

BRIEF**Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs**

MaPS.Net PDR Id	BR09-001714
Due Date	3 March 2010
Critical Date	
Consultation	Media No
	Group Manager Yes
	Deputy Secretary No
	State Manager No

To the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services
for information

cc: Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Subject: Future of the National Disability Peak Organisations and national advocacy arrangements

Issue: Services that provide advocacy for individual people with disability are necessary to ensure that these people are empowered to actively participate in the decisions that affect their lives. Under current arrangements, not all people with disability in Australia have equal access to advocacy services.

s47C (deliberative processes)

Discussion

The development of the National Disability Strategy, the review of advocacy arrangements under the National Disability Agreement and the Government's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides a timely opportunity to explore funding arrangements of FaHCSIA funded disability peak bodies to ensure alignment with these reforms.

s47C (deliberative processes)

The Commonwealth Government, through FaHCSIA, currently funds twelve national disability peak bodies to provide advice to government on disability issues and provide systemic advocacy on behalf of people with disability.

s47C (deliberative processes)

Disability advocacy is currently a shared responsibility of the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments under the National Disability Agreement (NDA). The Commonwealth currently funds 63 disability advocacy agencies across Australia to provide individual and systemic advocacy while the State and Territory Governments fund 92 disability advocacy agencies to undertake similar activities. Twenty three organisations receive funding from both levels of government.

Information about the review of disability advocacy in Australia and the history of disability advocacy arrangements in Australia is at **Attachment B**.

s47C (deliberative processes)

Recommendation:

That you agree to the department pursuing the peak body and advocacy arrangements set out in this brief.

Agree / Not Agreed

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Date: 3 March 2010

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Comments (MO use)

leh talk after budget process

Signature: *WR [Signature]*

Date: 15-3-10

Ratings Box

Rating	Quality	Timeliness
Unsatisfactory		
Satisfactory		
Good		

Additional Information

Background

The review of the National Secretariat Program, the development of the National Disability Strategy, the review of advocacy arrangements under the National Disability Agreement and the Government's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities provides a unique opportunity to take a fresh look at funding arrangements of disability peak bodies so that they strategically align with the Government's directions of those reforms. For the first time advocacy arrangements and policy advice can be better aligned to ensure the best interests of people with disability in Australia are represented.

s47C (deliberative processes)

s22 irrelevant material

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irrelevant material

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Attachment A

Background information - Review of the National Disability Peak Organisations**Background - National Disability Peak organisations**

In 2009-10 the Australian Government will provide \$1,970,444 in funding under the National Secretariat Program to ten national disability peak bodies which represent the interests of people with disabilities. In addition, the Australian Government will provide seed funding to a total of \$250,000 to two organisations to establish themselves as peak disability bodies - the Aboriginal Disability Network Incorporated and Children with Disability Australia (formerly known as the Australian Association for Families with Children with a Disability).

Establishment dates for the Disability Peak Organisations are:

1963	• National Disability Services – (prior to 2007 known as ACROD)
Approx 1960	• National Council on Intellectual Disability
1974	• Blind Citizens Australia
1986	• Brain Injury Australia
1986	• Deaf Australia
1993	• Deafness Forum Australia
1995	• Physical Disability Australia
1995	• Women with Disabilities Australia
Unknown	• National Ethnic Disability Alliance
2003	• Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO)
2009	• Aboriginal Disability Network Incorporated
2009	• Children with Disability Australia Incorporated

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Background - National Secretariat Program

The Department's National Secretariat program commenced in 1991 (then called the Community Organisation Support Program) and a review was undertaken in 2000. One of the outcomes of the review was to move to the current funding structure:

- Tier 1 - national peaks;
- Tier 2 - disability peaks; and
- Tier 3 - industry representative bodies and FaHCSIA program areas.

A further review was undertaken in 2004 but most recommendations were not implemented before the 2004 election. The recommendations focussed on providing clarity and improvements rather than any significant changes to the funding arrangements.

Review of the current arrangements for National Peak Disability Organisations

Context

There has been little change to the way in which National Disability Peak organisations are funded under the Department's National Secretariat Program (NSP) over the last 18 years and the Department and relevant ministers have recognised the need for a reassessment of arrangements and a re-alignment to reflect the Department's and the community sector's changed strategic directions.

The review of the National Disability Peak organisations will take into account other environmental factors such as the Review of Advocacy Services in Australia, the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the development of the National Disability Strategy.

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Attachment C

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