

DISABILITY REFORM MINISTERIAL COUNCIL (DRMC)

Canberra 10 February 2023

COMMUNIQUÉ

Commonwealth, State and Territory Disability Ministers met on 10 February 2023 in Canberra. This was the first meeting of the Disability Reform Ministerial Council (DRMC), formerly the Disability Reform Ministers Meeting.

Co-Chairs of the NDIS Review Panel, Professor Bruce Bonyhady AM and Ms Lisa Paul AO PSM, updated Ministers on further early findings and recommendations of the NDIS Review. Ministers discussed the Review's early work on quality and safeguarding arrangements, workforce, and alternative commissioning approaches to ensure people with disability in remote and First Nations communities can access the supports they need.

Ministers were updated on thin market trials across 4 sites: Kimberley in Western Australia, Longreach in Queensland, Gippsland in Victoria, and South-Eastern New South Wales exploring new approaches to building a stronger, sustainable care and support sector.

Ministers welcomed special guest Mr Dylan Alcott AO, who reflected on his time as Australian of the Year and presented on the Get Skilled Access and Accenture [NDIS 2.0 paper](#), published 10 October 2022.

Ministers endorsed:

- The 2022-23 DRMC Annual Report for National Cabinet's consideration, highlighting key achievements in 2022 and priorities for 2023.
- A report to National Cabinet on progress against the recommendations for Improving Care Pathways, including through secure data sharing to support safe and timely hospital discharge.
- The 2022 Australia's Disability Strategy (ADS) National Forum report and its themes of proactive inclusion and accessibility, community attitudes, and recognising diversity and intersectionality.
- Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council's 2023 Work Plan.

Ministers agreed to continue to work together to:

- Continue to improve safe and timely discharge from hospital of NDIS participants. As at 31 December, hospital discharge delays had reduced to [33] days from 160 days in early 2022.
- Divert the entry of younger people to residential aged care and continue to facilitate the appropriate exit of those younger people already living in RAC facilities. Ministers noted 2022 targets in this area were not met.
- Continue to work on alignment of regulatory settings with nationally consistent principles on the authorisation of restrictive practices.
- Progress the development of the Supported Employment Plan to support the transition of the sector and meaningful employment of people with disability.
- Continue to monitor the COVID-19 response to support and protect people with disability.

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner, Tracy Mackey, provided an update on the [Own Motion Inquiry into Aspects of Supported Accommodation](#). Ministers supported the key initiatives identified in the final report including changes to regulation and monitoring of supported accommodation.

Ministers agreed to meet again in March 2023.