

National Disability and Carers Advisory Council Communiqué 2 May 2018

The fourth meeting of the National Disability and Carers Advisory Council (the Council) was held in Sydney on Wednesday 2 May 2018. The meeting was co-chaired by Assistant Minister for Social Services and Disability Services, the Hon Jane Prentice MP and Council member Ms Jessica May.

Assistant Minister Prentice commended the progress that has been made by the Council in its first 18 months of operation.

The Age Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Kay Patterson AO, spoke to the Council about the intersection between ageing and disability. Dr Patterson spoke about the need for the Council to note the cross-over of people with disability who are also members of other community groups. Dr Patterson highlighted her work on elder abuse, powers of attorney, older women experiencing homelessness and the intersections for people with disability. Dr Patterson also noted a need to review the legislation around Special Disability Trusts after ten years of operation.

The Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Mr Alastair McEwin, attended the meeting and provided an update on his work. Mr McEwin spoke about the challenge of increasing employment of people with disability and the scourge of violence against people with disability. Mr McEwin also spoke about his upcoming attendance at the Conference of States Parties on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Council's three Working Groups; National Disability Strategy reinvigoration; employment reform for people with disability; and carer reform reported on progress against work plan objectives including:

- Identifying examples of good policy and practice that can be delivered through the third and final implementation plan of the National Disability Strategy and the development of a new national disability strategy for 2020 and beyond.
- Investigating the role of individual and systemic advocacy, across the National Disability Strategy's six outcome areas.
- Working with the Council of Small Business Australia to identify where red tape reductions could be made to assist with increasing employment outcomes for people with disability.
- Providing advice and input to the PwC Australia Skills for Australia project on people with disability in Vocational Education and Training and related employment across industries.
- Providing recommendations to Council on ways to better support people with disability into employment.

- Advising on transition issues for the Integrated Carer Support Service (ICSS) as they relate to carers, the planned Carer Gateway website redevelopment and the proposed engagement approach regarding Regional Delivery Partner service areas.
- Developing a proposal to review and refresh the *Carer Recognition Act 2010* (the Act). The proposal will describe the value of the Act and consider its current application.

Assistant Minister Prentice congratulated the Working Groups on their practical proposals and noted that the outcomes they were seeking would help inform the effective and efficient delivery of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The ICSS discussion focussed on the roles and responsibilities of regional delivery partners and the proposed changes to service areas under the new model. Council members were reminded of probity considerations during these discussions and encouraged to provide formal feedback through public consultations being facilitated by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

The Council also received an update on two workshops, part of the Australian Government's commitment under the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 Second Implementation Plan: Driving Action 2015-2018. The first workshop, held on 9 February 2018 in Melbourne, focussed on strategies to ensure the criminal justice system responds effectively to people with disability who have complex needs or heightened vulnerabilities. The second workshop, held in Sydney on 1 May 2018, identified practical strategies to build inclusive and accessible communities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders with disability.

An update on the new NDIS pathways was provided to the Council by the National Disability Insurance Agency. The Council also received a presentation from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner Designate, Mr Graeme Head.

The future of supported employment was discussed by the Council, including key themes emerging from recent consultations undertaken by DSS.

More information about the Council can be found [here](#).