



---

## Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing

Min Ref:77-07375

Dr Scott Hollier  
Chair  
Disability Services Commission Board  
Locked Bag 5000  
FREMANTLE WA 6959

[Boards\\_Committees@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:Boards_Committees@communities.wa.gov.au)

Dear Dr Hollier

### **Statement of Expectations for the Disability Services Commission Board**

As the Minister for Disability Services, I am accountable to the Parliament of Western Australia for the operation of the Disability Services Commission (the Commission).

This Statement of Expectations for the Commission's Board (the Board) is important to the discharge of my ministerial responsibilities for the disability services portfolio and sets out my priorities for the Board, including to deliver on the implementation of the *Western Australia for Everyone: State Disability Strategy 2020-2030* (the Strategy) and its associated Action Plans.

In issuing this statement, I provide clarity about government policies and priorities relevant to the work of the Board, including those you are expected to observe. This statement recognises that the Board has its own legal responsibilities. It is not a direction to the Board to act in a particular way. It shares with you my expectations, which include the matters outlined below.

### **The Role of the Board**

As you are aware, the Board has a statutory role in accordance with the *Disability Services Act 1993*, which is further outlined in the Board's Charter and Code of Conduct.

Outside of its legislated role, I also see roles for the Board in providing oversight and advice on key priorities and projects undertaken by Government and the Department of Communities as outlined below.

### **Engagement on the Western Australian Disability Advisory Council**

I expect the Board to continue to work together through its joint meetings with the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability under the name of the Western Australian Disability Advisory Council (WADAC), to provide advice on the development and

implementation of policies, services, programs, and activities that affect people living with a disability in Western Australia. This work includes stakeholder engagement.

#### Insight on and monitoring of the implementation of the State Disability Strategy

The Board has a role in providing insight on and monitoring the implementation of the Strategy and its associated Action Plans. This work can be undertaken to ensure that the WA Government delivers on the actions of the Strategy.

The Board's role in this work includes:

- providing overarching governance of the Strategy and its Action Plans
- promoting and advocating a whole of community commitment by fostering connections that positively change the lives of people with disability
- encouraging entities that provide services to the general public to adapt them to meet the needs of people with disability
- fostering the necessary connections and community engagement to support the Strategy's implementation
- overseeing the progress and implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plans to provide advice to the Minister and relevant stakeholders.
- advising on the establishment of performance indicators
- identifying and inspiring future priorities for inclusion in Action Plans
- identifying and providing advice on significant changes to existing commitments.
- promoting and encouraging agencies to develop comprehensive Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs), suited to their community and constituents.

#### Monitoring and advice on key Department of Communities activities

The Minister for Disability Services' Letter of Expectation 2021-2023 to the Director General of Communities identifies the strategic disability priorities to be progressed by the Department. The Board has a key role to monitor and provide advice on these priorities, which include:

- transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme by July 2023.
- increasing the number of people with disability employed in the public service by working with the Public Sector Commission.
- establishing an Office of Disability to secure the profile and performance of the disability services portfolio to enable Communities to promote and represent the interests of Western Australians living with disability.

#### Engagement with the Department of Communities' Strategic Plan

As outlined in the Board's Charter, the Department of Communities' current Strategic Plan articulates its vision that "All people live in welcoming communities which facilitate citizenship, friendship, mutual support and a fair go for everyone".

The strategic leadership provided by the Board should place emphasis on Communities achieving its vision. The Board will work to achieve this vision by:

- Ensuring the strong and central involvement of people with disability, their families and carers, in advising and leading strategic developments.
- Providing strong leadership to champion the rights of people with disability, their families and carers.

- Actively engaging communities, disability sector organisations, the private sector, and all levels of government.
- Ensuring our directions are guided by contemporary thinking and evidence-based practice.

### **Stakeholder engagement and management**

I appreciate that when undertaking the work outlined above, Board members intersect with a broad range of interest groups, stakeholders and the community, and it is expected they will contribute a range of information and views to shape and guide their input to that work.

When undertaking this engagement, please be reminded that members will not be required to, and are not authorised to, make public comments concerning the Board or the Department: this is the role of the Minister or the Director General. Any concerns in this respect can be raised through the appropriate Departmental and Ministerial channels.

As Minister for Disability Services, I recognise the high level of corporate governance in place for the Board, including a robust, transparent and accountable system of annual reporting to Parliament. Accordingly, I expect this statement to be incorporated into your planning process and your key outcome performance indicators to be published in your annual report.

This statement applies from the date of receipt until the end of this Parliamentary term or until otherwise amended. I look forward to receiving your statement of intent in response outlining how the Board will implement the expectations laid out in this statement. It is anticipated that, for transparency purposes, both this statement and your response (statement of intent) will be placed on the Department of Communities website.

I look forward to continuing our cooperative working relationship.



**HON DON PUNCH MLA  
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT;  
DISABILITY SERVICES; FISHERIES; SENIORS AND AGEING**

8 May 2023