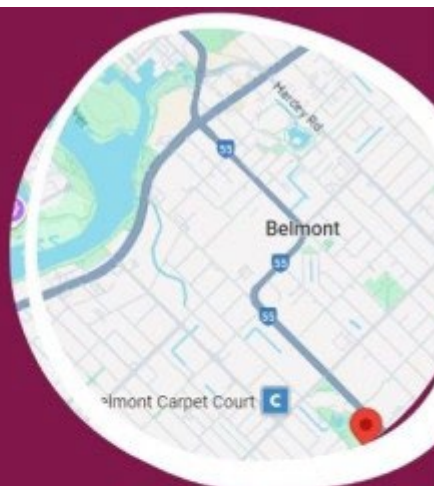
Time: 7pm

Venue: Level 2, 213 Wright St, Cloverdale. The Belmont Hub.

RSVP: secretary@downsyndromewa.org.au

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Down Syndrome WA Board
invite you to the
2025 Annual General Meeting



We invite all members
and stakeholders to
join us for the 2025
Annual General
Meeting

DATE Wednesday 22 October 2025

TIME 7pm

VENUE U4, Level 2, 213 Wright St,
Cloverdale.
The Belmont Hub

RSVP Secretary@downsyndromewa.org.au



Down Syndrome
Western Australia

Meetings & Association Notes

Upcoming Board Meetings

22nd September

22 October AGM

17th November

15th December

Curtin Medical Presentation

DSWAAN member Adam, and our Senior Coordinator Nikki, had a fantastic time visiting 2nd year medical students at Curtin University last week! The students were incredibly engaged and had lots of thoughtful, insightful questions for Adam and Nikki after the presentation.

DSWA create tailored presentations to support awareness and understanding of Down syndrome and inclusion of people with intellectual disability. If you're part of a medical school or healthcare organisation and would like us to present please contact the DSWA Team



Playgroups Toy Donation

During August our generous families from Playgroups North and South, along with The West Australian Newspaper, have been collecting stuffed toys for Wheelchairs for Kids.

Wheelchairs For Kids is a volunteer-based not-for-profit organisation providing the transformative gift of mobility to children in impoverished and under resourced communities both in Australia and around the globe. They include a stuffed toy with every wheelchair however due to the overwhelming requirement for chairs - each month shipping out over 480 chairs they needed donations of stuffed toys to keep this beautiful gift going.

The toys we collected will be included with wheelchairs which are sent to children all over the world.



Japan Movie Premiere

Congratulations to Adam Rapanaro, one of our DSWA members for your role in the beautiful film Chasing the Sun. DSWA is very proud of your achievements. Congratulations too, to Bus Stop Films on this amazing work.

Here is what Bus Stop Films said about the movie:

What a moment. Today our beautiful film Chasing the Sun premiered in Japan at the Australia Pavilion at World Expo Osaka. A celebration of community, culture, connection and food. We are so proud of our team who brought this beautiful film to life, from Australia to Japan, connecting our two countries through inclusive filmmaking.

Thank you to Commissioner General, Ms Nancy Gordon and Barbara Poliness Assistant Director, Public Engagement Section for hosting our delegation today, including Hiroshi Tamai, President of Japan Down Syndrome Society and our Chairman Peter Tonagh.

And massive congratulations to our actors Kimie, Adam and Saki and director Tak Nakano, together with Mito Chan and Jason Hancock from Special Beauty Japan for being part of this wonderful project.

Chasing the Sun was written by Alli Parker. DOP Mikey Hamer. Editor Adrian Powers. Our amazing participants - Luke, Bailey, Joe and Caleb. Produced by Dianna La Grassa.



DSWA Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 22 October 2025

Time: 7pm

RSVP: secretary@downsyndromewa.org.au

Step Up and Dance for Down Syndrome

Date: Sunday 12 October 2025

Time: 10am

Registration and tickets at <https://www.mycase.com.au/events/stepupanddance-dswa>

Online Safety in Person workshop

We will be playing Spot the Scam games, going over content from Scam Watch Australia and learning what scams to look out for.

