

**DISABILITY REFORM MINISTERS' MEETING (DRMM)**  
**Videoconference – 9 July 2021**

**COMMUNIQUÉ**

Commonwealth, state and territory disability ministers met on 9 July 2021. Ministers welcomed the new Tasmanian Minister for Disability Services, the Hon Sarah Courtney MP and New South Wales Minister for Disability Services, the Hon Alister Henskens SC MP. Ministers noted apologies from Commonwealth Minister for Families and Social Services, the Senator the Hon Anne Ruston and the South Australian Minister for Human Services, the Hon Michelle Lensink who was represented by the Hon John Gardner MP.

Ministers received a briefing from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Scheme Actuary on the publicly available Annual Financial Sustainability Report Summary – Interim Update from July 2021. Ministers noted the information provided and commissioned further work by senior disability officials on the cost drivers and underpinning assumptions in the Annual Financial Sustainability Report ahead of their next meeting. It was agreed Ministers need a unified understanding of financial matters to inform a path forward.

Ministers welcomed the NDIS Independent Advisory Council's advice to the NDIS Board on strengthening the NDIS reforms to access and planning and noted the Council's recommendations. Ministers agreed Independent Assessments would not proceed. Ministers agreed to work in partnership with those with lived experience of disability through the Independent Advisory Council and disability representatives, on the co-design of a new person-centred model that delivers consistency and equity in access and planning outcomes, consistent with the legislative requirements for assessments as set out under the *National Disability Insurance Scheme 2013 Act*.

Ministers agreed to work jointly on the development of amendments to the *National Disability Insurance Scheme 2013 Act* and associated NDIS Rules to legislate the Participant Service Guarantee and to further strengthen fraud and integrity measures, including addressing unscrupulous provider behaviour. Ministers noted the Minister for the NDIS committed to make this draft legislation public prior to introduction.

Ministers also discussed the status of the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out to people with disability and disability workers. Ministers noted the importance of clear, timely communication to people with disability and the disability sector on COVID-19 rules and restrictions and on the COVID-19 vaccinations.

Ministers agreed to next meet in August 2021.