**Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) Women With Disability Focus Group Information Sheet**

[**Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA)**](https://wwda.org.au/)**,** [**Harmony Alliance – Migrant & Refugee Women for Change (Harmony Alliance)**](https://harmonyalliance.org.au/)**, and** [**National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA)**](https://www.neda.org.au/) are conducting three focus groups for culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) women, girls, woman-identifying and non-binary people with disability living in Australia. We use the term ‘CaLD’ to include any person who belongs or identifies as being from a different cultural and/or linguistic background, including differences in cultural/ethnic identity, language, country of birth, religion, heritage/ancestry, national origin, and/or race and colour. This term does not include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and does not aim to provide an absolute definition to what CaLD.

To participate, you must be aged 15 years or over. If you are under 18, you will need the permission of your parent or guardian to participate.

Focus groups are small groups of people having a discussion about a particular issue. We are running these focus groups because we want to hear your stories, experiences, and ideas about what can be done to improve access to supports and services.

The **aim** of these focus groups is that you can share your experiences and to identify barriers that you face when accessing disability related supports and services. The consultations will have a specific focus on women and gender diverse people with disability from CaLD backgrounds who live in Australia.

**The focus groups will be held via Zoom on:**

* WWDA – Monday, 9 May 2022 3:00pm – 5:00pm AEST
* Harmony Alliance – Tuesday, 28 June 2022 12:30pm – 2:30pm AEST
* NEDA – Friday, 15 July 2022 10:00am – 12:00pm AEST

You can share anything that is important to you, for example, you can talk about issues or challenges you have faced; any barriers that have stopped you from accessing supports and services; your experiences with accessing and using supports and services; or any thoughts or ideas you have to improve these systems. We really want to hear honest opinions and for you to share openly in this forum.

What you tell us will help WWDA, Harmony Alliance and NEDA know what’s important to speak up on for CaLD women and non-binary people with disability. We won’t tell anybody your name and will always ask for permission if we would like to share your story. **It is always your right to decide what you share and how you share it.**

During the focus groups we will be taking notes and making an audio and visual recording of the sessions. The notes and recordings will only be used by WWDA, Harmony Alliance and NEDA to help us remember what you say and to make sure we correctly record all of your stories, experiences and ideas in our research.

We acknowledge that sharing your stories and experiences may be hard. We will have a wellbeing officer at the forum to provide support if needed and make referrals for you to receive extra support if required.

Each focus group will have staff facilitators from WWDA, Harmony Alliance, or NEDA present. Each focus group will also have a facilitator from the CaLD disability community available throughout the consultation.

Each focus group will be captioned. If you need an Auslan interpreter or have any other accessibility requirements or support needs to join, you can let us know in the consent form below. If you need an interpreter in another language, you can also let us know.

The information that you share will be used as part of a final report by WWDA, Harmony Alliance and NEDA. The report will not include your personal name, except in the list of participants (**only** if you agree). We will send you a copy of the report before we make it publicly available on the WWDA, Harmony Alliance, and NEDA websites.

We may also use some of the information you provide us for promotional purposes, including on social media and in newsletters. The recordings themselves will not be shared. We will not share your story without your permission. If you consent to us using your quotes or story, all details that could be used to identify you will be removed.

Participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part in this project, you do not have to. If you choose to participate and, at any stage during the project, change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project.

We acknowledge the time, energy and expertise community members are often asked to share with organisations like WWDA, Harmony Alliance and NEDA. To show our appreciation for your participation in this focus group, **you will receive $50 in the form of a gift card, to a supermarket likes Coles or Woolworths**. If you have any questions, you can contact the WWDA Policy and Project Officer, **Mali Hermans** at **project@wwda.org.au** or on **0467 813 094**.

You can use the National Relay Service to call Mali. Call 1800 555 677 and ask for 0467 813 094.

Need a translator? Call 131 450 and ask for 0467 813 094.

Thank you for participating!

**The WWDA/Harmony Alliance/NEDA project team**

Mali Hermans | Policy & Projects Officer | WWDA

Tess Moodie | Policy & Projects Officer | WWDA

Bridgette Charalambou | Placement Student | WWDA

Heidi La Paglia | Director of Policy and Programs | WWDA
Nuria Alarcon Lopez | Manager – Gender | Harmony Alliance

Blanca Ramirez | National Manager - Systemic Advocacy & Policy | NEDA

Ana Gonçalves | Research Officer | NEDA

**Focus Group Consent Form**

**Name:**

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**Age:**

**Address (we will send your gift card here):**

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**Email:**

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**Contact person (optional):**

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**To consent to participate in the consultation, please indicate whether you agree/disagree with the following:**

* I agree / disagree to take part in the focus group.
* I agree / disagree to allow WWDA, Harmony Alliance, and NEDA to audio / audio and video record the focus group.
* I agree / disagree that WWDA, Harmony Alliance, and NEDA can include my quotes, comments and suggestions in the final report.
* I understand that my name, image or any identifying information will **not** be next
to my comments in the final report. Agree / disagree.
* I agree / disagree that WWDA, Harmony Alliance, and NEDA can write my name in the list of participants in the final report. This list is only to recognise my participation and will not attribute specific quotes or information to me.
* I agree / disagree that WWDA, Harmony Alliance, and NEDA can use the information in the report for public statements in the future.
* I agree / disagree that WWDA, Harmony Alliance, and NEDA can use the information I provide for promotional purposes like social media. I understand that I will not be identified when this information is shared.
* I understand that WWDA, Harmony Alliance, and NEDA will not give my personal information to anyone else, in accordance with the [WWDA privacy policy](https://wwda.org.au/privacy/#:~:text=WWDA%20takes%20all%20reasonable%20steps,so%20at%20your%20own%20risk.) and [Migration Council Australia privacy policy](https://migrationcouncil.org.au/privacy-policy/), to which Harmony Alliance is bound. Agree / disagree.

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 **Signature / Name Date**

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**If under 18, parent or guardian signature Date**

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