



Council for Intellectual Disability

Joint position statement

Putting disability inclusion at the heart of government

We call on political parties contesting the March 2023 NSW election to commit to transferring leadership of disability inclusion from the Department of Communities and Justice to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Day by day, people with disabilities face major barriers to leading lives in which they are fully included in the community.

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 disability inclusion currently falls within the responsibility of the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).

This leadership role should be transferred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). This transfer would reflect the fundamental importance of disability inclusion across all government agencies and the stated role of DPC to lead and coordinate whole of government action.

Leadership of disability inclusion by DPC is consistent with its core role: “We drive big ideas at the heart of government.”

DPC says that its roles include supporting the NSW Premier and Ministers by:

- “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.”

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.

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

