



19 July 2017

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe  
Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Ms Radcliffe

**Inquiry into the delivery of outcomes under the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 to build inclusive and accessible communities**

Thank you for your email dated 17 July 2017 regarding the proof of the Hansard transcript of evidence for the Committee's hearing in Sydney on Tuesday 4 July 2017. I welcome the opportunity to provide corrections. I also provide further information and comments on some of issues as raised in the hearing on that day.

**Corrections to proof of Hansard transcript of evidence**

Enclosed with this letter are my corrections to the transcript, marked in red.

**Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010**

At page 22 of the proof of the Hansard transcript (the transcript), Senator Brown asked me if the Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010 is a voluntary code. I wish to clarify and correct my answer to this question. The Standards are a legislative instrument made pursuant to s 31 of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth). As per section 32 of the Act, it is unlawful to contravene a disability standard. Therefore, it is not a voluntary code as queried by Senator Brown. I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen through my response to this question at the hearing.

**Australian Government's *Make Local Communities more Accessible for all Australians* initiative**

At pages 22-23 of the transcript, Senator Brown asked about the *Make Local Communities more Accessible for all Australians* initiative and whether I have any information on how successful that initiative was.

I refer you to my correspondence of 6 July 2017 and my response to that issue. By way of clarification and to add to my answer to the Senator's question on this issue, I am not aware of any information on how successful the *Make Local Communities more Accessible for all Australians* initiative was. As per my earlier correspondence, I suggest this issue is best followed up with the Department of Social Services.

### **Local Government Associations**

At page 23 of the transcript, Senator Brown asked me whether, in my work, I liaise with local government associations and, further, whether I talked with them in my initial consultations that I undertook or in any further consultations.

In response, there were representatives of local government at a number of my national consultations. Further and as I indicated in my evidence on 4 July, I have spoken at local council events. I intend to have ongoing liaison with local government representatives in my work.

### **National Disability Strategy second implementation plan**

At page 23 of the transcript, Senator Brown asked me about an 'Australian action plan' that will be part of the National Disability Strategy.

By way of clarification to my answer to the Senator's question on this issue, I am aware that the second implementation plan of the National Disability Strategy outlines a development of an 'Australian government plan'. I am not aware of any development of this 'Australian government plan'. It is the Commission's submission that there should be more focus on developing stronger National Disability Strategy implementation plans with, amongst other things, specific performance indicators, timeframes and accountability. This is in line with recommendation number 13 in our submission to the inquiry into the delivery of outcomes under the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 to build inclusive and accessible communities.

Please contact me if you require further information on these matters.

Yours sincerely

Alastair McEwin  
**Disability Discrimination Commissioner**

Enc: corrections to proof of Hansard