

29 September 2023

Council for Intellectual Disability

Media Release

CID welcomes Final Report of the Disability Royal Commission

CID welcomes the Final Report of the Disability Royal Commission (DRC) today and we thank everyone who courageously gave evidence.

“The Disability Royal Commission has broken our hearts. We have heard testimony after testimony about the terrible violence and abuse experienced by people with disability. We have heard about the deadly discrimination against people with intellectual disability in our hospitals and health services, and of people with disability being excluded from their communities. We know the problems, the Commission has made its recommendations. Now we need action from government.” Fiona McKenzie AM, Chair, Council for Intellectual Disability.

“We have waited many years for this report and its recommendations, so we will be taking the time to go through them thoroughly before providing detailed comment. Clearly there are some excellent recommendations that CID will be supporting while there are others that need improvement.” Georgina Reynhout, CEO, Council for Intellectual Disability.

We are pleased, for example, about the strong focus on reforming guardianship laws to introduce a new national supported decision making framework and the recommendation to government to take steps to review and reform other laws concerning decision making.

The stronger employment targets for new public service employment to 7% by 2025 and 9% by 2030 align with CID’s advocacy to increase the currently very low disability employment rates in the public service. We particularly applaud the Chair, Commissioners Mason and Ryan’s proposal that each target of 7% and 9% incorporates a sub-target for the employment of people with intellectual disability.

CID also strongly supports the DRC recommendations for a national plan to promote accessible information and communication. This proposal includes Easy Read and easy English.

We are pleased to see recommendations about the rights of people with disability to good health care, better training for health professionals, and for governments to promote reasonable adjustments in health care settings.

“CID has played an important role in the Disability Royal Commission. We provided early advice on how to ensure the hearings were accessible to people with intellectual disability. We made multiple submissions and a number of our members and staff also provided evidence to the Disability Royal Commission. While some DRC recommendations need improvement, most are

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sound and CID will be strongly advocating for their funding and implementation. Georgina Reynhout, CEO, Council for Intellectual Disability

END

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Interviews can be arranged with the CEO Georgina Reynhout.

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