



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

# WA Disability Health Framework Consultation Forum – Outcomes

**Summary report**

**Disability Health Network**

**Friday 22 May 2015, 10.00am–2.00pm**

**The RISE, 28 Eighth Avenue, Maylands**

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**Suggested citation**

Western Australian Department of Health. WA Disability Health Framework Consultation Forum: Outcomes – Summary report. Perth: Health Networks, Western Australian Department of Health; 2015.

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# Introduction

## Aims

The Disability Health Network hosted the WA Disability Health Framework Consultation Forum on Friday 22 May 2015. The purpose of the Forum was to provide an opportunity for face-to-face discussion and feedback as a part of the consultation process for the draft *WA Disability Health Framework 2015–2025: Improving the health care of people with disability*.

The aims of the Forum were to:

- obtain feedback on the draft
- commence awareness raising of the document
- involve a broad range of stakeholders in the Framework development
- gather information on how people intended to use it to inform implementation plans.

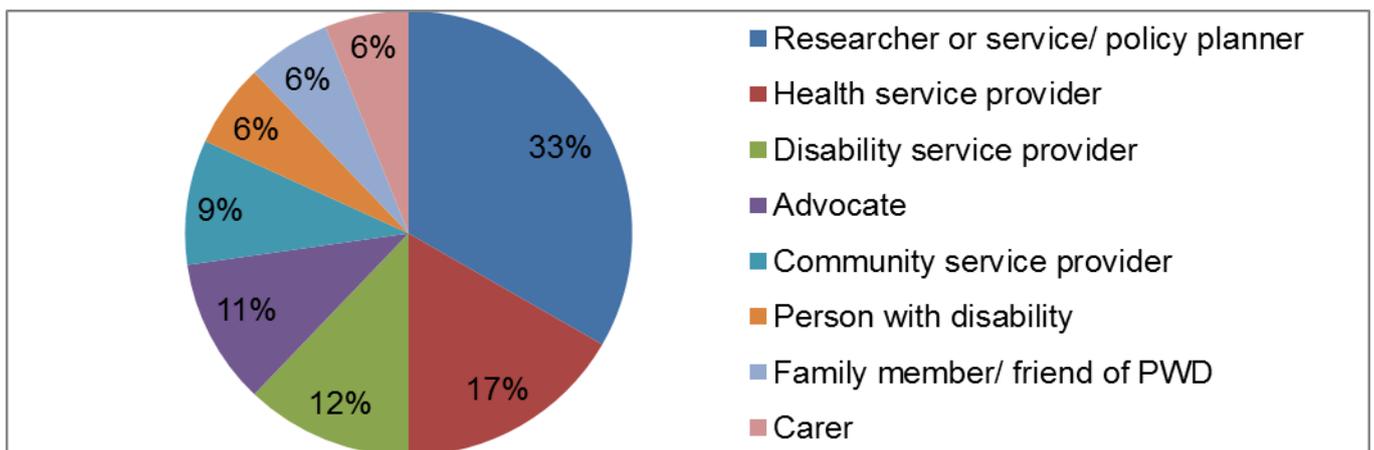
An option of a videoconference session was offered to reach regional and rural areas however this did not occur due to a lack of interest.

## Attendance

Invitations for the forum were promoted in a number of ways including emails to over 150 organisations who were invited to attend the Forum or hold their own targeted session. The target audience was anyone with an interest in disability and health as the Network recognises that there will be multiple end-users of the Framework.

The forum was attended by 48 people from a diverse range of backgrounds (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Backgrounds of Forum attendees**



## Summary of event

The Forum began with a Welcome to Country by Dr Richard Walley. Fiona Payne, Co-Lead of the Disability Health Network, then provided an overview of the Framework and a description of the consultation process. This was followed by an insightful presentation from Ryan Gay who shared his hopes for the Framework from a consumer perspective. Kate Baxter, Co-Lead of the Disability Health Network concluded the presentations with instructions for the workshops.

Attendees moved into small groups to discuss how they would use the Framework in their roles, whilst identifying which of the Framework goals their action would achieve and which system

influencers would assist them. The aim of the workshops was to think about the Framework practically, rather than theoretically.

Each group discussed one of the Framework priority areas:

- Understanding and recognition
- Health and wellbeing
- Workforce capability
- Inclusive health care

After a short break, attendees formed groups again to discuss a second priority area. They populated a matrix with their responses that were displayed for others to view during the breaks.

