

## Victorian Government Response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Social Inclusion and Victorians with Disability

The Victorian Government thanks the Family and Community Development Committee for its report following the Parliamentary Inquiry into Social Inclusion and Victorians with Disability. It also acknowledges the important contributions made by people with a disability, their families and carers, local governments and service providers about what works well and what needs to change. These insights and stories will continue to guide us as we work towards making Victoria a fairer state for all members of our community.

The Committee's report has reinforced what we already know - that people with a disability face significant barriers to social, cultural, civic and economic participation. It has confirmed that the Victorian *Disability Act 2006* and the State Disability Plan provide a strong basis for our social inclusion agenda. It has also drawn attention to mechanisms we have in place to promote inclusion such as advocacy and community building initiatives.

The inquiry recommends strategies to reduce inequality and promote inclusion in areas such as employment, education, community awareness, housing, the built environment, elected life, technology and social connectedness. It also proposes new ways to define, measure and monitor social inclusion in these and other areas.

The next State Disability Plan 2017-2020 will be informed by both the inquiry's findings and recommendations and will be guided by people with a disability, their families and carers. As recognised by the inquiry, the Victorian Disability Advisory Council will continue to provide a voice to government and a conduit to the broader community to capture the needs and aspirations of people with a disability.

The inquiry highlights important issues related to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The next State Disability Plan 2017-2020 will incorporate Victoria's transition to the NDIS and a continued role for the Victorian Government in enabling people with a disability to participate and contribute to social, economic and cultural life.

The Victorian Government is committed to delivering on its commitments under the Intergovernmental Agreements relating to the NDIS. Current negotiations on specific details of the terms of this with the Commonwealth will be informed by the Committee's work.

The Victorian Government's election commitments on inclusive education through the *Special Needs Plan for Victorian Schools* and improved domestic building regulations for people with a disability as part of *Keeping it Liveable – Labor's Plan for Your Community* will further strengthen the Government's approach to the social inclusion of people with a disability.

All parts of our community have a role in responding to this important inquiry and the Government looks forward to working towards a more inclusive Victoria for people with a disability.