



FAIRHOLME DISABILITY SUPPORT GROUP Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2005 - 06

August 19, 2006

and comply, to ensure that the Group operates in the most effective and harmonious manner. No instances related to the Code were brought to notice.

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 and had its financial statements audited in accordance with the Code.

Management Committee

At the last annual general meeting we saw Fred McKenzie [the inaugural Residents' Advocate] and Maggie Hall not seek re-election. We are indebted to both for their untiring efforts and contributions to the Group for well over a decade, for this we say a big thank you. Whilst Les Goode did not accept nomination for re-election as Chairperson he accepted on nomination and election to become the Residents' Advocate, which all were most appreciative. The outcomes that we have all seen Les pursue with vigour over the past decade because of his great commitment speak for itself. As a consequence of Les not seeking to be re-elected as the Chairperson, Bevan Dellar was elected.

Due to the two above noted vacancies Keith Hill and Helena Cole were elected to the Management Committee and both have brought energy, value and knowledge for which we thank them.

The Management Committee structure, which was introduced some five years ago, continues to be productive in that it has satisfactorily and expeditiously dealt with issues that would normally have taken 3 to 6 months longer to achieve an outcome.

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

CHAIRPERSON

Bevan Dellar

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

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Lesley Postma

Sub-Committees – Public Relations; Accommodation; Fundraising & Events and Alternatives to Employment.

SECRETARY

Rachel Ivic

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

TREASURER

Jan Ricks

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

RESIDENTS' ADVOCATE

Rev Canon Les Goode

Sub-Committees – Advocacy & Advice; Accommodation; Guardianship & Administration and Alternatives to Employment.

MEMBERS

Leanne Michielsen

Sub-Committees – Public Relations; Accommodation; Fundraising & Events and Alternatives to Employment.

Keith Hill

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

Helena Cole

Sub-Committees – Accommodation; Advocacy & Advice; Constitution and Legislation & Policy;

Group Membership

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

Membership to the above noted organisations is providing the Group with greater ability to network and assist in influencing others to achieve further and better outcomes for people with disability.

Partnerships

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

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Disability Services Commission | WorkPower [WA] Inc |
| • DADAA [WA] Inc | ACROD |
| • WA Disability Council of WA | People With Disabilities [WA] Inc |
| • Recreational Network Inc | Swan Recreational Club Inc |
| • Optimum Leisure | WeCan Community Services |
| • LotteriesWest | Challenger TAFE |
| • Rotary Club of Bassendean | Rotary Club of Mundaring |
| • City of Swan | City of Cockburn |
| • Hollywood Private Hospital | Murdoch School of Chiropractic [+] |

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

Regarding Murdoch School of Chiropractic [+] see note under the section **Other Key Issues Dealt With**.

The Group would like to make special note of the newly formed partnership with Hollywood Private Hospital, which saw the following accomplishments through their generous donation of highly valued second hand equipment.

Here are some examples of what differences it has made to people's lives.

- Bed Tables – Used for art and craft activities and barbeques. The tables proved most beneficial because of their adjustable height, stability and ease of movement.
- Beds – Because they can be adjusted, they assisted in improving people's health and wellbeing plus made the life of their carers that much easier with respect to handling.
- Lifting Frames - Assisted in improving people's health and wellbeing plus made the life of the carers that much easier with respect to handling.
- IV Poles, Splints [legs and arms], Bandages and Examination Lamps – These were sent to the Philippines and have been used in their medical centres. The Rotary Club of Bassendean distributed these.
- Walking Frames and Wheelchairs – Assisted those who were becoming infirm.
- Shower Chairs - Assisted those whose medical conditions required them to be seated whilst showering.
- Weighing Machines – These proved to be medically invaluable to several people who, because of their condition had to have their weight monitored on a daily basis for example fluid retention.
- Adjustable Chairs [High back] – These chairs enabled the majority who received them to retain or gain back their independence because they were able to get off the chair themselves where as in many cases previously they needed support.
- Trolley Cabinets and Steel Table – These were provided to WorkPower who utilised them in their Nursery and the new Belmont centre, which now allows people with a disability to be more productive as well as enhancing their self esteem because they have been able to contribute to a far greater extent when undertaking their tasks.
- Treatment Tables – These were provided to the Murdoch Chiropractic School and are currently being used by students. This has enabled the students to undertake far more practicums.

