

National NoticeBoard

Newsletter of Australian Association for Families of Children with Disability (AAFCD)

Disability Counts

For those of you who don't like statistics, please accept my apologies for the middle pages of this National NoticeBoard being full of numbers and more numbers, but they are important!

If you are part of a family which has a child or young adult with a disability, you are included in these numbers. The numbers represent families like yours and mine across Australia.

As our newly launched AAFCD pamphlet says: *'Families of children and young adults with a disability include an amazing, diverse range of people and experiences. We share a common bond, yet we are all unique. When we join together, we are a strong force, and we can make a difference.'*

We thought we'd start the year with the Disability Counts 2005 data to give you some perspective of just how many of us there are—in every town, suburb and community across Australia.

Our challenge in 2005 is for us to increase our public visibility and influence, at all levels of community and political decision-making. Whether it's a small article in a local paper or a high profile delegation to Canberra, we need to make the most of every opportunity to put the issues for our families on the national agenda.

How many of us there are is one part of the process of educating the decision-makers, but even more important, is that everyone throughout Australia understands the realities of our lives in a very real, and personal, way.

Before I had a child with a disability, I had no idea of what families who had a child with a disability endured. Like many families, life suddenly found me on a very steep learning curve about disability. In retrospect, I now feel somewhat embarrassed about my lack of attention to disability issues from earlier in life.

Unless people have been directly touched by disability, they can't know what we know. To truly understand the issues for our families, people need access to knowledge about our experiences. And what works best is direct personal contact with real families telling their story exactly 'like it is'.

In the May 2004 National NoticeBoard, we launched the 'What is important to me when I vote?' Postcard Campaign. It's now time for the second stage of this campaign.

If you didn't get around to sending postcards to all your local (federal and state/territory) politicians, please contact me and I'll send you some postcards and other background material.

For those of you who have already sent the postcards, you will probably have received a standard type of reply from your local MP with all sorts of 'spin'. The next step is to follow-up these replies, either by (1) writing back and pointing out the unsatisfactory nature of the spin and the need for them to take a fresh look at the issues and/or (2) requesting a meeting so they can hear your issues first hand. I know it's a big ask, but I am only a phone call away for back-up support.

What moves local MPs the most on disability issues is first-hand knowledge of family experiences from their own electorate. My dream for 2005 is that in every electorate across Australia, not only will MPs continue to get their fair share of our postcards, but that they will also find themselves meeting more families like yours and mine, and be inspired to take action on our behalf.

Helen Johnson, AAFCD Co-ordinator

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'What is important to me when I vote?' Postcard Campaign see www.aafcd.org.au for more details.

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AAFCD

Australian Association for
Families of Children with Disability



Disability Counts 2005

Table 1: Rate of Profound/Severe Disability

Age	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	TOTAL
0-4	2.4	3.2	2.8	1.7	3.8	1.0	3.1	3.2	2.9
5-14	3.0	4.1	5.9	5.8	5.9	3.7	4.7	6.6	4.9
15-24	1.2	1.2	3.3	4.1	2.5	3.1	2.3	1.7	2.2
25-34	1.6	1.6	2.8	3.0	2.5	3.7	2.3	3.4	2.3
35-44	2.8	2.8	4.2	3.9	4.5	3.7	3.7	2.9	3.3
45-54	3.1	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.1	10.9	5.5	5.2	4.9
55-64	6.4	6.9	8.4	9.9	6.8	10.3	8.5	6.4	7.9
TOTAL	2.8	3.3	4.4	4.8	4.4	5.5	4.2	4.2	4.0

Notes: All figures are percentage. Figures derived from numbers estimates contained in the State and Territory tables (data cubes) of the 2003 Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (Catalogue 4430.0). ACT data derived from further modelling of ABS data to provide estimates for specific age groups. NT data based on modelling and averaging of QLD and SA data.

Summary Highlights

- 4% of Australians aged 0-64 have a profound or severe disability, that's one in every 25 people.
- The total number of Australians aged 0-64 with a profound or severe disability is 704,943, including 36,026 aged 0-4, 134,865 aged 5-14 and 62,994 aged 15-24.

Table 2: Number of People with a Profound/Severe Disability

Age	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	TOTAL
0-4	486	13,630	496	4,253	3,374	302	9,495	3,993	36,026
5-14	1,288	36,918	1,944	31,769	11,625	2,476	30,704	18,140	134,865
15-24	626	10,953	1,007	22,589	5,151	2,002	15,806	4,859	62,994
25-34	817	15,547	984	16,538	5,003	2,139	16,727	9,556	67,312
35-44	1,369	27,955	1,381	22,428	10,142	2,556	27,703	8,747	102,280
45-54	1,434	36,449	1,318	25,391	11,021	7,558	37,044	14,572	134,787
55-64	2,061	48,547	1,314	40,852	11,560	5,710	43,594	13,041	166,679
TOTAL	8,802	189,998	8,441	163,820	57,877	22,742	181,074	72,908	704,943

Notes: Figures derived by applying the percentage rates from Table 1 to the latest available population data (June 2004) from ABS Catalogue 3201.0, 'Population By Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories'.

