

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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*For immediate release*

### **Claiming Full Citizenship for People with Disabilities**

Those unable to attend the international 'Claiming Full Citizenship' Conference in Vancouver this October can still benefit from the learning outcomes at a one day forum in Perth at The Boulevard Centre in Floreat on 16 November.

The appropriately titled conference aims to establish the Vancouver Benchmarks – an international statement providing guidance to governments around the world as to policies and actions required to enable people with significant disability challenges to live as full citizens in society.

Attending the conference in Vancouver will be several speakers from Australia, including Dr Ron Chalmers, Director General of the Western Australian Disability Services Commission, along with representatives from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and other Australian agencies and organisations.

Aimed at those working in the WA disability sector and people living with disability (and their supporters), the similarly themed 'Claiming Full Citizenship: Perth Forum', invites participants to share the learning outcomes from the Vancouver conference – particularly the initiatives and innovations being explored in other parts of the world.

Local attendees, including Dr Chalmers, Susan Stanford and Samantha Jenkinson, will share their experiences and highlights from the Vancouver conference and outline how some of the initiatives could be applied in Australia.

Participants in the forum will also have the opportunity to work in small group sessions and identify ways these outcomes could be applied in Western Australia.

Dr Leighton Jay, Human Services Specialist, is hosting the event with support from a range of other organisations that are keen to assist. Leighton is committed to facilitating the empowerment of people who live with significant challenges in their lives.

"The Vancouver Conference has come at a really great time for Australia. I am sure that what we learn will be really useful as the NDIS moves into Full Scheme Rollout. I'm very excited that we can share what we learn with people who can't get to Canada," said Dr Jay.

To book a place at the Perth Forum visit [www.trybooking.com/JEFW](http://www.trybooking.com/JEFW)

For more information, contact Debra Sommerfeld at People With Disabilities WA on 9485 8900 or Mary Butterworth at Developmental Disability WA on 9420 7230.

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