

18 December 2023

Dear the Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier of NSW and the Hon Kate Washington MP, Minister for Disability Inclusion,

Re: Process for ensuring quality consultation with People with Disability in the NSW Government response to the Disability Royal Commission Report

We are a network of organisations that work with, and for, people with disability in NSW.

We welcome the recent Disability Royal Commission (DRC) Final Report. The DRC report recognises that disability rights are human rights that flow from the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD). The CRPD does not grant additional human rights. Rather it provides a framework outlining the specific rights of people with disability – many of whom do not experience equal rights in our community and throughout Australia.

The DRC recommendations provide a strong framework through which the right of people with disability to live a life free from violence, neglect, abuse, and exploitation may be operationalised. CRPD Article 4 places an obligation on State Parties to ‘ensure and promote the full realisation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities.’

Recommendation 12.1 of the DRC report says

The Australian Government and state and territory governments should each publish a written response to the Royal Commission’s Final report by **31 March 2024**. Their responses should indicate whether the recommendations are accepted, rejected or subject to further consideration. They should include a plan for how the accepted recommendations will be implemented, the reasons for rejecting any recommendations, and a timeframe for any further consideration required.

The NSW Government must ensure the diversity of the disability experiences identified in the DRC report are captured in its response.

We recommend that the NSW Government’s response to the DRC:

1. Be based upon wide consultation with organisations working with and led by people with disability;
2. Acknowledges and addresses the ongoing segregation and disadvantage of people with disability in a range of settings including education and housing;

3. Promotes inclusion of people with disability in the community, for example through increased employment in the public sector, inclusive health and education services, and accessible public transport;
4. Acknowledges and addresses the impact of intersectionality;
5. Demonstrably reflects a co-design process developed with people with disability; and
6. Promotes positive attitudes towards people with disability throughout the community.

We recognise that the implementation of the DRC recommendations will require specific long term budgetary allocations and deep ongoing engagement with the disability community to ensure positive outcomes being achieved.

We are asking the NSW government to undertake its response process with the utmost transparency.

We look forward to a response to this letter that outlines how organisations working with people with disability will be engaged with in the formulation of the NSW Government response to the DRC, and its implementation.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Williams
CEO, Australian Communications Consumer Action Network



Taylor Bellomo
Executive Officer, Action for People with Disability



Serena Ovens
CEO, Assisted Technology Suppliers Australia



Deb Deshayes
CEO, Blind Citizens Australia



Dr Georgina Reynhout,
CEO, Council for Intellectual Disability



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



Mark Grierson,
CEO, Disability Advocacy NSW



Emily Caska,
CEO, Down Syndrome NSW



Cecile Sullivan Elder
Executive Officer, Family Advocacy



Edward Morris,
CEO, Physical Disability Council of NSW



Carolyn Hodge
Acting CEO, People with Disability Australia



Bharat Rai,
Acting Executive Director, Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association



Charlotte Sangster
CEO, Muscular Dystrophy NSW



Ben McAlpine
Acting CEO NSW Council of Social Service



Dianne Lucas,
CEO, Spinal Cord Injuries Australia



Kim Roots
Executive Officer, Side by Side Advocacy



Michelle Sharkey,
CEO Stroke Recovery NSW



Ron Hooton
Chief Executive Officer, Vision Australia



For further information please contact Kelley Temple at the Physical Disability Council of NSW at Kelley.temple@pdcnsw.org.au or 0421009377.