Date: 30th October 2025

Time: 10am – 11:30am

Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/DFMJT>

Public Transport

The final session we will use the Trains / Buses to travel a route we have planned the week before.

Date: Starts 7th October

Time: Various

Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/DFPAB>

Housing and Living Options

The final session we will use the Trains / Buses to travel a route we have planned the week before.

Date: 10th December

Time: 9am-3pm

Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/DFVNP>

Administration, Guardianship, EAP, EPG

This will be provided by the Office of the Public Advocate.

Date: 10th December

Time: 9am-3pm

Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/DFVZF>

Barefoot Bowls Parents Events

Date: Friday 17th October

Time: 4-6pm

Venue: South Perth Bowling Club - 2 Mends St, South Perth

Tickets: \$10 each - <https://www.trybooking.com/DFDLP>

Friends for Life and Aim High Walks

Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/DDHCR>

All Abilities Hike-Walk 2

Date: 4th October

Time: 1.30-3pm

All Abilities Hike - Walk 3

Date: 18th October

Time: 1.30-3pm



Step Up for Down Syndrome Updates!

Book your tickets at

<https://www.mycase.com.au/events/stepupanddance-DSWA>

🌟 Just under 3 Weeks to Go! 🌟

👥 Step Up to Dance for Down Syndrome is nearly here- and we want YOU to be part of it!

Join us for a day full of fun and fundraising, music, and community spirit.

- 🎟 Register now or join a team to take part.
- 👟 Bring your dancing shoes,
- 📖 Explore our exciting Market Stalls and Vendors
- 🆕 Check out our brand-new merch,
- 💖 And help us raise vital funds for Down Syndrome WA.

Let's come together for our biggest fundraiser of the year, to make a difference — and dance our hearts out!

We can't wait to see you there!

<https://www.mycase.com.au/events/stepupanddance-DSWA>



STEP UP AND DANCE for

Down Syndrome

12
Oct



Looks who is coming back again this
Year



**Lilacs Cakes &
Cupcakes**



**Creations By
Callum**



**Renee's Boho
Stand**





STEP UP AND DANCE for Down Syndrome



12
Oct



Look who Coming
Check out our amazing Food Vendor's



Wally's Taco



Clint's Cones



**Sausage Sizzle
Run by our DSWA
Dad's**



Cuppa Time

CEO's Clothes for a Cause Market Stall

Step Up
AND
DANCE
FOR
Down Syndrome

**SUNDAY
12 OCTOBER
2025**



Recycling our threads to weave
your community threads.

100% OF SALES TO DSWA

Barefoot Bowls

There's just a few days left to book in to have a bit of fun and connect with other parents and/or carers of people with Down syndrome

Date: Friday 17th October

Time: 4-6pm

Venue: South Perth Bowling Club - 2 Mends St, South Perth

Tickets: \$10 each - purchased via TryBooking by 30 Sept.

Bookings open now- <https://www.trybooking.com/DFDLP>

Caring 4 Carers

Carers Week 2025

DSWA is holding a fun filled event for Parents and Carers of a person with Down syndrome.

Join us for a couple of hours of barefoot bowls, nourishing food, quality chats, and some dedicated time designed to Care 4 Carers.



Proudly supported by:



DATE Friday 17th October

TIME 4 - 6pm

VENUE South Perth Bowling Club
2 Mends St, South Perth

Tickets \$20 each
purchase via TryBooking
by 30 September



Down Syndrome
Western Australia



Get Involved

Family Support



PCH Outreach

Don't Forget – We're at PCH on Thursdays!

It's been a quiet month for visits, and we'd really love to see you!

If you're in hospital or just feel like saying hi, Nikki and Paula are here for a visit, a chat, or a coffee.

You can now find us in the Family Area at Ronald McDonald House.

Either Nikki or Paula will be at PCH every Thursday, on a rotating schedule – so there's always someone here to support you.

