

Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council (the Advisory Council) met in on 5 - 6 March 2024, in Sydney NSW.

The Advisory Council were briefed on:

- The Disability Royal Commission consultations that have occurred, including the links to the NDIS Review and the timing of Commonwealth and State and Territory joint responses to the recommendations.
- The recently established NDIS Provider and Workforce Registration Taskforce from the Chair of the Taskforce, and Advisory Council member, Natalie Wade.
- Priorities of the new Disability Discrimination Commissioner Rosemary Kayess.
- The challenges faced by students with disability navigating the tertiary education system.
- The draft Associated Plan being considered by the Office for the Arts.

The Advisory Council discussed:

- The Chair's recent briefing of Disability Ministers on the Council's work and expectations; achievements from 2023; and key areas of focus for 2024, with presentations from Disability Advisory Council representatives, Mr Nigel Webb, Queensland and Dr Katherine Elliston, Tasmania.
- The progress of the newly established Advisory Council Housing Working Group that met in February 2024.
- Members raised the emerging issues in the disability community, and discussed accessible beaches, changing places facilities, accessible medical services and ongoing challenges in the availability of accessible services in remote parts of Australia.

The Advisory Council noted:

- The recent resignation of Amy James, and acknowledged her contributions to the Advisory Council.

- The work that is being progressed as part of the Review of Australia's Disability Strategy 2021 – 2031 (ADS) and the role the Advisory Council would play during the review.
- The work undertaken through ADS survey and ACOLA Report on improving community attitudes towards people with disability, including a presentation from The Achieve Foundation on their community attitudes project.
- The update on ADS Targeted Action Plans and Implementation reporting, and that future advice will be provided on the National Disability Research Partnership Board.
- The steps the Department of Social Services is taking to progress the filling of vacancies on the Council as a priority.

The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for June 2024.