

FAIRHOLME DISABILITY SUPPORT GROUP Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2004 - 05

August 20, 2005

It is with pleasure that I provide you with the key detail as to what has taken place over the last 12 months for the reporting period from July 1 to June 30.

Incorporation

Fairholme Disability Support Group Inc was previously known as Parents and Friends of Fairholme Association Inc. was incorporated in accordance with provisions of the Associations' Incorporations Act 1987 (section 9 (1)) on the May 29 1989. The name change became effective from September 22, 2003.

Membership

Ordinary Members	36
Associate Members	6
Life Members	13

Patrons

Hon. FE McKenzie OAM
Hon. D Tomlinson MLC

The Group wishes to say thank to both Patrons who have not only been Patron but for their untiring efforts to make a difference for people with a disability, their families and carers.

Firstly I refer to Fred McKenzie has been the Residents' Advocate since the position was first established in August 1998. In addition he has fulfilled this duty with the utmost diligence to ensure that each decision fully considered provided the maximum benefits and outcomes to those who he advocated for. This year we see Fred step down from the position. Fred became the Group's first Patron in August 1987.

Secondly thanks to Derrick Tomlinson who since becoming Patron in 1994 has provided support in many ways and was

only a phone call away when advice or assistance was sought. In addition Derrick was not afraid to take on issues in the parliamentary arena to ensure that people with a disability, their families and carers were recognised and that as far as practicable saw fairness and equity prevail. As Derrick has now retired we will miss his support but we wish him well in his retirement.

We extend our sincere gratitude for a job well done going beyond all expectations; we are indebted to you both.

Group Representation

Due to the changes in the constitution representation is now as broad as what members' or those in need seek to make it and as a consequence the following are those who the Group has directly supported:

- Market Street, Guildford
- Brook Street, Bassendean
- Bennett Brook, Eden Hill
- Margaret Street, Midland
- Boulton Street, Dianella
- Grey Street and Karrinyup Road, Karrinyup
- Clifton Street -Chidlow
- Nellie Court - Marangaroo
- Birdwood Ave, Como
-

Meetings

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| • Annual General Meeting # | 1 |
| • General Meetings # | 4 |
| • Extra-ordinary Meetings | Nil |
| • Management Meetings * | 4 |
| • Sub-Committee Meetings | 8 |

Average attendance for the above noted 5 meetings was 25.

* Average attendance for the above note 4 meetings was 7.

Constitutional Change

There has not been any constitutional change during the past 12 months nor have any recommended changes been brought to notice.

Code of Conduct

A rule relating to the Code of Conduct was incorporated into the Constitution when amended, which formally binds all members to adhere to both documents. It is considered most important that all members understand and comply, to ensure that the Group operates in the most effective and harmonious manner.

Charitable Collections Licence

Application was made after the Constitution changes were approved, to obtain a Charitable Collections License. The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection granted the Group Licence No. 205143 on March 10, 2004 for a period of 3 years.

The Group has complied with the Fund Raising Code of Conduct during the past financial year.

Management Committee

The Management Committee structure was introduced some four years ago it has proved to be a success. This can be measured by the extent to which key and other issues that have satisfactorily and expeditiously been dealt with and resultant beneficial outcomes.

Again members have stated that they are most grateful to all for their input at meetings including DSC staff, which has allowed the Management Committee to make more informed decisions and/or be better equipped to deal with issues. In addition, those persons who contributed out of session are also thanked.

The following are the Group's Office Bearers and details of the roles they undertook:

CHAIRPERSON

Rev'd Canon Les Goode

Sub-Committees – Accommodation; Guardianship & Administration; Advocacy & Advice: Constitution, Legislation & Policy.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Lesley Postma

Sub-Committees – Public Relations; Accommodation; Fundraising & Events.

SECRETARY

Bevan Dellar

Sub-Committees – Accommodation; Guardianship & Administration; Advocacy & Advice; Constitution, Legislation & Policy; Alternatives to Employment.

TREASURER

Jan Ricks

Sub-Committees – Public Relations; Accommodation; Fundraising & Events.

RESIDENTS' ADVOCATE

Hon. Fred McKenzie OAM

Sub-Committees – Advocacy & Advice; Accommodation; Guardianship & Administration.

MEMBERS

Leanne Michielsen

Sub-Committees – Public Relations; Accommodation; Fundraising & Events.