Reach out anytime:

familysupport@downsyndromewa.org.au

Nikki: 0480 311 739

Paula: 0435 831 085

We're here for you — come by and say hello!



The Time Has Come to See Our Rock Stars Shine!

Pre-sales are officially OPEN for the Playgroup Calendar — and this is your ONLY chance to grab a copy!

No extra calendars will be ordered, so don't miss out.

Pre order-sales close on October 20th

\$25 per calendar


Rocking the Extra Chromosome — and stealing hearts every month of the year!

Go to <https://www.trybooking.com/DBZHE> below to secure your calendar today!



2026 Playgroup Calendars Pre-Sale

Pre-order your 2026 calendar
now and celebrate our
amazing rock stars all year
long!

 Pre-sale closes 20th
October — don't miss out!

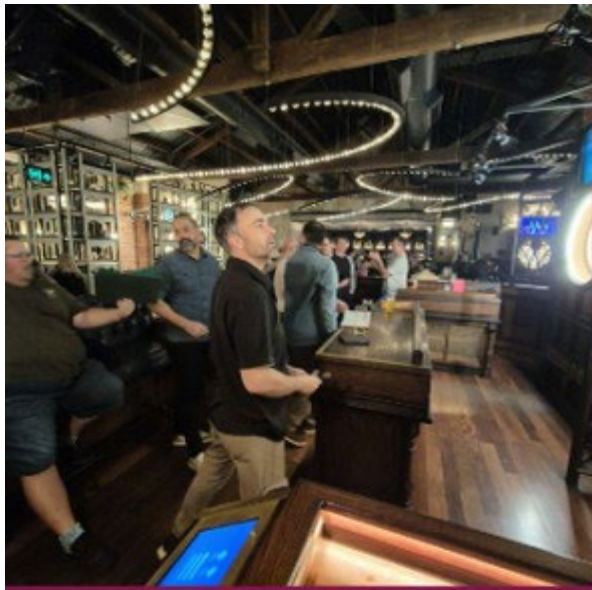



Father's Day Darts

We Held Our First Father's Day Event!

On 5th September, we hosted our very first Father's Day celebration with 13 amazing dads – a night full of laughs, good food, few games of Darts and great conversations had.

Here's to making this a new tradition!





Dads of DSWA - We Need You

Calling All Dads of DSWA.

WE NEED YOU!

The Dads group will be running the Sausage Sizzle stall at Step Up and Dance for Down Syndrome again this year. Sunday the 12th of October.

Lee has set up this google form for you add your name for when you are available.

[Click to add your name to the sheet.](#)

This is a great opportunity to bond with other DSWA dads while giving back to the association that supports you and your loved one with DS. As we know, many hands make light work.

If you have another family member that would like to Volunteer their time in the Sausage Sizzle stand, they would be more than welcome.

We look forward to seeing you all there on the day.

Dads of DSWA WE NEED YOU!

The sausage sizzle at Step Up for Down Syndrome will be run by our DSWA Dads again this year and we need more volunteers for the day.

What you will be doing:

- Cooking Sausages and onions
- Serving customers
- Bonding with the other DSWA Dads

Please fill out the google form with your interest and the times you can volunteer



Open Employment Program

Local Employers Wanted: Help Create Meaningful Job Opportunities

Do you own a business or know someone who's looking to hire?

Down Syndrome WA (DSWA) is calling on community-minded employers to consider offering job opportunities to individuals with Down syndrome who are eager and ready to work. DSWA has a number of enthusiastic members who are actively seeking meaningful employment and would thrive in a supportive workplace.

This is a wonderful chance to make a real difference in someone's life while gaining a reliable, dedicated employee.



If you're an employer—or know of one—and are interested in customised employment and learning more, please contact Lara, our Employment Coordinator, at employment@downsyndromewa.org.au.

Together, let's build a more inclusive and supportive local workforce.

Mentors Wanted: Support Someone's Journey into Meaningful Work

Do you have a passion for helping others succeed? Or do you know someone who does?

