



Mary Walsh

OAM, CPA, AIFS, JP(Q)

Brief CV

Mary Walsh is a wife, mother of 4, grandmother of 9 and great-grandmother of 4. She holds a business and local government degree from USQ, has had a busy life as an accountant, financial adviser, elected local government councilor (11 years), appointments to various advocacy and advisory boards on disability and local government matters, at local, State and national levels. She also has an extensive national profile in disability, community and social issues and, having always lived in regional Australia, brings a regional perspective to most issues.

Now retired, Mary continues her role as a family/disability advocate

- ❖ 1998 Telstra Businesswoman of the Year – Qld, small business
- ❖ 2008 – member of the National 2020 Summit, Canberra, representing the regional communities stream
- ❖ 2005 Awarded the Order of Australia Medal for “*services to people with disabilities, particularly through advocacy and advisory roles, and to the community of Bundaberg, Qld*”
- ❖ 1995 Inducted as a Paul Harris Fellow to Rotary International “*in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world, particularly those with disabilities and the people of Bundaberg, Qld.*”
- ❖ 2004 - As President of Australian Parent Advocacy (and one of its founders in 1990) represented the workers of Australia’s business services (previously sheltered workshops) before the AIRC when the business services sector, with Unions, negotiated a “safety wage” which incorporated the introduction of productivity based wages and an acceptable assessment tool.
- ❖ 2003-2005 – Member of National Family Carers Voice – advisory body to Federal Government.

As someone who has “lived” disability – not worked in it – I bring a factual family/carer perspective to the disability sector.