

NEWSLETTER

HOSPITALITY DISABILITY NETWORK



LETS REFLECT ON 2025



What a Year at HDNWA - This year was one of growth, impact, and moments worth celebrating.

We supported **162** candidates, secured **88** interviews, and achieved **65** placements, with an **82.3%** retention rate.

We also celebrated two major milestones, our **350th** placement and **6** years of HDNWA, both reflecting real careers and lasting change.

Our network continued to expand with **9** new member businesses and **5** new service providers joining HDNWA. These partnerships strengthened pathways into hospitality and tourism across WA.

A standout achievement was receiving a Tourism WA grant to develop **Passport to Your Career**, a practical toolkit supporting school leavers living with disability into tourism and hospitality careers.

The toolkit was shared with over **50** schools across WA and showcased at the Tourism WA Careers Expo.

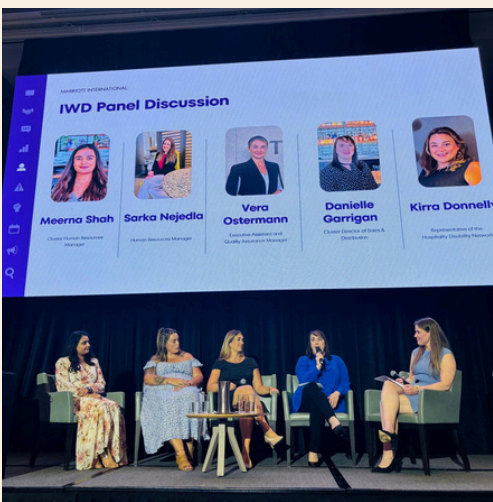
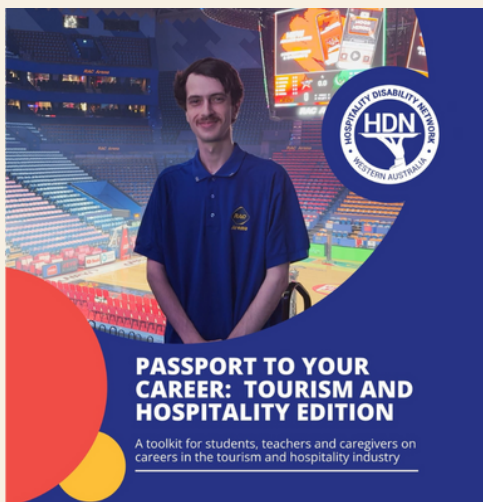
We also secured further funding through the re-elected Cook Labor Government t allowing us to continue building inclusive employment initiatives. We also received an extension on ILC Building Employer Confidence grant which is in recognition on the outstanding work we are doing in this space.

We focused heavily on industry capability, developing leadership training and delivering it to over **80%** percent of leaders across Marriott hotels in WA.

Advocacy remained front and centre, with HDNWA contributing to an International Women's Day panel, the Maximum Occupancy Conference, and celebrating International Day of People with Disability alongside CCIWA, DAWA, and Optus Stadium.

We strengthened our foundations by launching our Instagram and Facebook presence, welcoming **2** new board members, thanking **2** outgoing members, and finishing the year as finalists in **3** major awards across disability, diversity, and hospitality.

Thank you for being part of a year that showed what is possible when inclusion is done well.





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome to our newest Associate Member – Visit Mandurah!

We are thrilled to have Visit Mandurah join the HDNWA network. They are championing accessibility and inclusion across Mandurah's beautiful waterways, creating opportunities for everyone to enjoy the outdoors.

One of their standout initiatives is Paddle-Trails to Nature, an inclusive paddling program suitable for all skill levels. These guided sessions offer a fun, safe way to explore the Peel-Harvey Estuary while learning new skills.

With expert operators and adaptive equipment, the program encourages an active lifestyle and makes paddling accessible to everyone. HDNWA is proud to welcome Visit Mandurah as we continue to support inclusive opportunities across Western Australia.

Discover more about their programs and initiatives by visiting www.visitmandurah.com.



VISIT MANDURAH

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are inviting parents and caregivers of young people living with disability to share their experiences of supporting a young person as they move from school into employment, training, or other post school pathways.

We know this transition can feel complex, uncertain, and at times overwhelming.

Your insight into what worked well, what was challenging, and where support was missing will help us better understand the real experiences families face during this stage.

Your feedback will directly inform the design of a future pilot program focused on practical, family led support.

The goal is to create clearer pathways, reduce stress for families, and improve employment and participation outcomes for young people with disability.

If this reflects your lived experience, we would genuinely value your voice and perspective.

Scan the QR code to complete the survey and help shape better support for families and young people across WA.

**CHECK
THIS OUT**



HDNWA came together with **Optus Stadium**, **CCIWA**, and **Disability Assembly WA** to celebrate International Day of People with Disability at a truly inspiring Sundowner.

The evening showcased the power of collaboration, when lived experience, industry leaders, community organisations and government unite, meaningful change becomes possible.

A huge thank you to Optus Stadium for hosting. With MC Robbie Figg and a moving Welcome to Country by Geri Hayden, the event created a space where ideas, experiences, and commitment to inclusion could be shared freely.

We were thrilled to share the night with our HDNWA members and providers. Your dedication to creating pathways for people with disability is the heartbeat of this movement, and your work inspires everyone around you to act.

Speakers **Rachel Parker** (Down Syndrome WA), **Julie Waylen** (Disability Assembly WA), **Lena Constantine** (CCIWA), and **Craig Menzies** (Optus Stadium) highlighted both the progress we've made and the challenges that remain. Their insights reinforced a key truth: inclusion is achieved through consistent action, genuine partnerships, and shared responsibility.

We were honoured to have **Minister Hannah Beazley MLA** join us, reaffirming the importance of inclusive employment and the government's commitment to supporting it.

The room was filled with people united by one vision: a future where inclusive employment is the norm, not the exception.

Together, we can build workplaces that value every individual, celebrate diversity, and create opportunities for all.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to such a motivating evening.

Nights like this remind us why HDNWA exists: to collaborate, inspire, and make inclusion a reality every day.



PHOTOS FROM SUNDOWNER



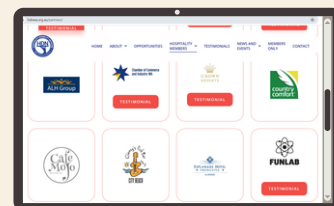
JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP



Do you know any businesses that could benefit from joining HDNWA as a member?

We'd love to connect with them! Feel free to share our contact details or email Navigators@hdnwa.org.au with their information. **Membership is FREE**, and in addition to being promoted on our website and Social media, Members gain access to our free online training platform and access a discount rate for our new training to help them become more disability confident

They'll also have access to a pool of pre-screened candidates, ready to make an impact. We look forward to connecting with more businesses and helping them foster inclusive, diverse workplaces.





HDNWA UPDATE

57 Members
representing
over 200
businesses

HDNWA have
placed over 380
candidates into
sustainable
employment since
2019

STAY CONNECTED

-  hdnwa.org.au
-  admin@hdnwa.org.au
-  PO Box 192 West Perth,
Western Australia 6892



HDNWA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, paying respects to the Aboriginal communities of Western Australia and their Elders, past, present, and emerging. We honor the culture and contributions of First Nations People.

We also recognise the rights and dignity of all, including those with disabilities and in the LGBTQIA+ community. HDNWA is committed to inclusivity, respect, and empowerment, celebrating diversity and striving for equal opportunities for all.