DSWA is looking for caring and committed individuals to mentor our members as they begin their journey into open employment. This rewarding role involves supporting our members in their workplaces, helping them build confidence and independence on the job.

Mentors play a vital role in creating inclusive, supportive environments where every single member thrives.

If this sounds like something you or someone you know would be interested in, please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you and welcome you into our community of support.

Expression of Interest: Ready for Work Program

Are you a school leaver—or do you know someone who is—looking to take the first step into the workforce?

Down Syndrome WA (DSWA) is inviting expressions of interest for our Ready for Work program, designed to help our members build the skills and confidence needed to succeed in open employment.

This engaging and supportive program covers:

- Workplace presentation and hygiene
- Resume writing
- Interview skills and practice
- Identifying interests and job preferences
- Understanding workplace behaviour and expectations
- ...and much more!

Our goal is to prepare participants for a smooth and confident transition into employment.

If you or a loved one would like to be part of the next Ready for Work intake, please contact our Employment Coordinator, Lara, at employment@downsyndromewa.org.au.

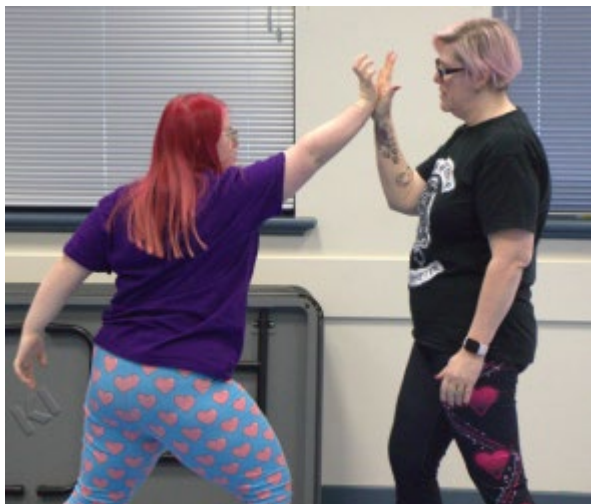
Let's get ready to work—together!

Life Skills Lab

We have just finished our 5-week self defence course. The confidence built over the 5 weeks has been incredible to see. 90% of attendees said that they feel more confident now than they did at the start of the course.

What we observed across the 5 weeks was a sign of how much can be achieved in a short amount of time. Techniques such as, how to get an attacker off your arm and how to stop someone dragging you from behind were shown, combined with using your voice to say "no, don't or stop" were practiced across the weeks. The final session on Saturday was the real test, members from the Martial Arts School Jan de Jong stayed to help us in our session, people who our members had never met before. These "strangers" grabbed our members arms and simulated strikes, making the situation feel close to the real thing, everyone remembered the techniques they had been taught and confidently defended themselves

This course showed perfectly how given the right support our members can really push the boundaries of what we assume is possible, "You assume I cannot hit harder, so you don't train me to hit harder, so I don't hit harder".



The Life Skills Lab is bursting with activities and workshops coming up:

Online Safety Workshop -In Person – We will be playing Spot the Scam games, going over content from Scam Watch Australia and learning what scams to

look out for, 10am – 11:30am 30th October Belmont
Hub <https://www.trybooking.com/DFMJT>

5-week Public Transport course taking place at the Belmont Hub and out using the Perth Transport system. We have been working extremely hard to provide a blend of learning in the classroom and practicing using real machines and tickets.

The final session we will use the Trains / Buses to travel a route we have planned the week before. We will practice the skills we have learnt in real life and then finish off with a nice celebratory meal.

Secure your spot here - <https://www.trybooking.com/DFPAB>

This activity has taken a significant amount of planning so we are really seeking a high level of attendance from members. The course is Free and you can bring your own supports.

Housing and Living Options

We have sessions locked in to focus on what the future might look like. We have a comprehensive day of talks planned, collaborating with Valued Lives who specialise in helping people find living options and creating future plans. We will also have lived experience speakers. This session will be on Wednesday 10th December with Valued Lives from 9am to 3pm.

