

# Communiqué

**November 2024**

The fourth meeting and final of the Disability Council NSW for 2024 was held on 6 November. Jane Spring AM, Chair of the Council, chaired the meeting.

The Council welcomed guest speakers including:

- Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion, the Hon Kate Washington MP
- Department of Communities and Justice representatives to update the Council on work occurring in response to the Disability Royal Commission and NDIS Review
- Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission, Rosemary Kayess
- Department Secretary of The Cabinet Office, Kate Boyd
- Department Secretary of NSW Treasury, Michael Coutts-Trotter.

Minister Washington updated the Council on work being undertaken by NSW, including the partnership with The Cabinet Office on the [recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission](#) and the [review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme](#), as well as the refreshed Disability Inclusion Plan (DIP) that the Council was recently consulted on. The Minister commended Jane for co-chairing the recent Disability Stakeholder Forum. The Minister also updated members on the collaboration with Get Skilled Access, which works with various NSW Government agencies to enhance public sector employment of people with disability. Part of this is supporting disability inclusion action planning, including developing the first Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) for NSW Police. Additionally, the Minister noted that Council recruitment is close to being finalised and thanked those whose first terms end in 2024.

The Council received an update from the Department of Communities and Justice's Disability Policy and Reform team on their current projects. Key highlights included the development of a new 'Homes for NSW' plan to address the needs of people with disability, and the ongoing NDIS review. The team proposed engaging with Council through themed meetings on topics such as restrictive practices reform and diversion in criminal settings. They also suggested inviting guest speakers who will provide insights and seek input on these themes, which the Council warmly welcomed.

The Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission, discussed her key objectives and priorities, including her work towards a Human

Rights Act for Australia, intersectionality and policy neutrality, and a supported decision-making framework.

The Secretary of the Cabinet Office discussed key areas of interest, including how policymakers can embed the needs of people with disability, remuneration for board members, and accountability. The Secretary hopes to provide a disability, gender, and climate lens across the budget, and ensuring that funding for health and education uses a disability lens.

The Secretary of NSW Treasury addressed the Council on the current environment within NSW Treasury, particularly the number of employees with disability and engagement levels, government and social procurement, foundational supports and the potential for incentives for public authorities to achieve DIAP targets. The Council highlighted the need for NSW to invest in delivering its disability reform commitments.

The Council continued its discussion on the effectiveness of DIAPs. It explored ways the Council could influence the DIAP reporting process, noting that councils should emphasise meaningful reporting.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 19 February 2025.

Jane Spring AM

Chair, Disability Council NSW

Associate Professor Jill Duncan

Deputy Chair, Disability Council NSW