

**MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH, STATE AND TERRITORY DISABILITY MINISTERS
TELEPRESENCE – 24 JULY 2020**

STATEMENT

Commonwealth, state and territory disability ministers met today by telepresence.ⁱ Ministers opened the meeting by acknowledging the sad passing of 2020 ACT Senior Australian of the Year, Ms Sue Salthouse, and her extraordinary contributions to the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and advocacy for people with disability.

Ministers are continuing to closely monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across Australia, including the evolving situation in Victoria. Ministers acknowledged the proactive preventative measures, additional supports and guidance to NDIS providers, and outreach to participants. Ministers acknowledged the need for adequate workforce supply to support people with disability and NDIS participants.

Ministers agreed to continue monitoring the NDIS support market, and work together to finalise an NDIS workforce plan later in 2020 in light of COVID-19.

Ministers reiterated their joint commitment to ensuring ongoing support and the safety of people with disability, including NDIS participants, during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Ministers noted a number of inquiries considering the quality and safety of supports for people have commenced across the country. Ministers agreed to work together in a coordinated fashion to respond to those inquiries and better identify and support at-risk and vulnerable people with disability, including NDIS participants.

Ministers supported the draft national principles for restrictive practice authorisation as a key milestone in the path to national consistency and assurance that vulnerable people with disability are provided with high quality care and protected from violence, abuse and neglect. Queensland confirmed its support in-principle.

Ministers noted progress on the national demand and gap analysis of independent disability advocacy and decision-making supports being led by the Commonwealth, and reports of increasing demand for advocacy services. Findings of this analysis will inform discussions on future arrangements for the funding of independent disability advocacy and decision-making supports.

State and territory ministers noted that the Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) is considering the issue of the NDIS Reserve Fund. State and territory ministers have agreed to formally submit advice on the design of the NDIS Reserve Fund to CFFR.

ⁱ ***Note from the Secretariat regarding National Cabinet and Ministerial Councils***

National Cabinet has announced a review of the former COAG Councils and Ministerial Forums, led by Mr Peter Conran AM. While the review is underway, disability ministers continue to meet to discuss critical issues of national significance in accordance with agreed protocols and the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (Cth). The future form and role of a disability ministers' forum will be determined under the revised Ministerial Forum structure, including progressing current actions.