



Notice of Annual General Meeting 2026 Down Syndrome Association Western Australia Inc

Down Syndrome Association of Western Australia Inc (**DSWA**) gives notice that its Annual General Meeting (**AGM**) will be held at 7.00 pm (AWST) on Wednesday, 21 October 2026 at The Belmont Hub, Level 2, 213 Wright St, Cloverdale.

Members who are unable to attend the AGM in person may attend and vote at the AGM online through Teams by accessing the following link:

Join: [DSWA AGM 7pm Wed 21 October 2026](#)

Meeting ID: 491 800 125 165 659

Passcode: TP9ZF9pJ

If attending in person, on arrival at the AGM please ensure that you sign the attendance register.

Attendance via Teams will be recorded electronically.

Voting on all resolutions will be by way of a show of hands (unless a poll is validly demanded).

The following documents accompanying this Notice of Meeting are incorporated into and form part of this Notice of Meeting:

- [Proxy Form Link](#);
- [2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes](#);
- [Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2026](#) (which includes the Chairperson's Report, Treasurer's Report, Chief Executive Officer's Report, Annual Audited Financial Statement and 2026 Auditor Report).

Members can participate in the AGM and vote on the resolutions contemplated in this Notice of Meeting:

- in person, by:
 - attending the AGM physically on the night;
 - attending the AGM via Teams on the night; or
- by proxy, by appointing a proxy to attend the AGM and vote your behalf, by returning your Proxy Form attached to this Notice of Meeting.

How to vote by proxy

Proxy voting is a form of voting whereby a member may delegate their voting power to a representative (i.e. a 'proxy'), to enable their vote to be made in their absence.

To vote by proxy:

- Nominate your appointed proxy by completing a [Proxy Form](#) and return it to DSWA no later than 7.00 pm (AWST) on Tuesday 20th October 2026. Proxy Forms must be received before that time by one of the following methods:
- The link will automatically notify the secretary of your proxy.
- If you are downloading the form, it can be sent
 - By email: secretary@downsyndromewa.org.au
 - By post: Down Syndrome Association of WA Inc.
PO Box 555, Cloverdale WA 6985
- When completing the Proxy Form, you can either:
 - appoint your proxy to cast your vote as they see fit on your behalf; or
 - direct the proxy to vote For / Against each resolution on the Proxy Form.
- No person may be appointed as proxy for more than five members.

If you are unsure who will be at the meeting and wish to complete a Proxy Form, please contact secretary@downsyndromewa.org.au for names of people attending that would be willing to be appointed proxy on your behalf.

Business of the AGM

1. Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting

To receive and consider the minutes of meeting for the 2025 Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 22 October 2025.

2. 2026 Annual Report

To receive and consider DSWA's Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2026, which includes the following reports:

1. Chairperson's Report;
2. Chief Executive Officer's Report;
3. Treasurer's Report;
4. Annual Audited Financial Statements; and
5. Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements.

3. Election of Board Members

Board Member Elect Profiles

Hayley Warren – Renominating

I am interested in continuing my position as a Board Member of Down Syndrome WA as we embark on an ambitious new chapter for the Association. Having recently contributed to shaping our strategic plan, a 40-year vision extending to 2066, with clear program outcomes by 2036, medium-term outcomes by 2046 and long-term outcomes by 2066 spanning individual choice and wellbeing, stronger families and carer networks, and a

truly inclusive community and society, I am keen to remain involved in translating that vision into action over the years ahead.

I have had an interest in Down syndrome from a very young age, having grown up with an older sister, Sarah, who has Down syndrome. Whilst it wasn't always easy in a country town, my parents fought to give my sister the same opportunities as her three siblings, including access to inclusive education and later, employment in her local community. Having grown up in Margaret River, I remain particularly interested in closing gaps in the Association's services in regional and remote areas, an area of continued focus as we build our reach and networks across WA.

I have previously held Board positions with Down Syndrome NSW and Down Syndrome Australia, including as Chair of Down Syndrome NSW from 2019 to 2021, and have coordinated Aim High in Subiaco and Up! Club (East) in Sydney.

I am a lawyer with 13 years' experience across insurance, construction, commercial and corporate law.

I would be honoured to continue serving on the Down Syndrome WA board.

James Shaddick – Renominating

I have been on the Board since 2023 and have been an active contributor. Recently, I have been working with Cassandra to write the new 40-year strategy for DSWA. I have lived and worked in three states (Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland) before moving to Western Australia. My career has mainly been in the environment and agriculture (farming) sectors and I have worked for small not-for-profits, a university and government. In these roles, I have done lots of work that will help DSWA.

