

DISABILITY REFORM MINISTERS' MEETING (DRMM)

Canberra – 29 July 2022

COMMUNIQUÉ

Commonwealth, State and Territory Disability Ministers met on 29 July 2022 in Canberra and welcomed the Victorian Minister for Disability, the Hon Colin Brooks MP, to his first Disability Reform Ministers' Meeting.

The Ministers agreed the need to restore the scheme to original objectives to improve outcomes for people with disability, their families and carers. All Disability Ministers committed to:

- **Ensuring safe and timely hospital discharge:** Ministers agreed an approach will be taken to Health and other Ministers to support the safe and timely hospital discharge of people eligible for the NDIS. The approach includes assessment and plan review timelines, recognising that participants may need an interim plan with reasonable and necessary accommodation and additional support if needed in the short to medium term. Ministers will seek agreement from Health Ministers to support NDIA actions including installing dedicated NDIA hospital discharge planners in each state and territory, working with hospital discharge teams, with delegation and flexibility to resolve issues.
- **Improving COVID-19 preparedness:** Ministers agreed to work together to enhance government responses and amplify public messaging around what people with disability, and the people who support them, can do to stay safe. Ministers also discussed a focus on further improving vaccination rates particularly for children and people with disability outside the NDIS through better use of data and localised strategies and the promotion of antivirals to prevent severe illness.
- **Reducing NDIS Appeals:** Ministers welcomed action taken so far to turn the tide on the growth and backlog of NDIS-related matters referred to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). Ministers discussed the NDIA's planned improvements to a partnership approach to resolving participant matters quickly and respectfully.
- **Getting the NDIS back on track:** Ministers agreed to consult with the disability community and sector on the scope, guiding principles, and approach to review the NDIS and agreed to the focus on the design, operation and sustainability of the scheme, and on building a more responsive and supportive market and workforce.
- **Cracking down on fraud:** Ministers acknowledged the need to crack down on NDIS provider fraud and criminal activity and noted the intent to improve coordinated strategic intelligence and analysis capability.
- **Choice and control in employment for people with disability:** Ministers discussed the need to support meaningful employment for the 16,000 people with disability currently working in Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) and agreed to engage in a Commonwealth-led roundtable on issues and opportunities for the future of supported employment.

Disability Ministers acknowledged Dr Denis Napthine's service as a member of the board since 1 January 2022 and as Chair of the Board since April 2022.

Ministers agreed to meet again on 9 September 2022.