

Testimonials from family members, volunteers and carers;

*"Fishers with Disabilities helped our clients to gain meaningful and enjoyable experiences in an area that is of interest to them and in the past has been impossible for them to participate in".* **Carer**

*"Working with the participants over the last 10 years has been extremely rewarding and it fills me with a sense of pride that I have made a difference. Fishers with Disabilities is a community of participants, volunteers, carers and families that all work towards the same goal of providing recreational fishing opportunities for people with disabilities. The work we do enriches the lives of our members, their families, their friends and their carers"* **Volunteer**

*"Our son loves going to Fishers with Disabilities. He enjoys all the company, being outdoors and loves it even more when he catches a fish!"*

**Family Member**

If you would like to receive any more information about getting involved, please go to:

Website: [www.fisherswithdisabilities.org.au](http://www.fisherswithdisabilities.org.au)

or contact Coordinator, Di Bruce on **0424 417073** or [di.cherylbruce@fish.wa.gov.au](mailto:di.cherylbruce@fish.wa.gov.au)



Fishers with Disabilities Assoc. Inc.

Di Bruce  
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## FISHERS WITH DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION INC

*"I was amazed at the enjoyment people with disabilities found in doing something most of us take for granted. Regardless of ability or skill, both our participant or volunteer alike are so happy just being outdoors and enjoying the experience. I wanted to be able to help people with disabilities do things for themselves. I thought about all the people who have never been able to fish because of their challenges, and those who thought they could never fish again"*

Neville Thomas –  
Fishers with Disabilities Assoc. Inc. Founder



Fishing is one of the most popular recreational activities in Australia. Every year, over 600,000 West Australians bait-up and cast a line. However, in 2000 it was evident many barriers were in place preventing participants from experiencing the joys of fishing. This awareness led to the development and growth of the current programs to provide opportunities for children and adults in the community to have the freedom of being outdoors to enjoy the excitement, reward and camaraderie of fishing.

The Fishers with Disabilities Association Inc (FwDAI) provides a range of programs and has an advocacy role in promoting inclusive participation in recreational fishing for the community.

Our objectives are reached through specially structured, fully supervised fishing activities in areas with disabled access, or from one of the purpose built boats, the “Nev Thomas” and the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club “Mistral”! Independent participation in fishing is aided by the use of specially designed motorised reels. All programs focus on ability rather than disability.

The “Nev Thomas” and “Mistral” are purpose built vessels, equipped to carry participants with disabilities off shore to where the fish are biting!

The vision of the FwDAI is simple;

**“To enhance the quality of life and self esteem of people with disabilities”**

...read on about becoming involved



### About Participating.....

Fishers with Disabilities Assoc. Inc. recognise the need to ensure recreational fishing is accessible and affordable to all in the community, regardless of ability, skill level or experience.

With the support of a large team of volunteers and thanks to our sponsors, Fishers with Disabilities Assoc. Inc. deliver both jetty and boat programs regularly in the Perth metro areas and regional centres free of charge.

With modified fishing rods, motorised reels and vessel, we can accommodate children and adults with disabilities.

All volunteers have Working with Children Cards and receive regular training to ensure the safety and well-being of the participants and carers.

If you are keen to participate either independently, or through your Care Organisation or if direct with FwDAI, it is a very simple process. Simply email your expression of interest to the contact details over the page and nominate the date and activity you wish to participate. A representative will confirm your booking, and forward any relevant information about how to prepare for your fishing experience.

### What benefits there are to fishing....

Come along to one of our activities if you;

- **Enjoy the outdoors.**
- **Enjoy meeting people.**
- **Enjoy working as part of a team.**
- **Have never tried fishing before**

Or simply

- **Want to give it a go!!!**

All activities are provided at no cost, however we do request that carers accompany the participants and play an active role in the overall wellbeing of the individual.

Trained volunteers will offer the training and specialised skills in catching fish and ensure the safety of all participants and carers at the activity.

The contact person nominated will be notified in the event of a cancellation of activity due to inclement weather.

### Proudly supported by



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Fisheries**