



Council for Intellectual Disability

## Information Sheet

# Putting disability inclusion at the heart of government

Day by day, people with disabilities face major barriers to leading lives in which they are fully included in the community. For people with intellectual disability, these barriers include complex and confusing government information and websites, very few opportunities to work in the public service, unwelcoming local schools, a confusing public transport system and overrepresentation in the criminal justice system.

The NSW Government has clear leadership responsibility for addressing these barriers, under:

- The Disability Inclusion Act with its State Disability Inclusion Plan and Disability Inclusion Action Plans of state and local government agencies.
- The Australian Disability Strategy which all Australian governments have committed to.

Leadership of NSW Government action on inclusion currently falls within the responsibility of the Department of Communities and Justice.

This leadership role should be transferred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC).

Leadership of disability inclusion by DPC is consistent with its core role:

“We drive big ideas at the heart of government.”

DPC supports the NSW Premier and Ministers by actions including:

- “Partnering with NSW government agencies... to ensure that services are delivered... to the community’s expectations.”
- “Coordinating the initiatives of Ministers and their agencies to achieve the government’s targets.”
- “Working with the federal government and other state and territory governments on national reforms.”

<https://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about-us/about-the-department>

DPC would have more clout than DCJ in leading whole of government action on disability inclusion.

CID says that disability inclusion is a big idea at the heart of government. Transferring leadership for disability inclusion to DPC can make that big idea happen.

