

## **COVID-19 and the particular risks for people with disability – Roundtable**

**11 AUGUST 2020**

### **Minutes and Actions Arising**

The Chair opened the fifth meeting of the Roundtable and invited people with lived experience to discuss their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commonwealth and state and territory representatives provided an update on the COVID-19 response across the country.

#### **Issues raised:**

- Workforce concerns including:
  - ensuring a surge workforce is available in outbreak settings
  - the potential impact of restrictions preventing disability support workers from working across multiple providers/settings.
- Access to in-home testing in regional areas of Victoria.
- The need for clear and careful messaging with regard to PPE for people with disability and the disability support workforce.
- The importance of ensuring people have continuity of support from service providers.
- The impact of the pandemic on children and young people with disability and the need to ensure their concerns are considered.
- Infection control training for disability support workers, including the challenges of upskilling a non-health workforce and those with English as a second language.
- The need for further communication to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, especially the engagement of CALD families.
- Concerns about food security in remote and regional areas during the pandemic.
- Delivery of allied health services in border towns.

#### **Key actions:**

- The Department to follow up with AHPPC and Victorian government the issue of disability support workers working across multiple providers.
- Circulate Minister Robert's media release of 11 August 2020 on ensuring continuity of care and NDIS supports in Victoria to roundtable participants.
- Circulate the report from Children and Young People with Disability Australia to roundtable participants.
- Home Affairs to provide an update on visa issues for disability support workers.
- The Department to explore whether more face to face infection control training options could be developed for disability support workers.
- The Department to provide an update on measures addressing food security in remote and regional areas.
- NDIA to provide advice on how NDIS participants can access plan top ups if the impact of COVID creates additional or unforeseen costs.
- DHHS Victoria to investigate plans to roll out in-home testing to regional areas.
- The Department to consider arrangements for children and young people with disability to review the Management and Operational Plan.
- Queensland Health and NSW Health to explore concerns raised around allied health services in border towns.