

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Yan to the Minister for Disabilities:

**Disability Advisory Committee**

- 1. How many times did the Disability Advisory Committee meet in the 2021/22 financial year?**

The Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) met three times in the last financial year.

- 2. Has the Disability Advisory Committee provided any recommendations/advice to the Minister in the 2021/22 financial year? What were the recommendations and what actions have been taken?**

The DAC provided advice and participated in the working group consultations during the development of the Northern Territory Disability Strategy 2022 – 2032 (the Strategy) and the first three-year action plan 2022 – 2025. The views of the DAC are embedded in the Strategy and in the action plan.

The DAC was consulted on proposed legislative amendments to the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (NDIS Act) and the Participant Service Guarantee (PSG).

The DAC had a stand-alone meeting with ThinkPlace, the Independent Advisory Council to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Board, and the NDIA on 25 June 2021 to discuss the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) reforms, including Independent Assessments.

DAC members provided advice on proposed changes to the *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007* as they relate to children with disability under the care of the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (the Department). Their recommendations were to:

- affirm approaching the principles from a positive perspective rather than a deficit perspective;
- ask the Department to consider the rights of children with disability to access evidence based intervention, rather than principles of early intervention;
- affirm the importance of young people with disability being able to stay on country; and
- look at more training and support for carers to recognise when a young person has a disability.

The DAC was consulted on the Northern Territory Library move from Parliament House to the new Education and Community Precinct at Charles Darwin University Campus in 2024, and provided the following recommendations:

- further consideration of people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, including a strobe light smoke alarm, a computer at reception to type information,

appropriate room acoustics e.g. noise absorbent panels, and assistance dog toilets.

- appropriate carpet and placement of furniture for wheelchairs.
- the use of graphic icons as well as numbers and text.

DAC members also provided feedback on wheelchair accessibility issues in Tennant Creek. This feedback was relayed to the local council.