

## Abstract

Research and statistics show that Australian women living with disabilities (WWD) are facing multiple layers of disadvantage with regards to labour force participation, compared to women without disability, or men with disabilities (MWD). The Government of Australia endeavours to improve the employment of people with disabilities (PWD) through legislative change. However, there is a lack of research assessing NGOs (Non-profit Organisations) roles in supporting WWD into work in Australia. The purpose of this research is to assess how two NGOs, namely Women with Disabilities in Australia (WWDA) and Disability Employment Australia (DEA) have supported WWD to secure employment during the period of 2014-2018. This analysis is informed by Marxist Feminism, Intersectionality and Feminist Disability Theory, and analysed the NGOs across 7 key themes: 1) awareness raising to strengthen employment opportunities for WWD, 2) inclusion WWD in their activities, advocacy and reports, 3) intersectionality in diverse cultural and social background groups 4) partnership development to strengthen their voice and results, 5) discrimination against disability in employment, 6) telling WWDs' stories: mapping the importance of employment for WWD 7) types of disability with different barriers in employment. In the thesis, I argue that while NGOs have been partially successful in their strategies to support WWD to gain employment, WWD in Australia are not sufficiently supported through this work by NGOs and continue to be disadvantaged due to a lack of gender responsive action. Further focus on gender, disability and employment of NGOs, representative of the various disability groups is needed, to boost the labour rates for WWD in Australia.