Rachel Tilley

Sub-Committees – Public Relations; Accommodation; Fundraising & Events.

Tom Verjans

Sub-Committees – Accommodation; Advocacy & Advice; Constitution, Legislation & Policy; Alternatives to Employment.

Group Membership

- Disability Council of WA
- People With Disabilities [WA] Inc
- The Group has voting rights [2] for both Associations.
- WorkPower [WA] Inc.
- ACROD

- Membership is also providing the ability to network and assist in influencing others to achieve further and better outcomes for people with disabilities.

Partnerships

The Group is most grateful to the following organisations that have partnered to further enhance support to our constituents:

- Disability Services Commission
- WorkPower [WA] Inc
- DADAA [WA] Inc
- ACROD WA
- Recreational Network Inc
- Swan Recreational Club Inc
- Optimum Leisure
- WeCan Community Services
- LotteriesWest
- Challenger TAFE
- Rotary Club of Bassendean
- Rotary Club of Mundaring

We look forward to the continued strengthening of our partnerships and that they achieve greater benefits to all by the synergy created.

Representation

- Les Goode Guardianship and Administration;
- Bevan Dellar Ministerial Advisory Council – Disability Services;
- Individual parents and friends WorkPower [WA] Inc.;
- Les Goode and Bevan Dellar Legislative Review;
- Les Goode, Maggie Hall, Jan Ricks and Bevan Dellar Alternatives to Employment;
- David and Pam Edgell, Bevan Dellar, Les Goode - Employment Safety Net;
- Maggie Hall and Bevan Dellar - Family Forums;
- Bevan Dellar - Creating Communities for a Thriving Future [Bennett Brook, Fairholme, Grey Street and Henderson]; and

- Bevan Dellar – Creative Open Spaces within the Swan, Mundaring and Belmont areas.

Major Legislative Issues

- The Group has continued to pursue with vigour
- Les Goode - Legislative Council – Parliamentary Legislative Review Committee Hearing;
- Maggie Hall and Bevan Dellar - Parliamentary Liberal Party Policy Development Forums; and
- Management Committee – Shadow Minister for Disability Services [Hon Simon O'Brien MLC].

➤ **Disability Services Act**

As stated in last year's report overall it is considered that all of the major legislative aspects that were of concern to members and the public generally have been adequately addressed.

The tabling and debate on the amendments to the legislation was listed for the Spring Session of State Parliament and were gazetted in December 2004.

➤ **Guardianship and Administration Act**

As a consequence of initial requests for change not being forthcoming further representations through various avenues were vigorously pursued.

The two key issues of concern were:

- Proposed location and associated facilities for the GAB; and
- The nexus between the GAB and the Office of the Public Advocate being broken, which had worked to the advantage of the clientele of the GAB.

Despite strenuous action and advice by the Group and many others resulted in the issue being taken through the Legislative Council's Legislative Review Committee who made recommendations to parliament in September.

Despite much criticism being made of the proposal and some amendments being made the Guardianship and Administration was not excluded from the State Administrative Tribunal.

Note: Our thanks go in particular to our Chairperson Les and other members whose untiring efforts were unrelenting to achieve a more meaningful outcome. Unfortunately this was not achieved.

➤ **Health Review Act**

The suggested amendments to the Disability Services Act and consequential amendments to the Health Review Act with respect to the complaint mechanisms as they related to people with a disability were tabled, debated in the Spring Session of State Parliament as subsequently proclaimed.

➤ **Other Key Issues Dealt With**

Parliamentary Liberal Party – Shadow Minister for Disability Services – Hon Simon O'Brien MLC

• **Policy Development and Public Forums**

Management Committee Members continued in the early part of the year to make further contributions on behalf of the Group. Many of the recommendations were reflected in the Liberal Party's election policy statements. Despite the Liberal Party not being elected they have continued to demonstrate their full commitment for the betterment of people with and living with a disability.

• **Employment – Safety Net Consultations [Open and Business Employment Options]**

As reported the previous year the issue of a changed approach to funding by the Federal Government with respect to employment was of particular concern because the majority of the people, who the Group represents, have moderate to severe intellectual disability as well as physical disability.

Strong representation at consultation forums as well as to the Federal, State Ministers and other parliamentarians was

continued. Due to the further unrelenting efforts by many we have seen some better outcomes but unfortunately there is still much to be done. The Group continues to monitor the situation any future actions to ensure that the reforms the best possible outcomes are achieved.