It should be noted that where it has been appropriate the equipment has been given out on loan so that when it is no longer required it is returned and passed to another needy recipient.

Major Legislative Issues

- The Group has continued to monitor all associated legislative issues but none were identified that needed any direct input, however all are assured vigilance will continue to be maintained. One legislative review has been identified, which is due to commence shortly, namely Associations' Incorporations Act 1987. Input will be provided as required.

➤ **Guardianship and Administration Act**

As stated in previous reports the Group requested changes to the State Administrative Tribunal Act through strong representation but none were not forthcoming.

The two key issues of concern were:

- Proposed location and associated facilities for the Guardianship and Administration Board [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.

These issues still remain a concern but to-date the Group has had little feedback from members and other sector participants with respect to any significant dysfunctional aspects. However, the Group will continue to monitor the previous and/or new concerns to ensure that the past satisfactory service is not eroded.

➤ **Other Key Issues Dealt With**

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

As reported for the previous two years the issue of a changed approach to funding by the Federal Government with respect to employment has continued to be of particular concern because the majority of the people, who the Group represents, have moderate to severe intellectual disability as well as physical disability and in many instances little to no individual voice.

Representation to Federal and State Ministers and other parliamentarians has continued and as a consequence it is anticipated some better outcomes will be forthcoming.

Acknowledgement is made to the unrelenting efforts of Workpower who have and continue to optimise the processes between the various options that have been put forward by the Federal Government. One of these is the establishment of an Alternate to Employment [ATE] programs, which the Group will be supporting an application by WorkPower to maximise the backfilling of positions [35] associated with those who have been identified to participate in ATE's. It should be noted that less backfilled numbers will have a significant impact on WorkPower's overhead costs and the maximising of their service delivery that is commercial capacity plus growth.

However, all acknowledge that there is still much to be done and as such the Group will continue to monitor to ensure that the best possible outcomes are achieved.

• **Medical and Hospitalisation Protocols and Case Management**

It is acknowledged that DSC has made significant progress to enhance the understanding within the wider community and disability sector that health is part of 'quality of life' considerations for people with disabilities. This has been achieved by;

- Liaising with health organisations to address the health needs;
- Providing disability awareness in particular to health professionals and university students;
- Providing information on health related issues; and
- Developing partnerships to increase opportunities to be included in health promotion projects.

DSC has commenced due to the persistence of the Group to review Medical and Hospitalisation Protocols and Case Management issues. The Group has been advised that it will be involved as a consumer representative. It is acknowledged that it will take some time before such an approach can be effectively introduced.

The Group initiated in conjunction with DSC to provide disability awareness to fifth year Chiropractic students at Murdoch University [+]. This proved to be highly successful and as a result discussions are now taking place to establish, initially on a trial basis a special interest clinic for people with disability. It is expected that the clinic will be established by way of a partnership that will involve the University, consumers [via the Group as a facilitator] and DSC [Health Resource and Consultancy].

Advocacy

The Group has become more involved this year in particular with more complex issues on behalf of families and individuals.

This has included violence and entrapment towards senior citizens, determining the capacity of persons to act because of disability, arbitration and conciliation on behalf of families where conflict has arisen.

• **Other Inputs**

- Disability Standards for Access and Universal Design in particular that related to Premises
- Alternatives to Work Program

- Review of DSC Policies/Standards
- Holiday Opportunities/Accommodation
- Accommodation and Residential Planning -Options
- Death, Pre-arrange Funerals, Staff and Family Support
- Ageing and Disability, Progression of Care

Whilst the Group previously submitted comment on other areas the above noted seven are considered to be of 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 [State and Federal]**
State Budget - 2006/07 and outgoing years

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

Again the 2006/07 State Budget provided a substantially strengthened disability budget with a total State allocation of \$273.923 million (including capital). This represents an increase of 10.33% on the previous financial year's allocation of \$248.280 million (including capital).

This new funding provides:

- accommodation support for an additional 113 people
- 200 new respite and family support services
- 130 new alternatives to employment / post school options services
- 670 new therapy services
- 250 new local area coordination services

Additional funding of \$2.1 million per annum has been provided to assist with the care of people who require significant support arrangements.

