

DISABILITY REFORM MINISTERIAL COUNCIL (DRMC)
Canberra – 23 June 2023
COMMUNIQUÉ

Commonwealth, State and Territory Disability Ministers met on 23 June 2023 in Canberra.

Co-Chairs of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Review (NDIS Review) Panel, Professor Bruce Bonyhady AM and Ms Lisa Paul AO PSM, updated Ministers on the NDIS Review's work, including a summary of what they have heard from the community so far. Ministers agreed to continue to discuss progress of the Review at the next meeting.

Ministers noted:

- Record investment to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for better outcomes for participants. Ministers noted the NDIS remains demand driven, and agreed to continue to work together to improve sustainability.
- The fundamental role states and territories have as partners in the NDIS.
- The Commonwealth will open consultation with participants, providers, peaks and researchers on:
 - [Blended payments trials](#) for the NDIS School Leavers Employment Supports program to improve employment outcomes and drive more innovative service delivery approaches to enable younger people in residential aged care to choose and move to more appropriate housing.
 - Establishing an [expert advisory panel](#) to identify evidence-based assistive technology and other supports, and preferred provider panels, to make it easier for NDIS participants to access effective supports.
- Opportunities for collaboration to improve outcomes for people with disability in remote communities.
- Consultations for the [National Autism Strategy](#) and delivering [pre-emptive early intervention pilots](#) for infants with early signs of autism.
- Upcoming launch of Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grant rounds with a total investment of \$185 million, with preference given to state and territories sponsored proposals related to mainstream capacity building.
- Significant commitment in the 2023–24 May Budget to improve support for the one in six people in Australia with disability and delivering outcomes under Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031.

Ministers agreed to invite housing ministers to a joint meeting to discuss solutions to accessible and affordable housing for people with disability.

Ministers considered the experiences of NDIS participants living in supported boarding house settings and agreed unethical and unscrupulous service providers have no place in the NDIS and the importance of ensuring accommodation settings are suitable for NDIS participants.

Ministers agreed to extend existing short-term transport remediation arrangements to 31 October 2025 while a long-term transport policy for NDIS participants is developed.

Ministers received an update on:

- The Changing Places initiative, noting that Victoria, the ACT and South Australia have entered into agreements with the Commonwealth to expand the availability of Changing Places facilities, with further work to establish agreements with other jurisdictions.
- Recent COVID-19 case and vaccination data indicating case numbers have started to trend down in recent weeks.
- Development of the National Disability Research Partnership. As part of Australia's Disability Strategy, all governments have recognised the need to build the evidence base for effective policy and practice for people with disability through research.
- Progress in the development of the National Disability Data Asset, with co-governance arrangements with the Disability Community to be considered at a future meeting of Disability Ministers.
- The development of the Supported Employment Plan, with Ministers re-affirming their commitment to developing the Supported Employment Plan for consideration by Ministers in October 2023.

Ministers agreed to meet again in August 2023 in Darwin.

