



# NEWSLETTER

## HOSPITALITY DISABILITY NETWORK

### International Day of People with Disabilities

It was a day filled with purpose and excitement as the HDNWA International Day of People with Disability event brought together an incredible group of individuals, all united by a shared commitment to inclusivity and empowerment.

The atmosphere at **Novotel Hotels** was lively and full of anticipation as **over 50 attendees** members, candidates, and providers—gathered to celebrate the occasion. Every person brought their unique perspective, making the event truly memorable.

The event's success was greatly enhanced by **Jai McNaughton**, who served as the MC for the day. Her energy and warmth set the perfect tone, guiding the event smoothly and ensuring everyone felt welcomed and engaged. Her skillful hosting truly made the day shine.

Guests were inspired by a remarkable lineup of speakers. **Eliza**, a candidate of HDNWA who works at Optus Stadium, VenuesWest, and The Waverley Brewhouse, shared her personal employment journey and the challenges she overcame, offering valuable insights into how people with disabilities can thrive in various industries.

**Paisley Madison** from Healthy Mind Menu highlighted the importance of mental wellness and its connection to disability.



**Gabriella Pejic** from Crowne Plaza Perth spoke about how the hospitality industry can foster accessible environments, and Paisley wrapped up the event with an impactful message about advocacy and employment for people with disabilities.

**Michelle Kennedy**, Business Development Team Lead for Maxima shared an amazing case study on how providers and HDNWA work together to support candidates to achieve sustainable employment.

The day's theme, **Confident, Creative, and Capable. Come with Me**, deeply resonated with all who attended, reminding everyone that people with disabilities are not only capable but also brimming with creativity and confidence.

It was a call to action for all to continue their work toward greater inclusivity and equality.

This event would not have been possible without the generous support of the **Department of Communities WA**, whose funding made it all possible. And, of course, the tireless efforts of the HDNWA team ensured everything ran seamlessly, making the event a true success.

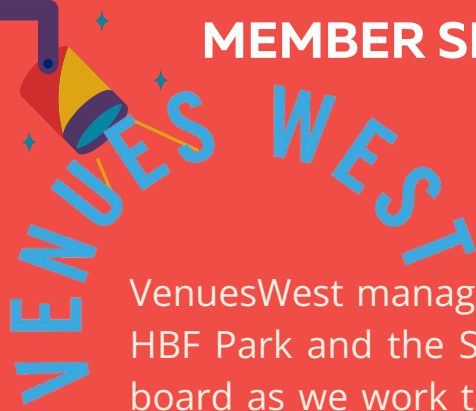
As the event concluded, there was a renewed sense of purpose in the room.

Attendees left inspired and motivated to continue advocating for greater inclusion and awareness. The conversation had just begun, and there was a shared sense that more opportunities for growth and connection were on the horizon.

It was a day to remember—one that set the stage for greater progress and connection in the future. Here's to moving forward, together!



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



We are beyond excited to announce that VenuesWest has officially joined the Hospitality Disability Network WA (HDNWA) as our newest member!

VenuesWest manages some of Western Australia's most iconic venues, including HBF Park and the State Basketball Centre, and we are thrilled to have them on board as we work towards creating more inclusive workplaces in the Hospitality and Tourism sectors.

Their commitment to inclusion and diversity perfectly aligns with our mission to ensure equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the workforce. We're eager to collaborate with VenuesWest as we continue to champion a more inclusive and equitable environment across these industries.



In a fantastic step forward, VenuesWest recently hosted their first recruitment drive for kitchen staff at HBF Stadium. The event went incredibly well, showcasing their dedication to building diverse teams.

What made the day even more special was the way their head chef conducted the interviews. His warm and thoughtful approach ensured every candidate felt valued and empowered during the process, reinforcing VenuesWest's commitment to inclusion.

## TOURISM WA

HDNWA would like to thank Tourism Western Australia for inviting us to the Tourism & Hospitality School Connect event! It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase career possibilities in the tourism and hospitality industry to WA schools.

We were inspired by the discussions on how this industry offers great career paths for individuals with disabilities and the importance of creating inclusive environments for diverse talents.

A big thank you to Hospitality Group Training and Tourism Western Australia for their dedication to opening doors for the next generation of industry leaders.

We're excited to see more young people exploring the dynamic opportunities in Tourism and Hospitality.



HDNWA would like to extend our sincere thanks to Skal International Perth for having us attend your wonderful annual Christmas Luncheon!

It was a fantastic event filled with great conversations, delicious food, and the opportunity to connect with so many amazing individuals. We truly appreciate the warm hospitality and the chance to be part of such a special occasion.

A special thank you to the amazing Food & Beverage team from Novotel for the incredible spread—your culinary expertise truly made the event memorable.

Additionally, we are excited to share that our very own Claire was inducted into Skal as a representative of HDN. It's an honour to be part of such an esteemed organisation, and we are proud to continue fostering collaboration and inclusion within the industry.



Thank you, Skal International Perth, for an unforgettable experience. We look forward to continuing our partnership and celebrating more successes together in the future.

## HDNWA UPDATE

As we approach the festive season, we would like to inform our valued community and partners that HDNWA will be closing for the holidays from Friday, December 20th and will reopen on Monday, January 6th.

During this time, our team will be taking a well-deserved break to recharge and spend time with loved ones.

We look forward to returning in the new year with renewed energy to continue our work in creating a more inclusive and accessible future for all.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT, AND WE WISH EVERYONE A JOYFUL AND RESTFUL HOLIDAY SEASON.**

A huge thank you to Marriott International for inviting us to their International Day of Disability event! It was a privilege to collaborate on such an important day dedicated to creating sustainable employment for all.

Huge thank you to Paisley from Healthy Mind Menu, who shared valuable insights on the challenges and rewards of the hospitality industry. Her message about the importance of mental health awareness, every day, was truly impactful.

This event strengthened our collaboration and reinforced our shared mission of building a more inclusive future.



## JOBS AND SKILLS AUSTRALIA

HDNWA had the privilege of attending the Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) Roadshow, where they presented their highly anticipated 'Better Together' 2024 report.

The presentation highlighted the critical importance of equity, access, and inclusion across employment, education, and training sectors, providing a comprehensive resource that reflects the hard work and analysis JSA has undertaken over the past year.

JSA's efforts are structured around five strategic pillars:

- Fostering Inclusive Participation
- Understanding Today's Workforce
- Shaping Australia's Future Workforce
- Optimising Pathways and System Architecture
- Activating Informed Dialogue



It was an invaluable opportunity to engage with their forward-thinking approach to workforce development and inclusion.

We look forward to continuing the conversation and working together toward a more inclusive future.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

6th January

HDNWA Team are back & ready to support you with your 2025 recruitment needs

## ANNUAL REPORT

SCAN  
ME



HDNWA FY24 Annual Report is now published. Scan the QR or head to <https://hdnwa.org.au/about/reports/> to read about all the great achievements HDNWA has made for 2023/2024



## HDN UPDATE

49 Members representing over 170 businesses

HDNWA have placed over 320 candidates into sustainable employment since 2019



## STAY CONNECTED

- [hdnwa.org.au](https://hdnwa.org.au)
- [manager@hdnwa.org.au](mailto:manager@hdnwa.org.au)
- PO Box 192 West Perth, Western Australia 6892



FOLLOW



HDNWA would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We acknowledge and pay respects to the continuing culture and contributions that our First Nations People make to this region.