Throughout the day, attendees had the opportunity to provide additional feedback on large posters displayed around the room. The Forum concluded with a discussion where all attendees were able to provide any additional suggestions to improve the Framework.

## Feedback

### Summary of the common uses for the Framework

There were over a 105 individual uses listed for the Framework during the workshop sessions. The majority of these related to both goals and multiple system influencers. The uses were also similar between the different priority areas. The common uses that were discussed included:

- advocacy at an individual and organisational level to promote a shared understanding of the importance of care for people with disability
- promotion of key messages and use as an aspirational document
- inform education and training for consumers and professionals
- support policy, legislation and program and service design and provision
- information source for how to work with people with disability
- direct, prioritise and drive relevant research
- networking tool to assist services to work collaboratively by sharing knowledge and resources and building systemic relationships.

### Specific changes or issues for inclusion in the Framework

- clearer definitions of 'the health system' and 'health'
- recognise that health and wellbeing is not just health services and requires a cross-sectoral and holistic approach
- emphasise the person centred principle
- highlight the importance of continuity of care across services
- include training and technology in the system influencers
- simplify and extract specific points from the purpose and goals statements
- ensure the data and research section highlights the need to capture data about people with disability and their experiences, particularly being able to capture if people have a disability and which disability.
- ensure 'Quality and Safety Standard' system influencer does not just focus on NSQHS
- communicate the social determinants of health throughout the Framework

- ensure we have captured the sense of being equal partners
- ensure the Framework highlights that with rights, come responsibilities and education is vital for creating realistic expectations
- emphasise the importance of documentation (ie. discharge and admission letters) being available to all people involved (including consumers and carers)
- in terms of physical accessibility – note that essential services should not be housed within heritage listed buildings that have limitations on modifications.
- incorporate the [Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights](#) and the [WA Public Patients Hospital Charter](#) - see the Occupational Therapy Framework of Practice as an example
- consider resource implications
- consider implications of different types of disability – lifelong versus newly acquired versus periodic
- consider the impact of the ageing population
- ensure the Framework fits all persons with disability including all cultural backgrounds
- acknowledge or consider a number of other issues that will impact on the Framework i.e. Disability Access and Inclusion Plans, support for self-advocacy, having a positive solution focus, ensuring the social model definition of disability is adopted by health, links between chronic condition self-management.

### **Ideas for promoting, implementing and evaluating the Framework**

- provide the Framework in a variety of alternative user friendly formats i.e. audio, visual, plain English, hard copies
- use regular technology for communication – apps, pages, phone, tablet, PC, not just paper based resources
- promote the Framework and related information:
  - at doctor's surgeries
  - at disability hubs in local libraries
  - via centralised resource centre
- translate into practical tools i.e. checklists and pathways
- consider dissemination of information and the Framework in regional areas and for consumers and carers not engaged with community organisations
- education about Framework is required at all levels
- evaluate the Framework within 3 years.

### **People we need to talk to about the Framework**

- Educators
- People with disabilities and their families
- Researchers
- Hospital/ medical administrators
- Clinicians
- GPs
- Advocacy agencies
- Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability

- Peer support organisations
- National Disability Services -
- WA Local Government Association (WALGA) or larger local governments
- Non-government organisations
- Aboriginal people
- Australian Medical Association (AMA).

## Evaluation results

The Forum was evaluated by a short survey completed by attendees at the end of the day. Overall, the evaluation results from the forum were positive. Key results include:

- 88% of the attendees either strongly agreed or agreed the forum **increased their understanding** of the WA Disability Health Framework
- 92% of the attendees either strongly agreed or agreed the forum provided them with **opportunity to discuss** challenges and share feedback on the Framework
- 92% of the attendees either strongly agree or agreed the Forum was a **valuable use of their time**.
- 88% of the attendees either strongly agreed or agreed the Forum **lived up to their expectations**.

## Next steps

The feedback from the Forum will be incorporated with the other feedback collected throughout the consultation process including the online survey, stakeholder meetings and written submissions.

The Disability Health Network Co-Leads and the Executive Advisory Group will work together to decide how best to incorporate the feedback and ensure it is reflected in the final document, where possible. The final Framework will be available on the [Disability Health Network website](#).

## How to join the Network

If you are interested in joining the Disability Health Network to keep informed of opportunities to get involved, attend networking events, participate in consultations and gain access to a range of health related information visit the [Health Network website](#) to register.

As a member of a health network you will receive weekly email updates and a customised quarterly e-newsletter – NetNews – to keep you informed of all the ongoing work of the Disability Health Network.



**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.**

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