**Women with Disabilities Victoria**

**Strategic Plan Summary 2017 – 2020 (text only)**

**Introduction**

Women with Disabilities Victoria’s **Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020** builds on the work we have done over the last six years and identifies the goals and priorities that will guide our key activities.

**A changing environment**

The last three years have seen significant policy shifts at both state and national level.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a bipartisan federal government initiative, the most significant policy response to issues facing people with disabilities in many years. As the NDIS rolls out across Victoria, Women with Disabilities Victoria will empower women with disabilities to engage with the new system. We will play a role in ensuring gender issues are understood by those providing services and support to women with disabilities.

In Victoria, the Royal Commission into Family Violence has made a large number of significant findings that impact women with disabilities. The Victorian Government has agreed to implement them all. The Parliamentary Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services has also made recommendations for reform of disability services. These important changes were hard fought for by Women with Disabilities Victoria along with many others in the disability and family violence sectors.

These positive and much welcomed changes are the key drivers for this plan and frame our priorities in a time where there is an unprecedented opportunity to keep issues which impact women with disabilities at the forefront of the agenda in all levels of Government. In this changing environment, we will maintain our efforts to work for world leading responses to issues where there is a clear intersection of gender and disability.

**Our priorities**

We have made significant progress in each priority area but there is still much to be done.

Our commitment to create opportunities for women with disabilities to realise their leadership and advocacy potential is central to our work within each priority area.

We will **prevent and respond to violence and abuse against women with disabilities**. Our goals and activities will focus on the implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations and the Parliamentary Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services.

We will **work to make the NDIS relevant and responsive to women with disabilities and empower women to engage with the new system** as the NDIS rolls out and gives us a clear focus for future activity.

We will **promote access to health services for women with disabilities** in the context of the social determinants of health.

In focusing on our priority areas, we will respond to the social determinants of health for women with disabilities by promoting access to housing and employment for women with disabilities through our representation and policy work.

Guided by our members, we will wherever possible respond to new and emerging issues to stay relevant and reflect the concerns of women with disabilities.

**What’s in the new plan?**

In an environment that is more complex and subject to rapid change, we will adapt and consider new ways of working. We will adopt a whole-of-organisation approach so that all our programs build on one another to create pathways to social and economic participation for women with disabilities. We will monitor and reflect on our work and report on our results. We will continue to emphasise collaboration. We recognise the importance of partnerships and will actively work with other disability advocacy programs and with key organisations aligned with our priorities and interest in the intersection of gender and disability.

We will work collaboratively with government departments and agencies, including the NDIA during the NDIS rollout, to ensure the best outcomes for women with disabilities. The timeframe of this Strategic Plan will broadly align with the Victorian State Disability Plan. We will work with State Government departments across portfolio areas to ensure the plan is effective in our priority areas. We recognise the ongoing significance of local area delivery of services to women with disabilities and will work in partnership to support best practice at this level.

This plan identifies key enablers. These are critical areas which make it possible to deliver good outcomes.

We will **build and support our membership base.**

We will **ensure Women with Disabilities Victoria is a strong, vibrant and sustainable organisation.**

We will **raise and maintain the profile of Women with Disabilities Victoria to share knowledge with key stakeholders and the community.**

**Our Goals**

**Empower Women**

Engage and empower women with disabilities to lead and influence their communities.

**Influence Policy**

Influence government and the community to recognise and remove barriers to full participation by women with disabilities.

**Influence Services**

Educate and build the capacity of service systems and organisations to be accessible to women with disabilities.

**Our Enablers**

**Members**

Build and support our membership base.

**Organisation**

Ensure Women with Disabilities Victoria is a strong, vibrant and sustainable organisation.

**Relationships**

Raise and maintain the profile of Women with Disabilities Victoria to share knowledge with key stakeholders and communities.

**Our Priorities**

**Violence**

Prevent and respond to violence and abuse against women with disabilities.

**NDIS**

Work to make the NDIS relevant and responsive to women with disabilities and empower women to engage with the new system.

**Health**

Promote access to health services for women with disabilities.

We will respond to the social determinants of health, promoting access to housing and employment for women with disabilities through our representation and policy work.