Sign up here - <https://www.trybooking.com/DFVNP>

Administration, Guardianship, EAP, EPG and many other topics will be provided by the Office of the Public Advocate. A key focus outlined by families at the Life Skills Lab, we will be providing lots of resources for families to takeaway. The Office of the Public Advocate will be coming to the Belmont Hub to cover all these topics on the 26th November at 10am.

Sign up here - <https://www.trybooking.com/DFVZF>

Kern
adultsupport@downsyndromewa.org.au



Playgroup East



This month we had a great time celebrating Father's Day with a Transport theme at Playgroup East. We got our hands in to some kinetic sand with some mini

construction toys, built bridges and roads and stopped to fill up our vehicles with fuel. Playgroup is always such a precious time to connect with families, share stories and enjoy a cuppa while the kids are entertained!

Upcoming sessions:

- 16th October
- 6th November
- 4th December

Everyone is welcome - family members, carers, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles. And also families outside the East Metro area.

For further information please email familysupport@downsyndromewa.org.au

See you there

Anita



Playgroup South



Smiles, Dance and Discovery - September Fun!

This month at playgroup has been full of exciting activities and new experiences! We welcomed the Inclusive Empower Dance Company for a wonderful visit that got everyone moving and smiling.

The kids also enjoyed making special gift bags for Father's Day - each one filled with love and creativity.

To top it off, we explored a fun foot session, which the kids loved. We can't wait for Octobers adventures and to catch up with the community at [Step Up and Dance!](#)

Love from your playgroup team Renee and Nicole xx
playgroup@downsyndromewa.org.au



Playgroup North



What a spectacular September we've had at Playgroup North!!

We kicked off with an astronomical space adventure and made sensory shaker bottles, played superheroes and made our own masks, learned about all things that zoom, chug and vroom in our transport playgroup and some of our North and South rockstar kiddos brought the noise and ALL the funk with our Playgroup Calendar shoots!

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break and we will see you on Friday 17th October for a chilly artic themed playgroup.

Karina and Anita
playgroup@downsyndromewa.org.au



Kids Club

Supported by



For our September event, the Kids Club had an amazing time at Caopeira Australis. The club got to move, play, and have fun as we explored Capoeira, an art form that combines music, dance, and acrobatics.

We look forward to seeing you all at Step Up next month!

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.

Friends for Life and Aim High

We have recently had some enquiries about how we are running and Friends for Life and Aim High. I hope the following provides some explanation.

Why Does a Hike (or any Friends for Life and Aim High activity) cost.

Down Syndrome WA don't receive external funding (e.g. grants, donations) to run the Friends for Life or Aim High groups. When we were running these as an NDIS service, we could charge for planning and organising time through the members plans. However, with the coordination and compliance cost, DSWA was making a loss on both programs. Both Friends for Life and Aim High made a loss last year as not enough people attended to cover the costs.

It's important to remind everyone, DSWA also don't charge families to be members of the association hence rely on programs being able to cover their real cost.

As you can imagine, every event takes time to organize. There are a large number of tasks that go into arranging each event;

- Liaising with external providers
- Finding suitable venues
- Setting up booking links
- Creating visuals for socials
- Sending emails to participants
- Answering questions about events
- Insurance
- Cost of materials/resources
- Staff member to lead events and manage other staff
- Staff members to attend

- Risk Assessments for every event

We have to charge person per for every event, to cover these costs.

For example - 3 people registered to attend the recent hikes (from both Friends for Life and the Aim High members - a pool of around 250) and that equals \$45. The minimum cost of a staff member is \$44.58 per hour during the week to coordinate. So this income will only cover 1 hour to organize the event. Events take significantly longer than an hour to do all of the things listed above.

Without charging this appropriate fees per person per event, Friends for Life and Aim High could not continue as it would cause a loss of money to the association which is not a sustainable model.

