

## WIMMERA DISABILITY ACCESS FORUM

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Forum has been established as an independent group of individuals and organisations promoting the well-being of community members with a disability<sup>i</sup> in the Wimmera region.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The dignity and well being of members of the community requiring the use of disability services is important. To ensure that current and future services provided are relevant and appropriate to these individuals and their families, the Forum will be open and easily accessible to the community it serves, acting as an advocate for these in the community with a disability; as a resource on general information on disability services; as a communication channel between the community, other interested parties and government agencies, and as a discussion forum for disability issues within the community.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Access for All Abilities representative  
Axis Worx representative  
Department of Human Services representative  
Edenhope hospital  
Grampians Community Health representative  
Grampians DisAbility Advocacy representative  
Horsham Rural City Council representative  
Hindmarsh Shire Council representative  
Interested community representatives  
Linkages Program representative  
Rights Information and Advocacy Centre RIAC representative  
Rural North West Health representative  
Scope Representative  
Service Clubs representatives  
Western Victoria Primary Health Network Ltd. Representative  
West Wimmera Health Service representative  
West Wimmera Health Service - Coinda representative  
West Wimmera Shire Council representative  
Wimmera Health Care Group  
Wimmera Uniting Care representative  
Woodbine Centre Inc. representative  
Yarriambiack Shire Council representative

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

The position of Chairperson is to be put forward for election for 1 – 3 year terms. The Chairperson is to be responsible for all media liaison for WDAF. Secretarial services are to be provided by the Horsham Rural City and reviewed each term of chairperson.

## **CO-OPTION**

The Forum has the power to co-opt any individual where it is deemed necessary to have specialised input into issues being discussed.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To provide a forum for community discussion on disability issues and services
- To advocate for those in the community with a disability.
- To undertake research into the continuing needs of people with disability in the Wimmera region.
- To monitor and measure community acceptance of current and future disability services and issues within the region.
- To act as a resource for the community as a whole through the provision of current information on disability services.
- To act as a communication link between the community, other interested parties and the Department of Health and Community Services.
- To network with other disability services and facilities within the Horsham and West Wimmera region to facilitate awareness and understanding of common issues and encourage a co-ordinated approach where appropriate.
- To approach organisations, government agencies and individuals when and as required in the quest for resources to assist in the development of services.

## **DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS**

10.30am – 12.30pm.

## **FREQUENCY**

Bi-monthly.

## **VENUE**

Meetings Alternate between Horsham Rural City Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council.

Revised and adopted: *(for discussion 24 November 2016 WDAF meeting)*

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<sup>i</sup> “Disability” shall be defined as follows:

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the Act), was proclaimed in March 1993. It states that disability means:

- “ a) total or partial loss of the person’s bodily or mental functions; or
- b) total or partial loss of a part of the body; or
- c) the presence in the body of organisms causing disease or illness; or
- d) the presence in the body of organisms capable of causing disease or illness; or
- e) the malfunction, malformation or disfigurement of a part of the person’s body; or
- f) a disorder or malfunction that results in the person learning differently from a person without the disorder or malfunction; or
- g) a disorder, illness or disease that affects a person’s thought processes, perceptions of reality, emotions or judgement or that results in disturbed behaviour; and includes a disability that:
- h) presently exists; or
- i) previously existed but no longer exists; or
- j) may exist in the future; or

is imputed to a person”.