

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the review of the Disability Services Act 2011. Below are comments provided on behalf of the Kingborough Council Disability Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee:

- The appointment of a Commissioner for People with Disability will be welcomed. The Commissioner must remain independent and be free to act to resolve complaints and make recommendations which are then able to be acted upon.
- Raise the age of those able to access the NDIS. Currently those over 65 are unable to access support for items such as assistive technology and can be seriously disadvantaged
- Ensure people receiving support via the NDIS have a right of appeal if services are stopped/changed without adequate notification/rationale.
- Physical access to premises continues to be a barrier. More work needs to be done to ensure access issues are addressed at the earliest possible stage of projects. Many venues, businesses, public amenities and even private households are not accessible. This negatively impacts people with disabilities, their friends and carers and perpetuates a sense of separateness or difference unnecessarily assigned to people with disability.
- Often housing options for people with disability are limited. Ensuring an ample supply of new builds are accessible would negate the need for retrofitting at often great expense.
- Acknowledge that legislation needs to be supportive of accessibility as a human right and not an additional extra. For example the National Construction Code could be more supportive of universal access as fundamental and not a special feature.
- Acknowledge and support local government to play a bigger role in promoting and supporting better disability access and bringing about social change.
- Acknowledgement of input to enquiries and reviews by sending draft documents to contributors to reassure them that their input has been valued.

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