

OFFICIAL



**Hon Hannah Beazley MLA  
Minister for Local Government; Disability Services;  
Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne**

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Our ref: 84-05603

Dr Scott Hollier  
Chair  
Disability Services Commission Board

[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 pleased to provide you with my Statement of Expectations to be read in context with the functions in your Board's establishing legislation.

This statement is important to the discharge of my Ministerial portfolio responsibilities and sets out my priorities for the Board. In issuing it, 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 Role of the Board**

The Board is to undertake its statutory role as the governing body of the Disability Services Commission (Commission) in accordance with the *Disability Services Act 1993*. Members must act in accordance with the Board's Charter and Code of Conduct.

**Key priorities**

Quality and Safeguarding

The Commission is a registered National Disability Insurance Scheme provider, through which it delivers the Supported Community Living program. As such, Board members are "key personnel" under the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* and are also part of the "governing body" of the Commission for the purposes of

the National Disability Insurance Scheme (Quality Indicators) Guidelines 2018. The National Disability Insurance Scheme (Provider Registration and Practice Standards) Rules 2018 outline the requirements for key personnel and the governing body.

Quality and safeguarding functions I expect of the Board in relation to the Supported Community Living (SCL) program are:

- Monitor the provision of safe and compliant disability services to individuals in SCL facilities.
- Maintain an awareness of key compliance and quality and safeguarding issues identified across SCL.
- Oversee the mitigation of strategic risks related to the delivery of safe and compliant SCL supports to people with disability in SCL facilities, and the safety of staff, visitors and contractors.

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.

#### Managing Service Delivery Risks

The scale and pace of change underway in the disability sector creates risks to people with disability, who depend on providers for critical services.

The Board's oversight role should include maintaining awareness of these risks as they relate to the delivery of Commission services and ensuring these risks are addressed appropriately.

To that end, I expect a member of the Board to participate in the Department of Communities Audit and Risk Committee. The Board should provide me with prompt advice if it has concerns about risks to service delivery or addressing these risks.

#### Financial Oversight

The Board is expected to meet statutory financial management obligations and ensure that actions taken in pursuit of the Commission's objectives are efficient and deliver value for money. It is the Board's responsibility to provide financial oversight of the Commission's operations and provide me with advice as to any concerns in this regard.

#### 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 State Disability 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.
- identifying and inspiring future priorities for inclusion in Action Plans.
- identifying and providing advice on significant changes to existing commitments.
- advising on the establishment of performance indicators.
- providing guidance to agencies on development of comprehensive Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs), encouraging improvements or promoting enhancements to best meet the needs of their community and constituents.
- monitoring and advising on key Department of Communities' activities.

#### Engagement with Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability (MACD)

I expect the Board to maintain a collaborative and constructive relationship with MACD, ensuring alignment between governance oversight and community-informed policy advice. Where appropriate, I encourage the Board to seek MACD's input on matters requiring lived experience perspectives. Strong communication and mutual respect between the Board and MACD will be essential to improving outcomes for people with disability across the State.

#### **Public comments**

When undertaking the work outlined above, Board members may interact with a broad range of interest groups, stakeholders and the community. It is expected that stakeholders will contribute a range of information and views to shape and guide the Board's 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 of Communities. This is the role of the Minister and the Director General. Any concerns in this respect can be raised through the appropriate Department of Communities and Ministerial channels.

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 of Expectations and your Statement of Intent will be placed on the Department of Communities' website.

I look forward to continuing our cooperative working relationship.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Hannah Beazley MLA**  
**MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT; DISABILITY SERVICES;**  
**VOLUNTEERING; YOUTH; GASCOYNE**

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