

Response from the Labor Party to the NSW election commitments sought by the Council for Intellectual Disability

Thank you for CID's ongoing and longstanding advocacy for people with disability, particularly people with intellectual disability.

You have requested a formal response from NSW Labor to the election commitments sought by the signatories to the "Everyday for Everyone" ('E4E') campaign and CID's specific commitments.

I'm proud that a Labor government will be committed to making NSW a leader in disability inclusion and education. We will take a whole-of-government approach to improving disability inclusion and accessibility, designing and delivering programs across education, employment, healthcare and tourism.

Please be assured that, if we are unable to commit to a specific request prior to the election, it does not mean that we will not progress it in government.

In relation to the E4E campaign:

1. Leadership of disability inclusion – Labor understands why this is being sought, but does not support the transfer to DPC. Labor will have a Minister for Disability Inclusion who will be a strong advocate and who will take a whole of government approach to ensuring NSW becomes a leader in disability inclusion and employment.
2. Inclusion in communications - Agreed. Labor will work towards making all government documents that are relevant to people with intellectual disability, in Easy Read by 2025, including developing an Easy Read Style Guide in partnership with people with intellectual disability.
3. Inclusive employment – Agreed. A Labor government will partner with Get Skilled Access to work with government departments to improve recruitment and retention of people with disability, including people with intellectual disability. The Coalition Government had a target of 5.6 per cent of its total workforce identifying as having a disability. Under the Liberals, it hasn't been higher than 2.5 per cent since 2018. Labor is committed to reaching this target.
4. Inclusive Transport – Agreed. Our commitments in relation to inclusive communications and employment will address these aspects.

In relation to specific CID requests:

1. Establishment of disability inclusion fund – Labor recognises the need and supports the request in principle, but cannot make a specific commitment from Opposition.

2. Reform of Guardianship Act 1987– Agreed. Labor will establish a government working party, alongside community representatives, to advise on the Law Reform Commission Review of the Act.
3. Health of people with intellectual disability – Labor understands that there is a lot of work to be done in government to address the stark health inequalities experienced by people with intellectual disability. A Labor government will expand the delivery of an inclusive healthcare program to 10 hospitals, including at least 5 regional hospitals, and work closely with CID and stakeholders to improve access and outcomes in public health services.

Labor is committed to serving the 1.37 million people living with disability across NSW, but we cannot deliver on our commitments unless we form government. So we will keep working hard until 25 March 2023 to change the government, because we know that our communities, and those you advocate on behalf of, will pay the price if we don't.

[Kate Washington MP](#)

[Member for Port Stephens](#)

[Shadow Minister for Family & Community Services](#)

[Shadow Minister for Disability Inclusion](#)

14 March 2023