



Therese Sands is Director of [Disabled People's Organisations Australia](#) (DPO Australia), an alliance of four Australian DPOs – [People with Disability Australia \(PWDA\)](#), [Women With Disabilities Australia \(WWDA\)](#), [First Peoples Disability Network \(FPDN\)](#) and the [National Ethnic Disability Alliance \(NEDA\)](#).

She has worked 25 years in education, policy development, capacity building and advocacy in the area of disability and human rights. A key area of her work focuses on engaging with international human rights mechanisms to progress the rights of people with disability. She has participated on NGO working groups preparing parallel reports under CRC, CEDAW and for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). She coordinated the Australian NGO parallel report for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and co-led the NGO delegation to the UN for the CRPD review of Australia in 2013.

Therese has worked with DPOs in the Asia Pacific region on a range of capacity building projects, including delivering training on the CRPD to DPOs and government representatives in Pacific Island countries and training and support to Asian DPOs on the development of CRPD parallel reports.

Therese has a Master of Human Rights Law and Policy. She has a strong commitment to organisations constituted and led by people with disability, and is a Life Member of People with Disability Australia (PWDA) and a member of Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA).