

People with Disability Australia – a national disability rights, advocacy and representative organisation that is made up of, led and governed by people with disability

Policy area

We work to empower Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities impacted by the child protection system. We also support a quality Aboriginal community-controlled child and family services sector to deliver needed supports in Aboriginal communities across the state.

Introduction

People with disability want to belong in NSW, just like everyone else. However, we currently do not have equal access to services in NSW, including adequate disability supports. Many people with disability are excluded from participation in the civic life of NSW, through poor provision of accessible and affordable services and environments. Everyone should be able to access services in NSW, and a Minister for Disability Inclusion is needed to drive this.

Problem/Issue

The NSW Government has indicated that there will no longer be a Minister for Disability Services when the NDIS is fully rolled out. This is not fair to the 90 per cent of people with disability in NSW who will not be receiving services via the NDIS.¹ This decision also ignores the scope and intention of the NDIS, which is to provide planning and funding for supports that can then be used for a person's individual needs. The NDIS cannot and will not fix the many problems of inaccessibility, exclusion, and violence faced by people with disability. Whilst the roll out of the NDIS is much-needed for many Australians with disability, it cannot turn stairs into a ramp at a public hospital, domestic violence shelter or train station, fix deadly disability discrimination or make complex information in courts or schools accessible. The NSW government still has a strong role to play, and a long way to go, in investment for people with disability and realising disability inclusion.

There is a long way to go before we have a truly inclusive and accessible community, and some of the ways that the Government is currently committed to this include:

- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Coalition of Australian Governments' (COAG) National Disability Agreement (NDA)
- COAG's National Disability Strategy (NDS)
- NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014
- NSW Disability Inclusion Plan, and
- Oversight of the Government Agency Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

NSW Government leadership is required for these commitments to be met.

Solution

Therefore PWDA recommends:

That the office of the Minister for Disability Services becomes the Minister for Disability Inclusion, with budget and responsibility for:

- implementation the NSW Disability Inclusion Plan across government
- oversight and co-ordination of funding arrangements for the Disability Inclusion Action Plans of NSW Government departments
- co-ordinating and reporting on progress under the legislation, COAG agreements and state-wide disability strategies and plans
- leading inter-jurisdictional negotiations in relation to the improvements to the NDIS, NDA and NDS
- oversight of the inclusiveness and accessibility of other major government projects (for example, public transport upgrades)
- recurrent funding and resourcing for representative peak organisations of people with disability and independent advocacy non-government organisations to ensure that the voice of people with disability is represented.

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015, available at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4430.02015?OpenDocument> and NSW Government, available at: <http://ndis.nsw.gov.au/about-ndis-nsw/>

For additional information – key contact:

The PWDA submission to NSW inquiry into NDIS implementation is available at:

<https://pwd.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/PWDA-Submission-to-NSW-Inquiry-into-NDIS-and-Disability-Services.docx>

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