

**Community Affairs References Committee**  
**Delivery of outcomes under the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 to build inclusive and accessible communities**

Responses to the questions taken on notice at the Community Affairs References Committee hearing on 24 August 2017 are as follows:

**Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:** I am looking at the previous DAIP implementation report for 2015-16. In the executive summary it says the report showed that both state government agencies and local governments completed 85 per cent of their DAIP strategies. What was the figure for the other reporting authorities? I note that that includes universities, power companies and water corporations. Were they achieving a similar level of implementation success?

**Answer:**

Under the *Disability Services Act 1993*, public authorities are required to develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to ensure that their services, facilities and information is accessible for people with disability. The public authorities required to develop and lodge a DAIP are listed in Schedule 1 of the *Disability Services Regulations 2004*. These public authorities include:

- government departments established under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, Section 35, or entities specified in Schedule 2, column 2
- local governments
- universities
- public health services established under the *Health Services Act 2016*
- the Water Corporation
- electricity corporations

In 2015-16, public authorities reported that 85 per cent of the DAIP strategies they planned to undertake during the year were completed. The planned strategies completed by universities, electricity corporations and the Water Corporation were included in this figure.

Table 1 shows the average percentage of planned strategies completed by public authorities from 2013-14 to 2016-17. The percentage of planned strategies completed by public authorities has increased from 80 per cent in 2013-14 to 89 per cent in 2016-17.

Table 1: Average percentage of planned strategies completed by public authorities

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Average percentage of planned strategies completed by public authorities	80%	83%	85%	89%

**CHAIR:** I want to go back to the issue of housing very briefly. One issue that came up both this morning and in the submissions was around—it goes back to the issue of coordination as well. An example given to us this morning was about members of the community working to achieve better housing outcomes that were not congregate care. There was an example given of a particular redevelopment site where they had been trying to get more universal-design accommodation and, at the

same time, there was a congregate care housing proposal approved next door by LandCorp. They were saying this is an example where we are not seeing cooperation or coordination between agencies. Clearly, people with disability are saying they want to move away from congregate care and towards a more inclusive style of housing. Do you know about that example? How do you get around having those things occur? And how do you get away from the ongoing issue around congregate care when clearly that is not what the community wants?

**Mr Cash:** I am not aware of the particular case you are referring to.

**CHAIR:** Maybe you could take that on notice. We could pull that out and send it to you.

**Answer:**

Under deliberations of the former Government several agencies were involved in discussions for a new community based model of care for people living with spinal injury. These discussions included consideration of a range of housing options designed to meet the needs and aspirations of current and future residents. At this stage no final decisions have been made.

**Senator CAROL BROWN:** What's the percentage of people meeting their compliance rates? I'll just put some questions on—

**Answer:**

Every year, a number of DAIPs are due to expire and relevant public authorities are required to lodge a new DAIP with the Department of Communities. Where this does not occur, the public authority is deemed non-compliant.

Table 2 shows the percentage of public authorities that had a compliant DAIP lodged with the Department of Communities from 2013-14 to 2016-17. For 2016-17, 206 out of 231 public authorities (89 per cent) had a compliant DAIP lodged with the Department of Communities.

Table 2: Percentage of public authorities that had a compliant DAIP lodged with the Department of Communities

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Percentage of public authorities with a compliant DAIP	82%	92%	96%	89%

The Department of Communities continues to work closely with public authorities that do not have a compliant DAIP to ensure they meet their legislative requirements under the *Disability Services Act 1993*.

The Department of Communities employs dedicated DAIP officers to provide advice on access and inclusion, and to support public authorities to develop, review and implement their DAIPs. Following the tabling of the DAIP Progress Report 2016-17 in State Parliament, the Department of Communities will send a broadcast email to public authorities which summarises the key findings from the DAIP Progress Report, including which DAIP outcome areas require improvement across State and local government.

The Department of Communities will continue to work with public authorities by undertaking the following activities:

- provide disability awareness presentations for public authorities to build staff knowledge and confidence
- provide one-on-one support to officers across the public sector to help them improve accessibility and inclusion, and develop strategies across the seven DAIP outcome areas
- deliver DAIP Development workshops aimed at assisting public authorities that are reviewing DAIPs
- host an Interagency Knowledge Sharing Group for State Government agencies to discuss strategies to increase employment for people with disability
- facilitate a networking group for State Government agencies and supporting the local government network.

**Senator CAROL BROWN:** I want to follow up on that—the more formal processes in terms of having that discussion with the private building sector. Whilst government can't do it all, they have to lead and that's a primary role that government need to have. I will ask the questions and, if you have to come back on notice, that's fine. Was there a formal process for ongoing discussions with the private building sector in terms of universal design and building codes for accessibility? Are those discussions ongoing?

