



# NEWSLETTER

## HOSPITALITY DISABILITY NETWORK

### EXCITING NEWS

We are beyond excited to announce that Hospitality Disability Network WA has been nominated for the 2026 WA Disability Support Award!

Recognising the highest standards of support for individuals with disabilities in Western Australia, it is truly an honour to be acknowledged for the **'Excellence in Supporting Employment Outcomes Award'** alongside many remarkable individuals and organizations making a significant impact across WA.

Last year, we were proud to be a finalist in the Innovation category, and we're hopeful for another finalist position this year... or even better, a win!

The awards night is set for Saturday, May 2, where we will have the chance to connect with other nominees and where finalists and winners will be revealed. Please wish us luck!

**NDS** National  
Disability  
Services



WA Disability  
Support  
Awards

**Nominee**

**Excellence in Supporting  
Employment Outcomes**

### BALANCING THE SCALES

HDNWA was invited to Marriott's International Women's Day event at **The Ritz-Carlton Hotel** in Perth, where Marnie had the privilege of speaking on a panel about the significance of representation for both women and individuals with disabilities, as well as the need for more inclusive workplaces and communities.

Joining her on stage were Tracey from Healthy Mind Menu, Lauren from UP Dietitian, and Lisa from WA Wellness Directory. Their insights served as a powerful reminder of the challenges many women face while advancing their careers.

The atmosphere was especially uplifting, surrounded by passionate women and allies dedicated to supporting one another.

A heartfelt thank you to the Marriott International team for the invitation and for organizing such a thoughtful and inspiring event.



## MATILDA SHINES IN HER CUSTOMISED ROLE AT PERTH ZOO

Matilda has a strong passion for animals, and this has been at the heart of her success in her customised role at the Perth Zoo retail store. Her story is a perfect example of what happens when the right opportunity meets the right person.

Her manager, Karen, shared: “Matilda uses her initiative to keep busy and is now quite familiar with most of our product ranges.” Matilda enthusiastically tidies and fills the puppets, demonstrating dedication, reliability, and genuine pride in her work.

### The Power of Customised Roles

At HDNWA, we believe that every person has unique skills and strengths, and with the right support, they can make a meaningful contribution to any workplace. Customised roles are key to unlocking this potential. These roles are carefully designed to:

- Match an employee’s strengths, interests, and abilities
- Fill gaps or tasks that may otherwise be missed in the workplace
- Give employees the confidence to learn, grow, and contribute meaningfully
- Improve team productivity, morale, and workplace culture

For Matilda, HDNWA visited the Perth Zoo, met with Karen, and explored small tasks that were previously being overlooked. Together, we designed a position that perfectly matched these tasks.

Maxima referred Matilda, and HDNWA supported her through the screening and interview process, ensuring she felt confident and prepared.

### Impact on the Workplace

Matilda’s enthusiasm, initiative, and reliability have already made her a valued member of the Perth Zoo retail team. Karen also shared that once the post-school holiday period quiets down, Matilda will receive front counter training, giving her the opportunity to expand her skills and take on new challenges.

Matilda’s journey is inspiring, showing that with the right support, encouragement, and alignment with passions, people can thrive in roles that suit their strengths.

HDNWA celebrates placements like Matilda’s and the positive impact they create for employees, employers, and the wider industry.





# WELCOMING OUR NEW INTERNS

We are thrilled to welcome **Marna** and **Kavi** to the Hospitality Disability Network Western Australia.

They join us through **The McCusker Centre for Citizenship internship program** at The University of Western Australia. This partnership highlights our dedication to inclusivity and offers Marna and Kavi a chance to engage in a professional setting focused on diversity.

During this internship, Marna and Kavi will gain valuable experience by participating in projects that promote inclusive employment in hospitality, tourism, and events. These projects will enhance their skills and prepare them for impactful careers.

We look forward to the energy and innovative ideas Marna and Kavi will bring to our team. Welcome aboard!



*Welcome*

## BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES TOGETHER

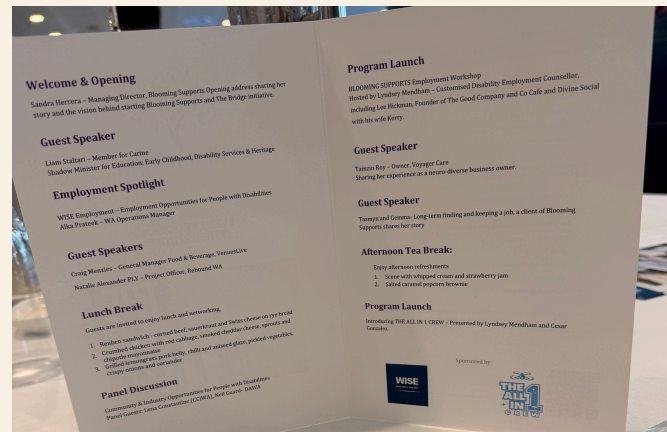
**Blooming Supports** and **Wise Employment**, two of our valued service providers, recently hosted "The Bridge" Disability Employment Workshop at Optus Stadium, one of our beautiful member venues.

The workshop brought together employers, service providers, and community members to explore practical pathways to employment and foster meaningful conversations about inclusive career opportunities in hospitality and tourism.

Participants shared experiences, discussed challenges, and learned strategies for creating supportive workplaces.

A highlight of the event was our Chairperson, Craig, who spoke about the importance of building diverse and inclusive teams, removing barriers, and supporting people into sustainable employment.

Events like these inspire positive change and strengthen the connections between industry, community, and people with disability.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**2<sup>nd</sup> April**  
Autism Awareness Day

**5<sup>th</sup> April**  
Easter Sunday

**7<sup>th</sup> April**  
World Health Day

**11<sup>th</sup> April**  
World Parkinsons Day

**13<sup>th</sup> April**  
Auslan Day

**25<sup>th</sup> April**  
ANZAC Day

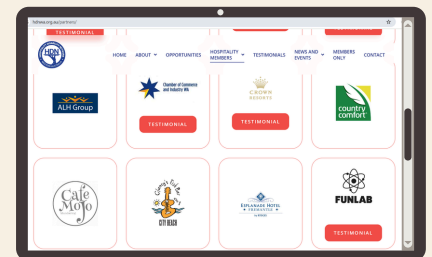
If you have any significant events to share, please feel free to let us know!

## 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 [Navigator@hdnwa.org.au](mailto:Navigator@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.



## DONATE TODAY!

HDNWA now accepts tax-deductible donations.

Your support helps provide free employment services to people living with disability and their families, creating real opportunities and inclusive workplaces.

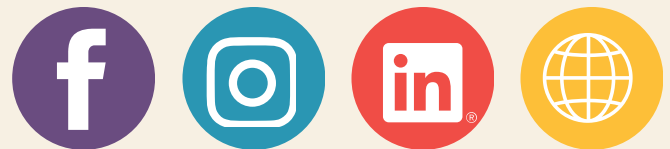
Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.

**Donate via our website.**



## STAY CONNECTED

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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.