Disability Counts 2005



Table 3: Rate of Disability Incorporating Profound/Severe and Moderate/Mild Disability

Age	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	TOTAL
0-4	2.4	3.2	3.0	2.1	3.8	1.0	3.3	3.5	3.0
5-14	5.4	7.1	7.6	7.3	7.8	5.5	5.8	8.7	6.9
15-24	3.7	3.7	6.2	7.3	5.1	6.0	4.8	4.0	4.8
25-34	3.7	3.7	7.1	6.9	7.2	10.2	5.0	8.7	5.5
35-44	5.9	7.5	10.8	10.7	10.9	9.4	8.4	9.2	8.8
45-54	10.9	14.0	16.9	16.3	17.3	20.5	16.8	17.2	15.9
55-64	22.5	24.5	30.1	31.4	28.6	32.6	26.7	28.1	27.3
TOTAL	7.4	9.0	10.5	11.7	11.8	12.7	10.0	11.3	10.3

Notes: All figures are percentage. Figures derived from numbers estimates contained in the State and Territory tables (data cubes) of the 2003 Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (Catalogue 4430.0). ACT data derived from further modelling of ABS data to provide estimates for specific age groups. NT data based on modelling and averaging of QLD and SA data.

Using these figures

- You are welcome (indeed encouraged!) to cite or reproduce these figures. We would appreciate referencing as follows: Australian Association for Families of Children with Disability (AAFCD), Disability Counts 2005, National NoticeBoard, Edition 17, January 2005.
- Further detail about the Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey of the Australian Bureau of Statistics is available from www.abs.gov.au or by phoning the ABS on 1300 135 070 (local call charge).

Table 4: Number of People with a Profound/Severe or Moderate/Mild Disability

Age	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	TOTAL
0-4	486	13,630	528	5,253	3,374	302	10,408	4,368	38,049
5-14	2,319	63,932	2,504	39,986	15,369	3,680	37,890	23,912	189,591
15-24	1,929	33,770	1,893	40,219	10,509	3,874	32,987	11,434	136,616
25-34	1,890	35,953	2,495	38,037	14,408	5,898	36,364	24,452	159,496
35-44	2,885	74,878	3,550	61,532	24,566	6,493	62,894	27,748	264,547
45-54	5,042	127,570	4,455	86,225	37,386	14,214	113,152	48,201	436,244
55-64	7,247	172,378	4,708	129,571	48,619	18,071	136,938	57,259	574,971
TOTAL	21,799	522,111	20,134	400,823	154,231	52,533	430,332	197,372	1,799,335

Notes: Figures derived by applying the percentage rates from Table 3 to the latest available population data (June 2004) from ABS Catalogue 3201.0, 'Population By Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories'.

AAFCD State/Territory Representatives

ACT
Cheryl Patrick

NT
Bruce Young-Smith

SA
Cale Dalton

VIC
Barbara Alexander AO
Jan De Witte

NSW
Katrina Clark
Kylie Ramstadius

QLD
Leonie McKnight

TAS
Dianne Fugsang

WA
Clara Harris

Contact Helen Johnson, AAFCD Co-ordinator, on freecall 1800 222 660 to be put in contact with your AAFCD State/Territory Representative

People Power



Deborah Locke, Convenor of the NSW State Committee of People Power

Deborah Locke is the Convenor of the NSW State Committee of People Power and is heading the People Power ticket for the NSW Upper House elections due in 2007.

People Power is a relatively new organisation, initially established in the year 2000, and then re-established in 2004 with a "refined sense of mission" (see www.peoplepower.org.au).

People Power describes itself as a new political movement in Australia aiming to empower people who have become invisible in the political system, including people with disabilities, chronic and mental illnesses and their families or carers.

People Power's mission statement outlines core values of: self-help, empowerment, community, smaller government, inclusion, social capital and ethical conduct. Their nine

principles for what government and public policy should be built around include person-centred arrangements (services and institutions should be tailored to meet the personalised needs of individuals and families), and empowerment of individuals and families (transferring resources and power to individuals, families and their agents).

As well as being the parent of a child with a disability (Hayes, aged 8, who has autism, ADHD and an intellectual disability), Deborah is a former detective in the NSW Police Force, who was involved in 'blowing the whistle' on police corruption in the 1990s (see www.whistleblowing.com.au).

New AAFCD Pamphlet—Spreading the Word



The new look National NoticeBoard coincides with the launch of our new AAFCD pamphlet. The three-fold pamphlet includes an easy tear-off panel as a membership form for people to use to join AAFCD.

If you know other families who might like to join, please contact me to order some pamphlets to pass on to them.

We are relying on existing AAFCD family members and service providers to spread the word about the benefits of AAFCD membership and National NoticeBoard.

Membership is FREE for families, and National NoticeBoard is mailed directly to all family members free of charge. (For service providers and professionals, there is a \$15 subscription fee for National NoticeBoard.)

As well as wanting to share the information in National NoticeBoard with as many families as possible, every new member adds to the strength of our voice when we are advocating to politicians and other decision-makers.

Helen Johnson, AAFCD Co-ordinator
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