Young people with disabilities, currently residing in aged care facilities, will benefit from \$5 million of funding (across the forward estimates) to provide more appropriate accommodation. The Commonwealth will match this commitment under a five-year agreement with the state.

An additional \$650,000 has been set aside to provide for Early Childhood Intervention support.

The Government has committed \$2.7 million in 2006-07 for the 'Continence Management and Support Scheme for Western Australia'. The scheme will be open to adult and senior health care or pension cardholders and provide a continence subsidy to those eligible people who are afflicted by the condition and are currently unable to receive assistance under Commonwealth subsidy schemes.

In the Health Care budget the State government has also committed to the following:

- \$8 million for the completion of projects associated with the 2004 Mental Health Strategy to increase the number of inpatient beds at Graylands Hospital and other metro locations, increase the number of mental health emergency department beds and expand/refurbish existing clinics across the state
- \$5.1 million of a \$9 million project to expand the inpatient mental health unit and construct a new community mental health clinic at the South West Health Campus.

Further information can be obtained from the budget websites: Federal – www.budget.gov.au, State – www.dtf.wa.gov.au, or by contacting the Secretary, Rachel Ivic.

The Group wishes to acknowledge the previous Ministers for Disability Services for what they have accomplished. We welcome the new Minister the Hon. Tony McRae and trust that he maintains the same support and enthusiasm as previous Ministers as well as continuing to take a non-political approach, which has benefited all.

We also thank the Government for promoting the budget through this session of parliament. As stated above the growth in funding speaks for itself and it continues to see the funding base maintained at a strong and sustainable level. We are all indebted for this. The Group has not lost sight of the unmet need and will continue to seek creative ideas as well as others to seek alternative ways to address this issue.

Federal Budget – 2006

Families and Community Services Minister Mal Brough said \$224.7 million over five years would mean about 15,000 families caring for people with a mental illness will benefit from the establishment of over 650 new respite care places.

The government will also provide \$284.8 million over five years for 900 personal helpers and mentors to assist people with a mental illness who are living in the community to better manage their daily activities. When fully operational, this initiative will assist 53,000 people per year.

In support of the COAG mental health initiative the government also announced it will commit \$122 million over five years, (subject to matching commitments from state and territory governments), plus departmental expenses of \$8 million over six years. This measure forms part of the Government's contribution to the COAG Health Services package as announced on February 10, 2006.

The COAG initiative aims to benefit younger people with disabilities who are either currently living in residential aged care, or who are at risk of admission to residential aged care. The initial focus will be on those under 50 years of age living in residential aged care.

Fairholme and Associated Residential Redevelopment

Once again all are commended for the residential redevelopment program and associated outcomes, which have continued to be outstanding since the new houses have been commissioned. Notwithstanding this the individuals who were provided with the initial homes has continued to flourish. From initial discussions and feedback no one expected that such positive outcomes would be as sustainable as those seen nor do we have any reason to believe that they will not continue. The Group unreservedly continues to praise all staff for their open communications and willingness to strive to improve not only the services but also associated outcomes.

It was considered that this story should be told in as many possible forums locally, nationally and internationally. In this regard the Group has offered any assistance to get this message across.

DSC has undertaken to see what strategies can be developed in particular in the first instance advising the Commission, politicians, parents, non government organisations etc.

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

Fairholme

- House 2, 35 Market Street, Guildford – 7 residents Completed October 2005.
- House 3, 37 Market Street, Guildford – 7 residents Anticipated completion September 2006.

Merian Close – Cannington

- Phase 1 - 6 residents Completed November 2005.
- Phase 2 – Anticipated completion early 2007.

History of Fairholme

As previously stated the Group in co-operation with DSC and the untiring efforts of Annette Avery our writer are continuing to collect information to enable the finalisation of the book, which will provide the history of:

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

We are most grateful Annette Avery for providing her expertise and time in collating and writing that has been a greater task than most expected. Also our thanks go out to all people including past and current members, parents and staff for their contribution. The book would not be as complete without everyone's assistance, this we appreciate greatly.

Due to the extensive verification process, approvals, collation, printing etc a firm date of release is not known but it is expected to be early in 2007. However, when the book is available for sale a special event is planned.

