



Council for Intellectual Disability

Open letter to the premier, opposition leader and other political candidates in NSW

An important measure of any society is the extent to which it is inclusive of people with disability. The NSW government has a key role here under the Australian Disability Strategy and the Disability Inclusion Act NSW. There is much to be done by the government.

In this letter, we support the call for action of the Council for Intellectual Disability (CID) on three particular barriers to inclusion that face people with intellectual disability:

1. Inclusion in government communications - Make government information relevant to the day to day lives of people with intellectual disability easy to find, easy to understand and easy to action. This includes providing relevant information in Easy Read format and supplementing websites and apps with phone and in person options for those who need them.
2. Inclusive transport - Ensure cognitive access to public transport through measures such as accessible communications, user testing of new transport infrastructure by people with intellectual disability, and supporting the inclusion of cognitive access measures in the national Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport.
3. Employment of people with intellectual disability in the public sector - As part of meeting the Premier's priority for 5.6% of public sector employees to be people with disability, there needs to be equity within that 5.6% for people with different kinds of disability, notably people with intellectual disability.

We also support the call by CID and other leading community organisations for the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to take leadership of government action on disability inclusion. DPC says that its core role is to "drive big ideas at the heart of government". We agree with CID and its allies that disability inclusion is a big idea at the heart of government and that DPC would carry much greater authority to lead that action than any single government agency.

Fiona Mackenzie AM
Chairperson, Council for Intellectual Disability

Robyn Kruk AO
Former Director-General, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Former board member, National Disability Insurance Agency

John Walsh AO
Associate Commissioner on the Productivity Commission Inquiry into
Disability Care and Support, and former board member, National Disability
Insurance Agency

Eileen Baldry AO
Deputy Vice Chancellor Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Professor of Criminology, UNSW

Graeme Innes AM
Former Disability Discrimination Commissioner

Robert Strike AM
Former Chairperson, Council for Intellectual Disability

Professor Michael McDaniel AO
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement)
Director, Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, UTS
Sydney

David Richmond AO
Former Secretary, Department of Health NSW

David Bowen
Inaugural CEO, National Disability Insurance Agency

Joanna Quilty
CEO, NCOSS

Lisa Annese
CEO, Diversity Council Australia
Dr Manisha Amin
CEO, Centre for Inclusive Design

Sebastian Zagarella
CEO, People with Disability Australia

June Riemer
Deputy CEO, First Peoples Disability Network

Skye Kakoschke-Moore
CEO, Children and Young People with Disability Australia

Catherine McAlpine
CEO, Inclusion Australia

Arthur Bozikas OAM
CEO, Self Advocacy Sydney

Susan Laguna
CEO, Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association

Cecile Sullivan Elder
CEO, Family Advocacy

Emily Caska
CEO, Down Syndrome NSW

Janene Cootes AM
Executive Officer, Intellectual Disability Rights Service

Mark Grierson
CEO, Advocacy Law Alliance

Taylor Bellamo
Executive Officer, Action for People with Disability

Kim Roots
Executive Officer, Side by Side Advocacy

Ben Foley
Executive Officer, Regional Disability Advocacy Service

Linda Maidens
Coordinator, Newell Advocacy

Ace Bonato
Coordinator, Disability and Diversity Alliance
Lesley Hall Award for Lifetime Achievement 2022

Andrew Vodic
Executive Officer, Community Disability Advocacy Hunter

Elly Desmarchelier
Disability Rights Campaigner

Shu Hua Chan
Former Chair, Council for Intellectual Disability

Jeanette Moss AM
Parent advocate and former Chair, Council for Intellectual Disability

Belinda Epstein-Frisch AM
Family advocate

Christine Agius OAM
Northern Sydney Region Families and Friends of People with Disability

Anthony Mulholland
Member, Accessible Transport Advisory Committee
Change Making Award, National Awards for Disability Leadership 2018

Jennifer Newman
Wiradjuri woman, story teller and Vice Chairperson, Council for Intellectual Disability

Dr Cynthia Roberts
President, Fragile X Association of Australia

Tim Ferguson
IncludeAbility Ambassador, Australian Human Rights Commission

Elena Katrakis
CEO, Carers NSW

John Engeler
CEO, Shelter NSW

Robert Griew
Director, Think Change Resolve
Former NDIS Complaints Commissioner

Laurie Leigh
CEO, National Disability Services

Lin Hatfield Dodds
CEO, The Benevolent Society

Kerry Stubbs,
Chair, Achieve Australia

Martin Laverty
CEO, Aruma

Liz Forsyth
CEO, Northcott

Claire Robbs
CEO, Life Without Barriers

Rob White
CEO, Cerebral Palsy Alliance

David Swain
CEO, Endeavour Foundation

Margaret Bowen
CEO, The Disability Trust

Karen Ingram and Andrew Hyland
Chair and CEO
Sunnyfield disAbility Services

Julia Squire
CEO, Ability Options

Melissa Simcoe
Head of Customer and Community, Disability Services, Australian Unity