- **Medical and Hospitalisation Protocols and Case Management**

Whilst it is acknowledged that significant progress has been made to addressing the fundamentals of this issue it is considered that much more work is still required to achieve the optimum solution.

It is expected that a DSC Working Group will be formed after July to further address this issue.

The Group will still continue its representation on this issue until a more satisfactory outcome is achieved.

- **Support Fund – Policy and Operating Procedures**

The two draft documents were tabled and the suggested amendments made at the May 2004 meeting were endorsed at the August meeting. These now allow, when considered appropriate the use of the support fund as well as ensuring that fairness and equity to prevail with respect to contributions made by residents and other disabled persons who the Group represents.

- **Volunteers Small Equipment Grants - Application for Funding**

Through the Commonwealth Dept of Family and Community Services [FaCS] grant funding of \$2,450 to enable the acquisition of a digital camera and a video recorder was provided. The equipment has proved to be most beneficial for the alternative to employment program as well as being made available to other Groups who have formed partnerships with our Group.

- **Other Inputs**

- **Disability Standards for Access and Universal Design in particular that related to Premises**
- **Disability Coalition of WA 2005/06 Budget Input**
- **Alternatives to Work Program**
- **Review of DSC Policies/Standards in particular related to Volunteers and Companions**
- **Decision Making and Choice**
- **Wills for Persons Lacking Will-Making Capacity**
- **Holiday Opportunities/Accommodation**
- **Accommodation and Residential Planning**

Whilst the Group previously submitted comment on other areas the above noted eight are considered to be of great significance. These will be closely monitored to ensure as far as possible the best possible outcomes are achieved in both the short and long term.

➤ **Budget Allocations 2005/06 and outgoing years**

For the fifth year running, the Government has delivered additional growth funding to maintain a greater sustainable and responsive disability services system.

The 2005/06 State Budget provided a substantially strengthened disability budget with a total State allocation of \$244.101million (including capital). This represents an increase of 7.36% on the previous financial year's allocation of \$224.133 million (including capital).

The key elements where the additional funds will be spent are:

- 134 people to receive accommodation support;
- 500 families to receive respite and family support;
- 130 people to receive post school options or alternatives to employment;
- 670 people to access therapy support, aids and equipment; and
- 250 families to access Local Area Coordination.

In addition \$7.4 million will be allocated to accommodation support. A further \$6.3 million will provide a range of individual and family support strategies to support them to live meaningful lives within their local communities.

The recurrent level of funding for DSC will have increased from \$166.852 million in 2000/01 to a projected level of \$288.954 million by 2008/09, up \$12.102 million, or 73% since Labor took office.

The Group wishes to acknowledge the previous Minister for Disability Services Hon Sheila McHale MLA for what she has accomplished, her responsiveness, excellent sector partnerships and achievements in providing what people have sought since becoming Minister some 4 years ago.

We also thank the current Minister Bob Kucera for promoting the budget through this session of parliament. As we see above the growth in funding speaks for itself and it continues to see the funding base maintained at a strong and sustainable level

Fairholme Redevelopment

As stated in last year's report the progress of the redevelopment has been slower than most of us would have expected but the results to-date has been outstanding to say the least. The efforts of all concerned in particular DSC staff continue to be at the maximum and are to be commended.

The relocation of residents to new house 1 [33 Market Street] proved to be an overwhelming success. As with Brook Street, Birdwood Avenue we are indebted to DSC staff who went way beyond the call of duty to make all of this happen. All – staff and residents - are still positively talking about the experience. This has other residents eagerly waiting their turn to move into their own new homes –house 3 and Merian Close. Residents moved into house 2 [35 Market Street] on June.

At the initiation of the Group it has been agreed that the all of the previously known area – 35 Market Street be known as Fairholme Estate.

As previously stated we are most grateful to DSC for the consultative process, their regular updates and also making those involved available to clarify issues, concerns etc as and when requested.

With respect to the finalisation of the redevelopment the following is anticipated to take place:

Fairholme Market Street Guildford

- House 3 [37 Market Street] – 7 residents
Anticipated completion March 2006

Merian Close – Cannington

6 residents
Anticipated completion November 2005.