**Answer:**

There has been informal discussions with the private sector about how Government and industry can work together to increase the level of accessible and liveable housing design delivered through new urban development. However, there has not been a formal process established at this time.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

#### **Additional questions from the Committee**

**Question:** What percentage of agencies and local authorities do not comply with the requirements of DAIPs

**Answer:**

As at 21 September 2017, 21 out of 235 public authorities (8.9 per cent) did not have a current DAIP lodged with the Department of Communities. The Department of Communities is continuing to work closely with these public authorities to ensure they meet their legislative requirements under the *Disability Services Act 1993*.

**Question:** What action is the government taking to lead the process to ensure new housing is accessible housing?

**Answer:**

There has been informal discussions with the private sector about how Government and industry can work together to increase the level of accessible and liveable housing design delivered through new urban development. However, there has not been a formal process established at this time.

The Housing Authority has partnered with other government agencies, private and not-for-profit sectors on a number of targeted programs to ensure that new housing is accessible housing. One such program is the Community Disability Housing Program (CDHP). The aim of the CDHP is to provide long term rental housing for people with physical or mental disabilities who require ongoing support to live in the community. Housing works with the Disability Services Commission and the Mental Health Commission to identify the housing requirements of the Disability Services Commission and the Mental Health Commission clients, based on the nature and

level of their disability, and then to deliver the required housing in the locations specified. Housing retains ownership of the properties and engages a Community Housing Organisation (CHO) to property manage the houses. Since 2006-07, 865 CDHP properties have been completed at a cost of \$318 million. This program is ongoing.

The recently completed Social Housing Investment Package (SHIP) announced in the 2015-16 State Budget, is a \$564 million investment into housing the most vulnerable in our community. Delivered through five streams of activity, SHIP delivered an additional 1,000 social housing homes by 30 June 2017.

SHIP has delivered the following completions:

- Build (Metro)
  - 28 x 1 bedroom units built for seniors in the metro area – all of these were universal design
  - In addition the 4 units built in Carlisle for Harold Hawthorne were universal design
- Build (Country)
  - 7 x 1 bedroom units in Broome were universal design
  - 4 x 1 bedroom units in Northam were for aged care were universal design.

The Housing Authority has taken the opportunity and will continue to incorporate accommodation to meet the needs of people with disability in its centrally located developments such as Abode which is 50m from Westminster train station.

**Question:** What progress do you believe has been made in making communities more inclusive and accessible under the National Disability Strategy?

**Answer:**

The *National Disability Strategy 2010-2020* (NDS) continues to be an important catalyst for improving outcomes for all people with disability, their families and carers, and is crucial to the success of the NDIS. The NDS provides a nationally consistent commitment to making communities more inclusive and accessible and the corresponding reporting framework ensures States and Territories are accountable for action under the strategy. WA endeavours to be a leader in building inclusive and accessible communities through a range of initiatives such as:

- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- The Department of Communities working in partnership with the Department of Education to implement the Integrated Planning, Coordination and Intervention for Children with Disability in the School System Project (the Project). The Project aims to align WA NDIS planning with the existing education and support planning conducted in schools to promote child development and educational achievement.
- The Department of Communities working with the Department of Justice to develop and implement a referral pathway to the WA NDIS for prisoners who may be eligible for the NDIS once released into the community. This pathway can commence up to six months prior to release with the intention that once released, supports and services can be in place to assist the individual to integrate back into the community.

- The Changing Places initiative which provides larger toilets with change tables and hoists (in collaboration with the Western Australian Local Government Association and National Disability Services).
- The Liveable Homes initiative which promotes universal design principles for residential premises.
- Australian Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled parking permits and Companion Card initiatives which increase access and participation for people with disability.
- Sport & Recreation Disability Forums which build connections for people with disability to be involved in sport and recreation activities (Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries).

**Question:** What consultation and communication has your organisation had about the National Disability Strategy with the Commonwealth Government in the last 12 months?

**Answer:**

The Department of Communities is a member of the Senior Officials' Working Group (SOWG) which meets via telepresence every month. SOWG is chaired by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. Over the last 12 months, SOWG has worked through and endorsed the NDS reinvigoration options. These provide guidance for States and Territories to focus effort on advancing the aims of the second implementation plan of the NDS.

The Department of Communities represents WA on the SOWG NDS Working Group. The secretariat of the NDS Working Group is the Commonwealth's National Disability Policy Team, Disability and Carer Policy Branch, Department of Social Services. The NDS Working Group shares information on the implementation and reporting of jurisdictional disability plans and overall implementation of the NDS. Over the last 12 months, the NDS Working Group has identified a number of reinvigoration options for the NDS. These options have been reported to SOWG. An agreed commitment in the NDS second implementation plan is to convene a minimum of three solutions-focused workshops each year. WA has participated in the planning of these workshops. The first workshop was held in June 2017 and focused on improving outcomes for Aboriginal people with disability. WA has recently committed to membership of the planning sub-committee of the NDS Working Group for the third NDS workshop on criminal justice.