

Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council

23 FEBRUARY 2023

COMMUNIQUÉ

ADS Advisory Council meeting summary

Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council (the Advisory Council) met on 23 February 2023.

Advisory Council Forward Work Plan

The Advisory Council noted that Disability Ministers endorsed their 2023 Forward Work Plan at the Disability Reform Ministers Council on 10 February 2023.

Disability Strategy National Forum main themes for future discussions

The Advisory Council discussed the main themes from the Australia's Disability Strategy National Forum, held on 2-3 November 2023. The main themes included health and wellbeing; education and learning; and inclusive homes and communities.

The Advisory Council agreed to provide further advice to Disability Reform Ministers on issues related to these themes during 2023, taking account of views from the disability community and the work of the Royal Commission.

Targeted Action Plan report

The Advisory Council agreed it will provide advice to government on the Targeted Action Plan Report (TAP Report) that covers the period 3 December to 30 June 2022. Engagement with Disability Representative Organisations (DRO) and Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPO) to gain further insights on the TAP Report was commissioned by the Advisory Council to inform their advice. The Advisory Council will further consider advice options at their June 2023 meeting.

Criminal justice law reform

The Advisory Council discussed providing Disability Ministers with advice on elements of criminal justice, with links to outcome area of Safety, Rights and Justice in the Strategy.

The Advisory Council agreed it would review existing disability plans and policies across the states and territories related to justice to better understand the issues being faced by people with disability. This includes consideration of young people in detention with a disability, particularly in regional and remote areas of Australia.

Outreach

The Advisory Council agreed to establish processes to connect with disability advisory councils in states and territories.

Issues raised by the disability community

The Advisory Council discussed issues that had been raised with members in the disability community, this included:

- Issues with housing and the rental market, including the high rent and need for accessibility.
- COVID-19 and the likelihood of people with disability getting COVID-19 and remaining at home, and the consequences of long COVID-19.
- Difficulties with airline travel, including online accessibility of website documents, and a call for improvements to accessibility.
- Acknowledgment of work by the Disability Council NSW

- Acknowledgement of the appointment of Ms Liz Reid to NDIA and First Nations reference group managed through the NDIA.

Government updates

The Advisory Council also received updates from officials on the DRO and DPO Forum meeting held in December 2022, including:

- Information on budget updates to DROs and DPOs, including;
 - the extension of the Disability Employment Services program
 - the National Autism Strategy.
- First Peoples Disability Network spoke to the Referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.
- DROs and DPOs were updated on progress in implementing the Australia's Disability Strategy.
- A number of DROs and DPOs presented summaries of their Annual Reports.

The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled to occur on 27 April 2023.