We are most appreciative of Government and DSC for progressing our dream, which commenced some 10 years ago. The outcome to-date has been more than worthwhile and something we can all be proud of, in particular, the standards that have been achieved.

Reunion/Open Day – Saturday October 2, 2004

Through major planning by the Group in conjunction with DSC and Rotary in particular the Reunion/Open Day held on Saturday October 2 was an overwhelming success. Well over 500 people attended including many previous residents, families, staff and friends. The day commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 4.00pm. The Minister for Disability Services, Hon Sheila McHale officially opened the overall Fairholme Redevelopment Project at 2.00pm. The Minister was ably supported by Sharon Goode who welcomed the Minister, Paul Goodyear who received a framed photo of old Fairholme to be hung in the new house. This was followed by Bennett Brook/Fairholme band playing several numbers.

During the day displays were provided by the following Groups demonstrating the types of activities and/or support provided to give a greater quality of life:

- Fairholme Disability Support Group Inc;
- Disability Services Commission;
- WorkPower [WA] Inc
- WeCan Community Services;
- Optimum Leisure;
- Recreational Network Inc;
- Swan Friendship Club Inc;
- DADAA [WA] Inc;
- Boulton Street; and
- Rotary Club of Bassendean.

For detail please go to the Group's website www.fairholme.com

History of Fairholme

As previously stated the Group in co-operation with DSC is continuing to collect information to enable the preparation of a book, which will provide the history of:

- Fairholme as a Hostel and residency [quadruplexs];
- Lasting memories of those who resided and/or worked at Fairholme;
- Historical background of Fairholme since its inception; and
- Establishment of the incorporated Association namely Parents and Friends of Fairholme Inc and subsequent name change to Fairholme Disability Support Group Inc.

This is being undertaken by Annette Avery who we are most grateful for providing her expertise and time in collating and writing.

It is anticipated that the book will be available for sale towards the end of year when a special event is planned.

All are asked who can provide detail to do so to ensure the book is as complete as possible to contact any of the Management Committee. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Standards Monitoring

DSC appointed Standards Monitors [2] visited 33 Market Street just after the residents moved in. Whilst all of the Standards were met for which staff are to be commended there were certain aspects of the report which consumers [parents etc] were not satisfied with. These matters are being followed up with DSC to ensure that a better understanding of prevailing circumstances do not occur again.

WorkPower [WA] Inc

Some of our members continue to represent our people at WorkPower forums and their annual general meeting. All are professionally conducted. Overall WorkPower has continued to be progressive and remain focussed on their core objectives in particular providing employment opportunities with people with a disability. Despite the constraints placed upon it by the Federal Government, WorkPower has again served those people, who are fortunate to have placement, very well.

Both the Board but more particularly the CEO Alan Huddle has represented in particular Western Australian as well as the disability sector through ACROD's Working Group on Workplace Relations. In addition he has been relentless in pursuing the best possible outcome related to the Federal Government's Business Services and related packages. The Group is most grateful for his efforts and the outcome achieved to-date.

Again the WorkPower's Board and Team have continued to look for options that allows their capacity to be expanded thus ensuring the provision of employment options for people with moderate to severe disability.

For all of this we are most thankful.

Additional Amenities

The Group continued to fund additional amenities not provided as an example under the Board and Lodging Policy.

Support was also given to the 'Alternatives to Work' program and the furnishing of 33 and 35 Market Street.

Again our thanks go to staff for the recognition of needs and valuable input in determining priorities and/or alternative solutions.

Christmas Party

This again proved to be a success having been held at the north end under the shade of the gum trees. All enjoyed a most relaxed afternoon and were ably entertained by the Bennett Brook/Fairholme band ably taught and led by Peter Flavell. This proved to be a hit and enjoyed by all including those who played for those in attendance. We are grateful to members and staff who assisted, as always in making the party so enjoyable.

DSC Assistance

The undermentioned are the key new outcome based projects that have been undertaken through joint cooperation and efforts. We are indebted to DSC staff for their untiring efforts to make a difference and willingness to make a greater difference by trying something new.

LotteryWest Aging & Disability Project

The continuation of this project has enabled the residents at Bennett Brook and Fairholme a further opportunity to develop skills and self esteem through arts program developed and supported by DADAA WA. The further support of experienced facilitators and staff permitted the residents to produce some outstanding work, which was in part displayed at the Reunion/Open Day.