Whilst it may seem to be easy to arrange a simple movie event, or picnic, a coordinator still has to arrange the activity, complete a risk assessment, deal with the risks, ensure participants have an up to date service agreements (if NDIS), report on the activity for each participant, invoice, provide materials and supplies for activities, pay the cost of the event (if external), venue hire etc.

Simply, neither program could flourish as NDIS services with the numbers of people attending. We have asked both cohorts for feedback on what would entice more people to come along, We know from many family discussions that these social groups are important. I am reviewing ways in which these programs, which are both unfunded could be run. Volunteering, input from families and higher attendance are key, as is your feedback. I refuse to close these fabulous social groups, because we know they are important, but I need your help.

Upcoming Friends for Life and Aim High Walks

In September and October we are heading outside for some easy walks with some post hike activities. This is a series of walks, hosted by Hikes West as a part of their All Abilities Hiking Program. This series features three walks at three different locations. You are able to attend as few or as many as you would like. This isn't just a walk in the park, it is much more.

Book at: <https://www.trybooking.com/DDHCR>

Walk 2 - Saturday 4 October 1:30 - 3:00pm - Canning River Regional Park (meet at the [Kent St Weir carpark](#))



Walk 3 - Saturday 18 October (or 18 October) 1:30 - 3:00pm - Tomato Lake (meet at [Carpark 2](#))



Kensington Bushland Hike

We had a lovely walk on Saturday afternoon at Kensington Bushland. The wildflowers were lovely and we spotted quite a few orchids in the bushland. We played Nature Walk Bingo and everyone got involved.

Afterwards we had some afternoon tea and enjoyed a rest and chat.

Looking forward to the next walks on the 4th and 18th of October.





Excellent migration news for family members with Down syndrome.

Down Syndrome Australia recently announced the changes on their website at <https://www.downsyndrome.org.au/blog/2025/09/11/migration-news/>

Please see some further information from Dr Jan Gothard below:

I want to update you regarding some very positive changes. These will certainly affect some - though not all - of you; and I do apologise if you receive this letter and it is not relevant to your circumstances:

1. Children with Down syndrome born in Australia From late in 2024, children with Down syndrome who were born in Australia to temporary visa holders and who have lived more than 50 per cent of their lives in Australia, are no longer required to meet the MHR. In other words, their disability is no longer a barrier to their family's application for permanent residence or for another visa.

2. Changes to education support costs From the beginning of August 2025, the MHR was amended so that the supposed cost of supported education for children with disabilities has been reduced very significantly. For children with Down syndrome over the age of about 6 with no significant health problems, who are assessed as having a mild intellectual disability – which is probably the case for most children with Down syndrome – this means that they are highly likely to meet the MHR, as their education costs will now fall beneath the so-called 'significant cost threshold'. Previously, the cost of supported education over even three years was enough to cause a child with a mild intellectual disability such as Down syndrome to fail the MHR.

These are very exciting changes which will have a big impact on families who thought they would not be able to migrate, especially those families considering applying for a visa with no health waiver. If you are in this situation, we strongly urge you to have your migration prospects reviewed by a migration lawyer or registered migration agent.

If your agent or lawyer is not familiar with these recent important changes, then we suggest you seek out a lawyer or agent who is.

I would add, however, that while this general advice is based on current migration policy, we cannot ever guarantee the Department's decision; hence the need to discuss your circumstances with an agent experienced in disability and health matters.

DSA and Advocacy

I would also like to let you know about the Welcoming Disability Campaign, partnered by DSA and Australian Lawyers for Human Rights (ALHR). The campaign is calling for changes in the migration health requirements as they affect families or individuals with a disability. We would be very pleased if you would look at the Welcoming Disability website where you can sign up as a supporter. You can also follow us on social media and we would really value your support for change in this area.

