

# Communiqué

**October 2024**

The third meeting of the Disability Council NSW for 2024 was held on 21 August. 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
- Parliamentary Secretary for Families and Communities, and Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Inclusion, Liesl Tesch MP
- Premier's Department Secretary, Simon Draper PSM
- Representatives of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia.

Minister Washington updated the Council on work being undertaken by NSW on the [recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission](#) and following the [review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme](#). The Council will be involved in the implementation process. The Minister also discussed the Australian Human Rights Commission [report on children in the juvenile justice system](#) and the upcoming refresh of the [NSW Disability Inclusion Plan](#).

The Council also discussed providing advice to the NSW Government in relation to the [NSW Government Sector Workplace Presence Directive](#), including on how workplace adjustments should remain separate to the Directive.

Representatives of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia spoke to the Council on accessible parking. The Council will work with SCIA to create material for local governments to benchmark and standardise accessible parking with the aim to address the increasing number of people with mobility parking permits and the issues they face in finding suitable parking.

The Council was given an update on digital communications at the Department of Communities and Justice, highlighting the introduction of a new Accessible Communications Policy, which includes initiatives to ensure all products and services are accessible. Other initiatives include new e-learning modules, an [Easy Read Hub](#) for the public, and developing virtual reality tools for accessibility. The Council discussed the potential for a cross-sector community of practice to standardise communication and engagement with citizens.

The Council discussed the effectiveness of Disability Inclusion Action Plans (DIAPs). And that DIAPs should include actionable items and address key issues such as employment. The Council will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of public authorities' DIAPs and conduct DIAP reviews.

The Council also noted the upcoming recruitment round for new members, focusing on skills and diversity characteristics. The meeting concluded with a commitment to address the various issues discussed and to continue working towards improving disability inclusion and support across NSW.

The Council will next meet on 6 November 2024.

Jane Spring AM  
Chair, Disability Council NSW

Associate Professor Jill Duncan  
Deputy Chair, Disability Council NSW