

Communiqué

29 November 2022

The fourth formal meeting of the Disability Council NSW for 2022 was held on Tuesday 29 November. The meeting was chaired by Jane Spring.

The Council welcomed a number of guest speakers, including:

- Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Members of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing and the NSW Carers Advisory Council
- Kathrina Lo, Public Service Commissioner
- Representatives of Accessible Beaches
- Professor Bruce Bonyhady, Co-Chair, NDIS Review.

Issues discussed included:

- The importance of paid consultation with people with disability across government
- Increasing the numbers and visibility of people with disability in senior leadership roles in government and on government boards
- Opportunities for collaboration between the Council and other advisory bodies
- Equipment and policies required to make beaches accessible
- Activities being undertaken by government agencies to increase the number of people with disability in public sector employment, and disability awareness for managers
- An overview of the purpose and approach of the NDIS Review.

Representatives of the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Services also attended, providing Council members with updates on the NDIS Review and the meeting of Commonwealth, State and Territory Disability Reform Ministers on 21 October, which included a briefing by the new NDIA Board Chair, Kurt Fearnley.

The Council continues to focus activity on the five pillars of the Council's Plan for 2022-2024:

- Accessible communities
- Ensuring the voice of people with disabilities is heard
- Employment
- Justice and rights
- Housing, for which a sub-committee is being formed.

Council members continue to actively participate in a range of forums to ensure the perspective of people with disability is always considered. Discussion around key issues being considered by various committees formed an important part of the meeting.

The Council will next meet in February 2023. In the meantime, we wish you and your family and friends a happy and safe holiday.

Jane Spring
Chair, Disability Council NSW

Dr Jill Duncan
Deputy Chair, Disability Council NSW