

**DISABILITY REFORM MINISTERS' MEETING (DRMM)**  
**Videoconference – 13 August 2021**

**COMMUNIQUÉ**

Commonwealth, state and territory disability ministers met on 13 August 2021. Ministers noted apologies from the Queensland Minister for Seniors and Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the Hon Craig Crawford MP and the Northern Territory Minister for Disabilities, the Hon Kate Worden MLA.

Disability ministers considered the new National Disability Strategy and agreed it should proceed for formal endorsement by all governments ahead of its release later in 2021.

Ministers agreed the new Strategy will be titled Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031. They supported the new Strategy's strong focus on action and implementation to drive change over the next decade for people with disability in Australia.

Ministers recognised the significant role people with disability and their families, carers and representatives played in development of the new Strategy, including through their participation in two stages of public consultations that reached more than 3,000 people over two years. Ministers particularly acknowledged the important contributions the National Disability Strategy Reform Steering Group has made in providing ongoing advice and guidance during development of the Strategy.

Following on from their discussion on financial sustainability at their last meeting, Ministers directed further work be undertaken by officials to understand cost drivers and underpinning assumptions in the Annual Financial Sustainability Report (AFSR). Ministers agreed this would be informed by data and modelling underpinning historical and future AFSRs, noting the NDIA Board will in future release the full AFSR and Peer Review Actuary Report each year. Ministers agreed representatives of people with disability should be actively engaged in this work. Ministers agreed to direct officials to develop a forward work plan and an interim report back to Ministers in October 2021 and a more substantive report on findings in December 2021.

Ministers discussed potential amendments to the *National Disability Insurance Scheme 2013 Act* and associated NDIS Rules to legislate the Participant Service Guarantee. Ministers acknowledged the importance of securing the Participant Service Guarantee and other minor amendments to enhance the participant experience, as described in the Tune Review.

Ministers noted the Commonwealth is finalising draft legislation which will be provided to jurisdictions to enable consultation with all Disability Ministers prior to public consultation. Ministers also tasked officials to advise on further measures to address fraud and unscrupulous provider behaviour which could be considered.

Ministers agreed that priority work be undertaken by officials, led by the Commonwealth, to explore options to address current challenges for people with disability in accessing safe, affordable and suitable housing options and to improve the supply of accessible and well-designed housing for all people with disability.

Ministers noted the increase in the COVID-19 vaccination rates for NDIS participants and workers and the work occurring at both a Commonwealth and state and territory level to support accessibility to different vaccination options. Ministers also noted the additional supports being provided by the NDIA in jurisdictions where COVID-19 outbreaks are occurring.

Ministers agreed to meet again in October 2021.