

Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council

27 APRIL 2023

COMMUNIQUÉ

ADS Advisory Council meeting summary

Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council (the Advisory Council) met on 27 April 2023.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Review update

The Advisory Council noted the update on the NDIS Review presented by Professor Bruce Bonyhady and Ms Lisa Paul, Co-Chairs of the NDIS Review Independent Review Panel.

First annual Outcomes Framework Report

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 (Strategy) Outcomes Framework First Annual Report was considered by the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council noted this report was published on 28 February 2023 and the next annual report with data updates will be released in late 2023. The Advisory Council agreed to write to the Disability Reform Ministerial Council regarding the Outcomes Framework Annual Report.

Criminal justice and law reform

The Advisory Council noted the actions that some jurisdictions were taking concerning implementing disability justice legislation, plans and strategies. The Advisory Council Secretariat agreed to undertake further scoping and policy recommendation work ahead of the Advisory Council's next meeting on 22 June 2023.

Issues raised by the disability community

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

- The ruling of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on findings made against Australia on accessibility of audio descriptions on free-to-air television for the blind and low vision community.
- The Office of Autism in South Australia has named autistic educator and advocate Emma Goodall as the inaugural director of the office, based in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
- The South Australian government announced funding support for refugees and migrants not eligible for the NDIS.
- The South Australian Government is reforming laws related to criminalising coercive control, which will have implications for the disability community.
- The Australian Government is currently developing the National Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality, on which the disability community is providing input.

Other business

The Advisory Council was provided with an update on the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) First Nations Advisory Council meeting by Ms Liz Reid. The Advisory Council noted that the NDIA is partnering with First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN) to co-design a new NDIS First Nations Strategy and action plan that reflects the goals and aspirations of First Nations people with disability, and aligns to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

An out of session meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for 22 June 2023. The next formal meeting is scheduled to occur on 18 July 2023.