

Anita Gustafsson
Chief Executive Officer
Executive Managing Director
P O Box 228
ROCKINGHAM CITY WA 6968

29 July 2019

To whom it may concern:

**RE: ENQUIRY OF ASSISTANCE TO HAVE DISABILITY AID DOGS PTY LIMITED
NATIONALLY ACCREDITED**

**NOT ASSISTANCE DOG INTERNATIONAL (A.D.I.) AFFILIATED
NOT GUIDE DOG ASSOCIATION AFFILIATED
NOT HEARING DOG ASSOCIATION AFFILIATED**

In 2012 Minister Roger Cook and his staff were kind enough to assist me with my Paws for Diabetics dog Mika with access issues with Transperth. I have since left this organisation and lost Mika to meningitis over 5 years ago. I now have a Miniature Schnauzer, Silka, accredited with Disability Aid Dogs who assists me with my diabetes as Mika had.

My name is Anita Margareta Gustafsson, and as of July 2016 I became the Secretary and Managing Director of Disability Aid Dogs Pty Limited; National Not for Profit Organisation; National Community Service Organisation and self-accrediting organisation who train and accredit various disabled handlers and their dogs to give our handlers a better quality of life.

August 2018 I stepped back to Chief Executive Officer, and Victoria Pinn took the Secretary role.

Prior to my appointment in this organisation, Alex Van Oeveren was the founder and the driving force of Disability Aid Dogs since 1994, but due to serious health issues decided to pass the company onto the newer generation of disabled persons to work into the future.

Alex lost his battle with Cancer in 2017. We as a team, are so proud to take Alex and Connie's hard work and devotion to Disability Aid Dogs for the past 25 odd years, into the future and thank them so much from the past, present and future clients of Disability Aid Dogs.

Our dedicated Team of experienced volunteers, having been involved for several years, ensure all current and future clients of our dedicated support and assistance.

Our team of volunteers are:

Anita Gustafsson

Chief Executive Officer

Managing Director

Western Australia State and Regional Manager

Senior Masters International Diploma Dog Trainer; Behaviourist and Assessor

Victoria Pinn

Secretary

Director

Queensland Urban Manager

International Diploma Dog Trainer, Behaviourist and Assessor

Garven Wright

Director of Training

Director

Queensland State and Regional Manager

Senior Masters International Diploma Dog Trainer; Behaviourist and Assessor

Rhana Smith

Senior Trainer

Director

New South Wales State and Regional Manager

Senior Masters International Diploma Dog Trainer; Behaviourist and Assessor

Didier (Henri) Marchand

Treasurer

Accredited Assessor

With our International Training and Assessing Standards for Assistance Dogs, we have been trained to recognise the natural abilities of the dogs and their respectful environment. We don't teach dogs to do 'tricks' on command for reward. This vastly understates the canine's superior sensory ability and overstates the human authority. With this form of training, the bond developed between puppy and trainer is broken when the dog is handed over to the disabled handler, causing enormous trauma in the mind of the puppy (abandonment means death) and at this stage the disabled handler is supposed to pick up the pieces and have at their disposal an operational assistance dog. This form of training may work out for the teams, but the probability of failure is enormous.

There are many other facets of Assistance Dogs Service, and we base our methods on the raising of young dogs in a secure, loving and respectful environment with their handler- developing an unbreakable bond between them. The far superior sensory ability of our canine companions is focused on. We promote the handlers' awareness of this pre-programmed, instinctive behaviour and the positive

reinforcement is the only reward needed for the dog to assist or alert their handler as required with various medical issues. This awareness in the pups is not a 'taught' behaviour. We don't train the dogs for the handlers as this breaks the pack that the pup has now been brought into.

We have proven these methods are far superior and our clientele live with a totally enhanced lifestyle of freedom and more independence for their natural bond with their dog.

Our organisation has clientele with the following medical issues (but not limited to) their dogs assist with:

- 1.Diabetes awareness
- 2.Epilepsy awareness and assistance
- 3.Blood Pressure awareness
- 4.Broad Spectrum Autism assistance
- 5.Bi-polar disorder assistance
- 6.Split Personality disorder assistance and awareness
- 7.Physical support (M.S.; chronic physical defects etc)
- 8.Physical support for wheelchair bound persons
- 9.P.T.S.D. ex personal trauma
- 10.P.T.S.D. ex-military

Please note, we do not train for Guide or Hearing Assistance.

As State and Federal Laws are changing vastly in the Assistance Dog field, we respectfully request Disability Aid Dogs Pty Limited becomes a Nationally Accredited Organisation for our present and future clientele. We have no affiliation with any other Assistance Dog Organisation as our proven training philosophy does not conform to other organisations methods. Disability Aid Dogs wish to remain our own proven entity. We want to be able to help our Disabled persons into the future with the safety of National Recognition.

As we operate as a Not for Profit Organisation and not a registered charity; and we don't retain the ownership of the Assistance Dog, we operate on minimal funds from our clients. At this point in time, to have the teams put through the full course, including their Public Access Test (usually conducted within 8 to 12 months from application) we charge our clients around \$1,800.00 with ongoing costs for the life of the dog with annual renewal of their accreditation and Public Access Tests.

Please advise as to how we go about accessing this accreditation and what documentation is required from us.

Should your office be unable to assist with our application enquiry, would you please advise of the correct authority.

Thank you for your time in perusing this request, and I look forward to your reply in kind.

Yours sincerely,

Anita Gustafsson

