**Communiqué**

**22 March 2021**

The second meeting of the Disability Council NSW (the Council) for 2021 was held virtually on Friday, 19 March 2021.

The Meeting was facilitated by Mr Greg Davies from Insight Partnership.

At the meeting, the Council finalised the Strategic Plan. Members discussed the skills, knowledge, and experiences they possess to support the Council in fulfilling the actions committed in its three year Strategic Plan.

The Council identified 3 priority areas for 2021, with a number of actions for each priority area:

1. **Employment:**
* Work collaboratively with the Public Service Commission (PSC) in conjunction with Disability Employment Network Connect (DEN Connect) to discuss ways to ensure an inclusive recruitment and career progression approach within the NSW Public Sector.
* Analyse the employment commitments made by NSW Government agencies and local councils in their Disability Inclusion Action Plans (DIAP) and request explanation for non-compliance.
1. **Education:**
* Organise forums to understand the top issues affecting students with disability in an education setting. Address issues raised with the Department of Education.
* Meet with the Secretary of the Department of Education to discuss education services for students with disability.
* Requesting role and opportunity in special education committees such as NSW Education Standards Authority.
1. **Accessible and Inclusive communities:**
* Work with NSW Government Agencies to improve emergency management approaches.
* Continue participation and representation on relevant community groups to discuss issues such as inclusive Housing, Health, and Transport etc.
* Continue to lodge submissions on important matters of inclusion such as NDIS, Transport, Health, and Housing etc.

For complex matters that require expert advice, the Council discussed seeking input from other advisory councils and/or peak disability organisations. This approach of collaboration also means broader representation, open communication and knowledge sharing.

To ensure the Council fulfils actions committed to in its Strategic Plan, the Council discussed a model assigning lead members for each priority area. The leads for the priority areas will be tabled at the Council’s April meeting for discussion.

The Council will next meet on 23 April 2021.

**Donna Purcell**

**Chair - The Disability Council NSW**