Who we are

- Member-led
- Elected Board
- Employing Women with Disabilities
- Developing Community Leaders

Our Vision - A world where all women are respected and can fully experience life
Our Priorities

Key Program Areas:

- Women’s Empowerment and Community Inclusion
- Workforce Development – for Violence Prevention and Response
- Policy, Advocacy and Research
Gender and Disability

• Family violence is the leading cause of death or disability in women under the age of 45 in Australia

• Women with disabilities experience higher rates of family and sexual violence than women and men without disabilities

• Over one third of women with disabilities experience family violence

• Some are at higher risk of family violence and sexual assault than others, for example women with intellectual disabilities

• Women with disabilities experience violence over longer periods of time

• Women with disabilities experience violence from many perpetrators.
Empowering Women and Community Inclusion

- Enabling Women Leadership Program
- Victorian Women’s Board Leadership Program
- ‘Here We Are’ Project
- ‘Linking Up, Speaking Out’ Project
Enabling Women Leadership Program

- A community-based leadership program for women with disabilities
- Empowering women with disabilities to become leaders within their own communities
Enabling Women Leadership Program

What is covered?

• social model of disability
• identity and self-esteem
• human rights
• communication and advocacy
• violence – speaking up
• how to engage with the NDIS
• connecting with services in the community
• working towards a leadership goal
Partners with Local Government

Local Government is:

• Critical to delivering successful Enabling Women programs

• Often a formal project partner

• MetroAccess / RuralAccess officers are key support in establishing a program in a new region
Leadership Network – Hubs

• 4 Leadership Networks for Women with Disabilities in Barwon, Wellington, Moira, and Warrnambool

• The Hubs are for women with disabilities who are interested in leadership, advocacy, human rights, and empowerment, and local matters impacting on their lives
Community Inclusion – Here We Are

- Regional capacity building project, with partner organisations in Geelong, Sale, Warrnambool & Cobram
- Employing women with disability to lead and model social inclusion, with a focus on women’s support structures and activities
Linking Up, Speaking Out

• Forums with women with disabilities in Victoria who are regionally or otherwise isolated
• To connect women with disabilities with WDV, relevant advocacy organisations, and other women with disabilities
• Particular focus on working with women with deafblindness in Victoria
Workforce Development

• Gender and Disability
• Responsive Access Project
• Safeguarding
Gender and Disability Program

Provides the disability sector with training in:
• Gender and disability intersectionality
• Prevention of violence against women with disabilities
• Gender equitable and responsive practice

Our co-facilitation model brings together women with disabilities and prevention partners
Partners with Local Government

The Gender and Disability Program has partnered with:
• Manningham City Council
• Shire of Yarra Ranges

To provide training in Prevention of Violence Against Women with Disabilities, using our co-facilitation model
Safeguarding

Our Right to Safety and Respect

- Guidelines for organisations for developing resources with women with disabilities about safety from violence and abuse
- Video resource and guide by and for women with disabilities about violence, abuse, safety and respect, including Easy English version
Key Resources


• OPA, 2015, ‘Rebuilding the village: Supporting families where a parent has a disability.’

• VicHealth, 2013, ‘National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey.’

• Stella Young, 2013, ‘The Politics of Exclusion.’ ABC Ramp Up

• Jen Hargrave, 2016, ‘The boy who saw an alien: stopping sexism & disability discrimination at the start.’ WHISE

• WHV Clearinghouse
More Information

Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV)
factsheets, submissions, research, membership

Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA)
http://wwda.org.au/

https://www.facebook.com/womenwithdisabilitiesvictoria
https://twitter.com/WDVtweet
https://www.instagram.com/womenwithdisabilitiesvic/

* Sign up to the WDV eNews
* Sign up to the Violence & Disability Quarterly