An opportunity still exists and all are asked who can provide detail to do so to ensure the book is as complete as possible. You can do this by contacting any of the Management Committee, as your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Standards Monitoring

Following the Standards Monitors [2] visiting 33 Market Street review their report in the main left the majority of consumers in particular parents etc not fully satisfied. This was subsequently followed up with DSC. The matter was satisfactorily resolved in that a positive outcome was achieved with assurances that a similar set of procedural circumstances does 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 Shane O'Connor has represented in particular Western Australian. In addition he has been relentless in persuing 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.

Please see explanatory notes above titled *Employment – Safety Net Consultations [Open and Business Employment Options]*

WorkPower has sought the involvement of the Group with respect to employee related policy and/or systemic issues with the view to achieving the better outcomes. In addition a communication policy will be developed that will include communication processes with external stakeholders. Input from DSC and the Group with the view to achieving uniformity and understanding by all concerned. WorkPower will where appropriate provide feedback on any issue raised at either their Board or Strategic meetings and will facilitate this by regular meetings with the Group.

Again the WorkPower's Board and Team have continued to look for options that allow 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.

The Group was saddened on hearing of the death of the previous CEO Alan Huddle who passed away because of cancer.

Additional Amenities and Funded Programs

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

Support was provided to the 'Alternatives to Work' and Recreational programs as well as furnishing of the recently completed homes.

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

Discussions have been held with respect to possible other new projects/programs, which the Group has been asked to assist with that all appear to be exciting and beneficial. All will be kept informed as the progress.

Christmas Party

This again proved to be a success having been held at the north end under the shade of the gum trees. 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.

Chidlow Initiatives- Area 6

Through a combined effort the Group in conjunction with DSC and the Rotary Club of Mundaring a project was designed to promote physical and cultural activity and community involvement. As a result a Grant of \$6,600 was provided which was used. The residents of the group homes in Chidlow assisted in the major artwork depicting the Chidlow community's history. The residents decorated the Water Authority's pump station at the entrance of the town. The Minister for Disability Services Tony McRae MLA unveiled the mural on Thursday July 6 and he commended all for their community spirit and in making the project happen.

Other Initiatives – Recreational Project

The Group commends Georgina Patoir in particular and those who have assisted for the continued great work once again and for the progress made in organising the continuation of previous recreational options and the newly initiated ones. We are most grateful.

Georgina's detail report is attached.

The Group continues to be committed to provide as much support that is required to ensure that the project continues with zest and that it becomes available to a greater number of participants.

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.

In Memoriam

It is with heartfelt thoughts that we remember the Kevin Millar resident of Bennett Brook past resident of Fairholme who passed away during the year. Kevin is last remembered when he stood next to the Minister at Fairholme redevelopment function and also his conducting of Christmas carols. Thanks for those great memories and others.

Thanks

I was humbled to be chosen as the Group's Chairperson last year and I thank all for their previous great efforts as it has made my job that much easier. Whilst the past year may not have been as intense in some of the identified critical areas as the previous two years but much was done as can be seen above. This was not only for unresolved areas, but also in some new ones because of changing needs, which we must forever remain vigilant for. Again we all wish to sincerely acknowledge with heartfelt thanks to all staff who once again for their continued untiring efforts to ensure that all residents received maximum support. As in the past, this year has been no exception with other increasing demands because of the ever-changing environment, such as accommodation, less employment options, recreational challenges and the greater interaction with the public because of the great partnerships that have been established.

All of this has been further strengthened because of the continued commitment of consultation and understanding of each other's concerns and issues. As a consequence much was achieved with some good outcomes.

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

Conclusion

As stated earlier the Group still faces many challenges some greater or to a lesser extent than others but if tackled as done in the past with a maintained focus, vigour and an open mind then we will continue to achieve lasting results. In this regard it will enable what we commenced in the previous year [2004/05] to be accomplished over time that is, what you want for your loved one once you have departed this earth with respect to their wellbeing and quality of life. So that the Group can fulfil this objective and meet your full expectations could you please let the Management Committee what they are and how it may be achieved.

It is only through your constant feedback and that of others that the Group can truly do its job as well as keeping others who provide a service to our loved ones at the very highest standard. On many occasions we see a lesser service offered to people with disabilities than what able-bodied persons expect and/or receive.

Looking forward to another successful and productive 2006/07 and in doing so we are able to achieve at our full potential.

Bevan Dellar
Bevan Dellar
Chair