Website: www.welcomingdisability.com

Email: welcomingdisability@alhr.org.au

Facebook: [Welcoming Disability](#)

Instagram: [welcomingdisability](#)

We are working hard to get waivers of the MHR made available to all visa applicants, and to have 'special' or supported education for children with a disability considered not as a community cost, but as a community investment, regardless of the level of disability. Our advocacy is starting to pay off, but we would like to see this process taken further still.

I should also add that the Migration Act is exempt from the Disability Discrimination Act, which is something else we are trying to get changed. We are currently preparing a submission on this for the Attorney-General's Review of the Report of the Disability Royal Commission.

Do get back to me if you have any questions regarding these changes.

In the meantime, I [attach some information regarding the migration agents' profession](#) and about how the DSA migration advice service can help you.

Jan

Dr Jan Gothard

Registered Migration Agent | MARN 1569102

Migration consultant | Down Syndrome Australia

E: migration@downsyndrome.org.au

W: www.downsyndrome.org.au



Down Syndrome Australia are running a short education survey to hear about your experiences. It takes about 10 minutes and you can stay anonymous if you like. Please help us see trends in education and update DSA's advocacy approach.

Your input will help DSA improve education advocacy and support better outcomes for people with Down syndrome.

Complete the survey by 30 September here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/7qv6nvp4jG>



Expressions of interest invited for new NDIS advisory body.

The Cook Government is calling for expressions of interest from Western Australians who want to play an active role in advocating for people with disability to join a new WA Community Advisory Council on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook%20Labor%20Government/Expressions-of-interest-invited-for-new-NDIS-advisory-body--20250915>



Curtin University is seeking participants for an advisory group to develop a school-based intervention to support primary school students with intellectual disability (ID) to develop self-regulation skills.

They are especially looking for parents and carers of people with an intellectual disability. The first advisory group meeting will be at the end of September.

For further information or to register your interest please contact
gillian.andrikos@postgrad.curtin.edu.au



Seeking participants for an **advisory group** to develop a **co-regulation intervention** for primary school students with disabilities

We are looking for:

- parents,
- teachers,
- education assistants,
- school administrators, and
- therapists

of primary-school students with intellectual disability or global developmental delay.

Students with intellectual disability (ID) or global developmental delay (GDD) often have difficulties with self-regulation that affect their learning and participation at school. Young people develop self-regulation skills through modelling and support from caregivers – a process known as co-regulation.

What is this project about?

Our research team is developing an intervention package for Western Australian (WA) primary schools to help classroom staff provide effective co-regulation supports and social-emotional learning opportunities for students with ID or GDD. We are seeking advice and input into this intervention from families and professionals who support these students.

What is involved?

Advisory group activities will be held between September and December 2025. Participation will involve sharing your thoughts and opinions around important features of an intervention program by:

- attending 3-4 online video conference meetings (1-2 hours per meeting, scheduled outside of school hours).
- reviewing sample resources sent to you by email prior to the final meeting.

Your participation in the advisory group is voluntary. You will not be paid for your time and contribution. However, you will receive a certificate of participation and a small gift to thank you for your involvement.

Why should I participate?

By participating, you can contribute towards an intervention package that is designed:

- To support students with ID or GDD to develop self-regulation skills.
- To give school staff the resources and information they need to provide effective co-regulation supports for these students.
- To be relevant and useful for WA schools.

If you would like more information or to register your interest to participate, please contact

Gillian Andrikos:

Gillian.Andrikos@postgrad.curtin.edu.au



Curtin University

Recruitment Information for Advisory Group, Version 3, 21 July 2025, HREC Approval Number: HRE2021-0601

The Disability Gateway

Disability Gateway is a free, Australia-wide service helping people with disability, their families, and carers, find trusted information and services. It provides a central point of entry for referrals and as a direct way to connect to supports and services in your area. Disability Gateway assists with information and services in employment, income and finance, housing, education, rights and legal, and many more areas.

We take the necessary steps to ensure all the information we provide is accurate, so that you receive validated information and referrals to the services and programs you need. The Disability Gateway is for all Australians with disability, whether they are a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participant or not.