I have led teams of people, developed and reported on strategies, written successful funding submissions and coordinated reporting on those. I have also written organisational policy, helped manage organisational risk, developed strong partnerships with government, universities and community to deliver projects.

I have done these things in financially responsible ways using good governance. I'm very excited to continue to learn more about Down syndrome and to use my skills to help out the amazing community that surrounds DSWA. I would like to be considered for the role of Deputy Chair.

Kelly Wake – Renominating

I am excited and honoured to re-nominate for the DSWA Board for 2026. I currently hold the position of Secretary and have greatly valued the opportunity to contribute to the Board, support its work and represent our members. I would welcome the opportunity to continue serving and contributing my skills, experience and commitment to DSWA.

I am particularly proud of the significant progress and positive changes DSWA has achieved under the current Board and CEO. The Board has demonstrated strong leadership, a clear vision and a genuine commitment to strengthening DSWA and creating meaningful opportunities for people with

Down Syndrome and their families. I am excited about the organisation's future direction and would be proud to continue contributing to this important work.

As a parent of an adult son with Down Syndrome, I bring genuine lived experience and an understanding of the experiences, opportunities and challenges faced by individuals and families in our community. I value being able to bring this perspective to Board discussions and ensure the voice of our members remains central to decision-making.

Professionally, I am an HR/ADMIN/OHS Compliance Manager with more than 11 years' experience across human resources, industrial relations, workplace health and safety, governance and regulatory compliance. I believe this experience, combined with my lived experience, enables me to bring a practical and valuable perspective to the Board.

As Secretary, I have enjoyed working collaboratively with fellow Board members and contributing to effective governance and the continued development of DSWA. If re-elected, I look forward to building on this work and helping deliver the Board's vision for a strong, sustainable and positive future for DSWA and its members.

Micheal Connell - New Nomination

My name is Micheal Connell, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to introduce myself to Down Syndrome WA. I am a husband, stepfather, father, church member, sports fan, and someone who is passionate about seeing people with Down syndrome live full, valued, and meaningful lives.

My wife and I have a beautiful four-month-old son who has Down syndrome. Since his birth, our family has begun a journey filled with learning, love, hope, and a strong desire to be part of a community that understands and supports families like ours. I am also blessed to have a wonderful stepdaughter and two dogs, and my family is at the centre of everything I do.

I have worked in the disability sector for the past five years as a support worker, including the past two years as a lead support worker. This experience has given me a strong understanding of the importance of person-centred support, advocacy, dignity, inclusion, and empowering people to make choices about their own lives.

I have also been a member of my local church for the past five years, where I have learned the importance of service, community, compassion, and standing alongside others. These values strongly shape the way I live and the contribution I hope to make.

Outside of family and church, I love sport, especially Formula 1 and Newcastle United. Sport has taught me the value of teamwork, resilience, commitment, and striving for something bigger than yourself; qualities I believe are also important in advocacy and leadership.

I want to be on the board of Down Syndrome WA because I believe strongly in the organisation's mission and the great work it continues to do for children, adults, and families across Western Australia. I am passionate

about helping create opportunities, inclusion, support, and understanding so that people with Down syndrome can live the fullest lives possible.

I would be honoured to contribute my lived experience, values, and commitment to continuing this important work.

Alysha Hooper – New Nomination

I am pleased to submit my expression of interest in joining the DSWA Board and contributing my skills, experience and energy to an organisation that makes a meaningful difference to individuals, families and the wider community.

I bring broad experience across strategic planning, governance, business operations, project and portfolio management, people and culture, and organisational development. I spent six years in the not-for-profit sector at St John WA, working across multiple areas of the organisation and managing the Project Management Office. This provided valuable experience within a large, purpose-led organisation, working with diverse stakeholders, overseeing strategic initiatives and supporting effective governance, prioritisation and delivery.

In my current role as General Manager, I work across strategy, financial and operational management, business development, workplace culture and organisational performance. I also bring specialist experience in creating safe, respectful and inclusive workplaces and understand the importance of strong governance, accountability and culture in building sustainable organisations.

Giving back has always been important to me. I have volunteered across community and sporting organisations by mentoring and holding committee positions, including serving as Vice President and Treasurer of a community sporting club with more than 500 members. I find contributing my time and skills to organisations that create opportunity, connection and belonging for young people and their families incredibly rewarding. I believe my combination of professional experience, not-for-profit understanding and community involvement would enable me to make a valuable contribution to DSWA.

I would bring a collaborative, practical approach, strong governance and strategic thinking, alongside a genuine commitment to supporting DSWA's members, families and community.

4. General Business

5. Meeting Close





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