Phil Tuckerman AM
CEO, Job Support

Sylvana Mahmic
CEO, Plumtree
Member, Independent Advisory Council, NDIA

Damon Williams
Partner, SAL Consulting

Nicola Hayhoe
CEO, The Housing Connection

Nigel Stone
CEO, Aspire

Philip Petrie
CEO, Allevia

Stephen Doley
CEO, Challenge Community Services

Melanie Andrews
CEO, Woodville Alliance

Andrew Daly
CEO, Dare Disability Support

David Kneeshaw
CEO, Unisson Disability

Barbel Winter
Managing Director, Futures Upfront

Jeff Scobie
CEO, Macarthur Disability Services

Morgan Fitzpatrick
CEO, Koorana Child and Family Services

Kathy Graham
CEO, Hunter Carers

Denise Heath
Nepean Area Disabilities Organisation

Kerry Dominish
CEO EarlyEd – early intervention for children with disability

Robyn Smith OAM
CEO, Sport Inclusion Australia and Virtus Oceania Asia Games 2022

Pierre Comis
CEO, Special Olympics Australia

Professor Christine Bigby
President, Australian Society on Intellectual Disability
Director, Living with Disability Research Centre, La Trobe University

Gail Mulcair
CEO, Speech Pathology Australia

Professor Nathan Wilson
School of Nursing and Midwifery, Western Sydney University, President of
the Professional Association for Nurses in Developmental Disability, Australia
(PANDDA)

Corene Strauss
CEO, Australian Network on Disability

Professor Simon Darcy
UTS Business School & UTS Disability Research Network
University of Technology Sydney

Associate Professor Mary-Ann O'Donovan
Executive Director, Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney
Professor Jennifer Smith-Merry
Director, Centre for Disability Research and Policy, University of Sydney

Julian Trollor
Head, Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry
Professor and NHMRC Leadership Fellow, UNSW Medicine & Health

Eric Emerson
Emeritus Professor of Disability and Health Research, Lancaster University
Honorary Professor, Flinders University and University of Sydney

Chris Cunneen
Professor of Criminology, Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and
Research, University of Technology Sydney

Susan Hayes AO
Professor Emeritus, Sydney School of Medicine

Trevor Parmenter AM
Professor Emeritus, Sydney School of Medicine
Past President, International Association for the Study of Intellectual Disability

Emeritus Professor Terry Carney AO
Past President, International Academy of Law and Mental Health

Professor Emerita Gwynnyth Llewellyn,
Co-Head, WHO Collaborating Centre for Strengthening Rehabilitation
Capacity in Health Systems
Co-Director, NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence Disability and Health

Sally Robinson
Professor of Disability and Community Inclusion, Flinders University
Formerly Associate Professor, Southern Cross University

Professor kylie valentine
Director, Social Policy Research Centre and Centre for Social Research in
Health, UNSW

Professor Karen Fisher
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Helen Dickinson
Professor of Public Sector Research, UNSW

Professor Erin Wilson
Uniting Chair in Community Services Innovation
Swinburne University of Technology

David Levinson
Professor of Transport, University of Sydney

Jackie Leach Skully
Director, Disability Innovation Institute
Professor of Bioethics, UNSW

Associate Professor Nicole Matthews
Media and cultural studies, Macquarie University

Associate Professor Phillippa Carnemolla
Inclusive design, University of Technology Sydney

Associate Professor Dinesh Wadiwel
Socio-legal studies and human rights, University of Sydney

Dr Elizabeth Humphrys
Political Economist and Head of Social and Political Sciences, UTS School of
Communication

Dr Christopher Standen
Research Fellow, Applied Urban Development, UNSW

Phil Foreman AM
Emeritus Professor and former Dean of Education, University of Newcastle

Iva Strnadová
Professor of Special Education and Disability Studies and Academic Lead
Research, Disability Innovation Institute, UNSW

Professor Bronwyn Hemsley,
Head of Speech Pathology, University of Technology Sydney

Roger Stancliffe
Professor Emeritus of Intellectual Disability
University of Sydney

Leanne Dowse
Emeritus Professor in Disability Studies, UNSW

Professor Emerita Patricia O'Brien
Sydney School of Medicine

Dr Ariella Meltzer
Research Fellow, UNSW

Dr Lis Kramer
Deputy Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, University of Sydney

Roger West AM
Former President, Guardianship Tribunal NSW
Former Community Services Commissioner NSW

Nick O'Neill
Former President, Guardianship Tribunal NSW

Jonathon Hunyor
CEO, Public Interest Advocacy Centre

Professor Simon Rice OAM
Kim Santow Chair of Law and Social Justice
University of Sydney Law School

Dr Linda Steele
Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney

Amelia Thorpe
Associate Professor, Law and Justice, UNSW

Graeme Smith
Former Public Guardian, NSW

John Le Breton
Former Director, Office of the Public Guardian
Former Director, Victim Services NSW

Anita Tang
Advocacy Advisor and Campaign Coach
Impact 25 - Not for profit most influential people list 2014

Signatories as at 24 January 2023

Contact: Jim Simpson
Senior Advocate, Council for Intellectual Disability
jim@cid.org.au
0418 635630