Call 1800 643 787 Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm AEDT (except national public holidays) to receive one-on-one support from our friendly phoneline consultants, or visit the Disability Gateway website at disabilitygateway.gov.au for more information.



Disability Gateway
Connecting you to information and services

Get Picked Up Transport Service

At Get Picked Up we specialise in safe, reliable and easy-to-book transport and we're already working with a number of support coordinators, allied health providers and support stakeholders who have found our service to be helpful and a consistent solution for their participants - especially when transport is a barrier to access.

We pride ourselves on being a simple, straightforward and on time transport service that specialise in the NDIS. More care than a rideshare | no 2-3 hr min + kms - Just the trip!

We offer a much higher level of care and attention to detail than a regular curbside pickup, at a rate that is much cheaper than a support worker!

- ☒ **Guaranteed On-time Pick-Up:** We ensure punctuality for every journey.
- ☒ **Flexible Scheduling:** No minimum charge for 2/3 hours, offering convenience and cost-effectiveness.
- ☒ **Cancellation Policy:** Enjoy the flexibility of a 4-hour cancellation window with no penalties.
- ☒ **Pre-booked Convenience:** Ideal for both regular and ad hoc travel needs.
- ☒ **Preferred Driver System:** Reduce anxiety with a team of familiar drivers for enhanced comfort.
- ☒ **Direct Invoicing:** Seamless process with direct invoicing to plan managers from core community access. Can bill through core supports.
- ☒ **Trained Drivers:** Our drivers are equipped to handle special requests such as assisting with door-to-door service and accommodating foldable wheelchairs.
- ☒ **Range of vehicles:** We offer a wide range of vehicles from sedan and SUV to Wheelchair access vehicles (WAV) and 7-11 person vans!
- ☒ **Increased Independence** – Reliable transportation services empower individuals with disabilities to travel freely, reducing their reliance on family or friends.

☒ Enhanced Social Life – Accessible transport makes it easier to attend social events, meet friends, and engage in community activities.

☒ Improved Quality of Life – Consistent and accessible transportation contributes to greater mobility, freedom, and overall well-being.

The way to get started is to reach out to our WA Account Manager:

Justine Viney

justine.viney@travel.gpu

0475 123 187



City of Belmont Art Awards Tactile Tours

Dates: 25 (Thursday) & 26 (Friday) Sep 2025

Times: 10:15am or 11:30am (each tour lasts up to an hour)

Venue: The Glasshouse, 215 Wright St, Cloverdale WA 6105

The City of Belmont Art Awards provide a special opportunity for our community to connect and engage with the arts and celebrate the City of Belmont as a place of creativity and culture.

Access Tours are designed to introduce visitors with disability, your families and friends to new ways of experiencing and enjoying contemporary art through informed discussion and touch.

Places are limited. Bookings are essential.

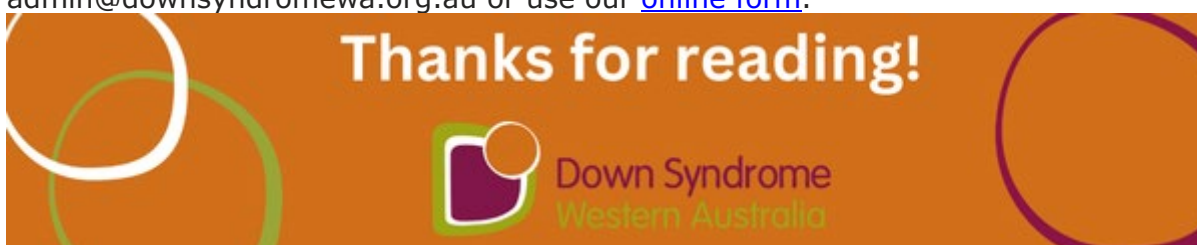
Email your preferred date and time with the number of people attending to:

jacqueline@dadaa.org.au



Compliments and Complaints

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



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

(08) 6182 3690

complaints@downsyndromewa.org.au

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