As with all aspects of our resident's lives, success needs to be measured individually, and while some of the achievements on the surface appear small, they have, in fact, been quite monumental and significant for the individuals involved. Some of the benefits observed from the involvement in the program included more willingness to attempt tasks, a greater attention span, more tolerance and interaction between each other and, not the least, an opportunity to meet people and socialise.

The program will also include residents at Pike Street Karrinyup and some residents living in the Henderson area.

We are indebted to all and we thank all that assisted with the project and as stated before the outcomes have been nothing short of amazing.

Note: We are confident that further funding from various sources will be forthcoming and as a consequence it is expected that a similar program/s will commence shortly.

Chidlow Initiatives- Area 6

Through a combined effort the Group in conjunction with DCS and the Rotary Club of Mundaring a project designed was to promote physical and cultural activity and community involvement. As a result a Grant of \$6,600 has just been provided which will be used early in the financial year.

PH to provide further detail.

Other Initiatives – Georgina's Project

Detail to be provided.

Rotary Kinetic Sculpture Race - Boulton Street Project

As reported last year this project was highly successful and the sculpture was on display at the Reunion/Open day.

It was expected that the project would be continued this year but due to the race being held in Geraldton it was put on hold this year but will be recommenced next year as the race will return to Perth. We look forward to hear with interest as the project progresses.

Living in the West Conference – Monday November 15

The Group's request to present a paper titled – Fairholme Disability Support Group – Enriching Lives under the section Individual and Family Leadership was accepted.

The paper was written and presented by Les Goode, Peter Hodgson and Bevan Dellar. It was well accepted by all in attendance and since several people have inquired and been provided advice on the approach adopted by the Group over many years.

A copy of the paper is available on the Group's web-site or a copy can be obtained from the Secretary on request.

Information Sessions

As part of the expanding role the Group arranged for information sessions for members, which were as follows;

- Pre-arranged funerals;
- Volunteers and Companions;
- Accommodation Advocacy; and
- Proposed Legislative Changes

With respect to pre-arranged funerals a Working Group has been established which includes Les Goode to develop a Guidance Note. In addition the Working Group will review and make recommendations if necessary with respect to operating procedures associated with the death of a resident.

Treasurer's Report and Audit Report

Please see separate reports and notes forming part of the financial statements for 'a not for profit' Association.

All accounting practices including financial reconciliation and statement preparation have been carried out in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. In addition all of the

requirements as stipulated in the Charitable Collections Act (1946), Regulations (1947) and Code of Conduct were fully complied with.

The Group has been able to more than adequately meet the financial requests that have been asked of it.

Communication Enhancement – Internet and E-mail

Thanks to Sheldon Levis for setting up the service for the Group. It has much material on the site for which

In Memoriam

It is with heartfelt thoughts that we remember the following residents and member who passed away during the year.

Resident

Erica Lovell

Thanks

Once again we provide our heartfelt and sincere thanks to all staff who once again have continued their untiring efforts to ensure that all residents received the maximum support in particular that associated with the redevelopment. As such the past year has been no exception with other increasing demands because of sickness and loss as well an ever-changing environment.

We continue to be most grateful for the strengthened consultation and understanding of each other's concerns, issues etc which has allowed unity and strength to be maintained.

Also I thank the executive, management committee members and partners for their untiring efforts as well as members who without you the Group would not be in a position of strength and a recognised force within the disability sector.

Conclusion

Thanks to all in helping fulfill what I spoke about last year, that is:

- *Making a difference.*
 - *Vision, Commitment and Action.*
 - *Working Together.*
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- We are still and will continue to face challenges some greater than others but all should tackled with vigour.

It is encumberant upon all of us to ensure that people with disabilities, their families and carers have the same opportunities to services and facilities provided to the community in general. As such we all have a role to a larger or lesser extent to ensure that this is achieved overtime by continuous improvement and is sustainable over time.

Also I ask you to reflect on what you may want for your loved one once you have departed this earth to ensure their wellbeing is always maintained at the highest level. Please let us know of what you desire because in the forthcoming year it will be one of the Group's key objectives. We have some good examples on what has as well as what has been achieved.

From a Group point of view we must continue with the great unity that has been established over many years as well as being proactive to maximise the outcomes we want to see come to fruition.

Les Goode

Les Goode
Chairperson