

10 March 2023

Jim Simpson
Senior Advocate
Council for Intellectual Disability

Sent via: jim@cid.org.au

Dear Mr Simpson

Council for Intellectual Disability 2023 Election Policy Platform

I refer to the Council for Intellectual Disability 'Everyday for Everyone' campaign.

I support equity and inclusion for everyone and share your concern that more work is needed to ensure people with intellectual disability can undertake everyday tasks we all should be able to do like travelling, get fair employment and live independently. Your campaign asks are modest and would make a big difference to people's lives, while also contributing to the wider economy.

I am sorry to learn about the challenges people with intellectual disability face accessing government information, services and forms. Constituents are increasingly reporting concerns about overly complicated processes to get information or make applications with the need for various usernames, passwords, pins, security questions, separate accounts and downloaded apps. Alternative options must be made available to ensure those who cannot navigate this complex system are not left behind and I will call for a plan to provide inclusive communication for people with intellectual disability that is established in collaboration with people with lived experience. I share your view that transport accessibility extends to cognitive accessibility and we need to improve access to timetable information, wayfinding, and ticket purchases and top-ups to meet our obligations. A disability inclusion fund that provides grants for disability inclusion upgrades would help accelerate achieving these important outcomes.

Good health is fundamental to wellbeing and I support your calls to ensure the health system can better ensure people with intellectual disability get the health care they need through staff training, ongoing specialised health teams and new funds for expert psychiatrists.

People with intellectual disability should be permitted to make decisions about their life for themselves and I support a transition away from the state guardianship model to one of supported decision-making. I will call on the next Attorney General to establish a working party for action on the Law Reform Commission report.

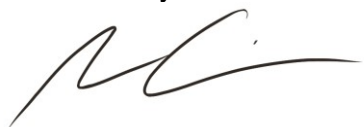
Everyone should have the opportunity to obtain well remunerated and meaningful employment without discrimination. Segregating people with intellectual disability for lower paid work is not only unfair but thwarts innovation and a dynamic economy. The public service provides the opportunity to provide employment opportunities to people with intellectual disability and demonstrate the wider economic benefits. I will call on the next government to ensure it achieves the 5.6 percent disability employment goal it has committed and ensure that people with different disabilities are included, with a strategy to employ people with intellectual disability in at least one percent of roles.



Disability inclusion is a government priority that should be implemented under a whole-of-government approach and if I am re-elected I will call on whoever is in government to transfer responsibility to the Department of Premier and Cabinet. I hope that higher level coordination will help achieve the outcomes you have requested.

I hope the next parliament improves inclusion of people with intellectual disability.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AG', written in a cursive style.

Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney