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# Communiqué

**31 July 2023**

The third meeting of the Disability Council was held on 31 July. The meeting was chaired by Jane Spring.

The Council welcomed the following guest speakers:

* Minister for Disability Inclusion, the Hon. Kate Washington MP
* Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Inclusion, Ms Liesl Tesch MP
* Lisa Paul, Co-Chair, Dougie Heard, Panel member, NDIS Review
* Melinda Norton, Director Disability Policy, Department of Communities and Justice
* Corene Strauss, CEO & Sharon Kumar, Program Manager, Australian Network on Disability
* Danielle Matsuo, A/Assistant Commissioner & Dr Phillip Snoyman, Director State-wide Services, Corrective Services.

Presentations from guest speakers and subsequent discussion largely centred around the Council’s priorities as outlined in the Disability Council Plan 2022-2024:

* Accessible communities
* Ensuring the voice of people with disabilities is heard
* Employment
* Justice and rights
* Housing.

Issues discussed included:

* the Government’s commitment to increasing the number of people with disability employed in the NSW public sector
* the need for greater representation of people with disability on government boards
* the challenges faced by many people with disability in obtaining accessible and affordable as well as the National Construction Code
* the [Disability Reform Ministerial Council](https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/programmes-services/government-international/disability-reform-ministers-meeting)’s meeting
* the [NDIS Review](https://www.ndisreview.gov.au/), in particular the challenges and ten priority areas for improvement
* public authorities’ [Disability Inclusion Action Plans](https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/community-inclusion/disability-and-inclusion/disability-inclusion-action-planning-resources.html) and the importance of consultation with people with disability and inclusion of specific actions with measurable outcomes
* [Australian Network on Disability](https://and.org.au/)’s work to advance the inclusion of people with disability including internships, mentoring programs, the Access and Inclusion Index and inclusive co-design
* people with disability in contact with Corrective Services NSW including their over-representation, challenges faced by people with disability to comply with the conditions of a court order, assessment processes and supports.

Council members continue to be actively involved in a wide range of forums advocating for people with disability. Over the coming months this will include participating in discussions around the recommendations arising from the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and the NDIS Review.

The Council will next meet on 6 November 2023.

Jane Spring AM Associate Professor Jill Duncan

Chair, Disability Council NSW Deputy Chair, Disability Council NSW