**Introduction to**

**Women with Disabilities Victoria’s**

**Youth Project Co-design Group**

**Introduction:**

Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV) focuses on issues relating to gender and disability. Our Vision is a world where everyone is respected and can fully experience life.

WDV works for people who are:

* + with disability (physical, sensory, intellectual, cognitive, etc.),
	+ Deaf / deaf / hard of hearing,
	+ Living with chronic illness, and/or pain,
	+ Neurodiverse, e.g. autistic
	+ Living with mental health challenges.

But we use with ‘disability’ or ‘disabilities’ throughout this documentation.

WDV works for girls/women (cis or trans), and people who are non-binary, genderdiverse, genderqueer, and femme identifying. But we use ‘girls/women’ and ‘women’ throughout this documentation.

Since 2013, WDV has been running the Enabling Women Leadership Program. The Program empowers women with disabilities to speak up and have a voice about issues that relate to them, and other women with disabilities. The Program builds on, and expands the knowledge, skills, tools, and networks of women with disabilities, so they are confident to take on advocacy and leadership roles within their communities.

3 of the Enabling Women Programs that have been run, have been youth specific, for girls/women aged 15-25. And whilst great things have come from the Programs, WDV recognises that the existing Program may need to be updated. Or, that there may be other ways to better support youth with disabilities to develop their leadership potential. To help determine what this may look like, WDV is developing a Youth Project Co-Design Group (YPCG). The Group will run from April – August 2021.

WDV is seeking members for the Co-design Group. Members will be called Co-designers. They will review existing, and develop new leadership projects/programs for WDV to run.

**How will the Co-design Group work?**

The Co-design Group will run in 2 stages.

Key things to note about Stage 1:

* The group will consist of up to 10 co-designers, and 2 WDV staff members.
* WDV will make sure access needs are met. For example, co-designers may like to have documents in Easy English, extra breaks, or have a support person/interpreter attend with them. There is a section on the Application form about access needs.
* The group will meet weekly online 8 times up until July 2021.
* Meetings will run for 2 hours including breaks.
* Some additional reading/thinking time (up to 1.5 hours a week) will need to be done in between meetings.
* Co-designers will be paid $25 per hour (up to 7 hours a fortnight), in recognition of their time and input.

How the second stage runs, will depend on decisions made by the Co-Design Group in the first stage. The second stage will end by August 31st 2021.

**Co-designers**

Co-designers will:

* Be aged 15-25.
* Be a girl/woman (cis or trans), or a person who is non-binary, genderqueer, genderdiverse, femme identifying or of another marginalised gender.
* Be comfortable in a women’s centred space.
* Be someone:
	+ with disability (physical, sensory, intellectual, cognitive, etc.),
	+ who is Deaf / deaf / hard of hearing,
	+ who lives with chronic illness, and/or pain,
	+ who is neurodiverse, e.g. autistic
	+ who lives with mental health challenges.
* Be interested in helping shape what leadership opportunities should look like for girls/women with disabilities.
* Be willing to share ideas, and give constructive feedback.

Co-designers do not need to have

* Completed any particular level of education.
* Had experience with co-design groups, working groups, or committees.
* Participated in previous leadership groups.

If you have experience with these things, that’s okay too. We want a mix of people who have and don’t have experience in these things.

WDV aims to have YPCG members with wide ranging experiences and knowledge that can be represented and shared. People from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply, including people with LGBTQIA+, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), and Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

**How to apply**

If you are interested in being a member of WDV’s Youth Project Co-design Group, please complete and send the application form.

You can complete the application form in multiple ways:

1. Complete the form electronically or by hand, and email it to Bridget Jolley (Women’s Empowerment Officer – Youth) at WDV – youth@wdv.org.au
2. Complete the application form in a video or audio recording, and send it using WeTransfer or Dropbox. [Please refer to these Instructions](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cnicole%5CDownloads%5CSharing%20info%20via%20WeTransfer%20and%20Dropbox%20%28April%202021%29.pdf) or how to do this.

Please contact WDV using contact details below, to let them know that you have applied using WeTransfer or Dropbox.

1. Contact Bridget Jolley at WDV to assist you in completing the application form

Via phone – 03 9286 7800, or email - youth@wdv.org.au

You can also ask someone that you trust to help you complete and send the application form.

Applications close Monday April 26.

**For further information and assistance**

Please contact Bridget Jolley at WDV (Women’s Empowerment Officer – Youth).

Via phone - 03 9286 7800, or email – youth@wdv.org.au

** Application Form for**

**Women with Disabilities Victoria’s**

**Youth Project Co-design Group**

Name:

Date of birth:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Gender:

Pronouns. (E.g. she/her, they/them, he/him, prefer not to say):

What is the nature of your disability/disabilities?

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Do you identify as LGBTQIA+? Yes / No / Prefer not to say.

If yes, please feel free to give further information (Optional):

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Are you of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander origin? Yes / No / Prefer not to say.

If yes, please feel free to give further information (Optional)

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Do you identify as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background? Yes / No / Prefer not to say.

If yes, please feel free to give further information (Optional)

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What are your interests and hobbies?

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Have you participated in working groups, advisory groups, co-design groups, etc. before?

It’s okay if you have not. If yes, please give details:

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Have you participated in leadership programs or events before?

It’s okay if you have not. If yes, please give details:

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Why do you want to be part of this Co-design group?

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What skills, knowledge, or strengths do you have that will help the group?

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If this group met virtually (online), do you need any technology or other equipment to support you?

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Do you find any online meeting platforms inaccessible?

If yes, please give details

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What supports do you need to have so you can fully participate?

E.g. Auslan interpreter, captions, audio description of images and videos, information in plain or Easy English, a support worker, lots of breaks.

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We hope to have most of our meetings for Stage 1 of the Co-design group completed before July 2021. Please select what days and times you think you’ll usually be available between now and 31st July 2021.

**Monday**: Morning Afternoon Evening

**Tuesday**: Morning Afternoon Evening

**Wednesday**: Morning Afternoon Evening

**Thursday**: Morning Afternoon Evening

**Friday**: Morning Afternoon Evening

**Saturday**: Morning Afternoon Evening

**Sunday**: Morning Afternoon Evening

Would you like to provide further information about these days and times?:

For example, I’m available on weekday afternoons after 4pm. Or, I’m not available on Sunday mornings before 11am.

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We know that sometimes it’s hard to know your availability months in advance. Do you think your availability is likely to change much between now, and 31st July 2021? Yes / No / Unsure / Prefer not to say.

If yes or unsure, please give details:

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Are there any periods of time that you know you’ll be unavailable?

For example, I’m away on holidays 15th April – 22nd April.

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Is there anything you would like to add to your application, or you would like us to know about?

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Is there anything that WDV can support you with throughout this application process? For example, I prefer emails to phone calls.

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**Thank you for your application!**