



SENATE ESTIMATES OPENING

3 MARCH 2020

MADAM CHAIRPERSON, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

It is a pleasure to be here although I'm aware that delight has the potential to dissipate quickly.

Good disability policy benefits all Australians. Not just the 4.5 million people with a disability in Australia. Not just the 20% of people with a disability that have a visible disability; Not just the 10% of people with a disability who will be eligible for the NDIS.

83% of disability is acquired in a person's life but, as importantly, well-designed products and services that are mindful of human rights considerations facilitate involvement from all members of society. They are more intuitive. They are better.

As Disability Discrimination Commissioner there is much to do: the Disability and Aged Care Royal Commissions and the NDIS are obvious issues. But underlying all disability policy is the National Disability Strategy, which is being revised this year for the next decade. The NDIS is an aspect of the National Disability Strategy; so too is a fit-for-purpose legal system.

In the next year I will be focussing on three issues:

- 1. Employment;**
- 2. Housing; and**



3. Promoting the importance of the National Disability Strategy and National Disability Data Asset

Employment and housing are key drivers of the quality of life of a person with disability. Success in these areas reflects a disability policy system that is working well. We should have improved from being ranked 21st out of 29 in the OECD for employment and second last for people with disability in poverty when the National Disability Strategy was initially developed. We have not.

To achieve success we need a National Disability Strategy and National Disability Data Asset that track progress to facilitate good policymaking. The quietest Australians need to be included.

Thank you for giving me the time to address you.