



Dr Ben Gauntlett

Disability
Discrimination
Commissioner

FOURTH YEAR OF TERM

'Good disability policy benefits all Australians: not just the 4.5 million people with a disability in Australia. Ensuring that the voices of people with disability are central to policy decisions is the key to achieving positive outcomes and changing the trajectory of people's lives for the better.'

TERM GOALS

- **Increase** access to meaningful employment opportunities for people with disability.
- **Enhance** community awareness of disability rights and disability discrimination.
- **Increase** access to accessible housing for people with disability.
- **Strengthen** legal and policy frameworks to protect disability rights.

PRINCIPLES / APPROACH

- Ensuring meaningful consultation, engagement and collaboration with people with disability, including children and young people, and their representative organisations to amplify their voices and promote self-advocacy.
- Promoting understanding and application of the human rights model of disability in education, policy development, law reform and structural change.
- Fostering stakeholder networks and partnerships to promote the participation of people with disability in the workforce and the broader community.
- Highlighting and addressing structural discrimination and intersectional disadvantage, faced by people with disability.
- Improving the collection and publication of disaggregated data relating to disability to facilitate evidence-based analysis, advocacy and decision-making.



Commissioner Gauntlett (front centre) attending an Illawarra Connections Dinner August 2022

KEY ACTIVITIES: 2022-23 WORKPLAN

<p>IncludeAbility project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering the IncludeAbility employment project to increase access to meaningful employment opportunities for people with disability. • Supporting IncludeAbility Employer Network members to increase their capacity to address barriers for Australians with disability through quarterly meetings and other engagement. • Working with the Ambassador Advisory Group to ensure that lived experience of disability is central to IncludeAbility. • This year the project is focused on phase two of the project including the development of pilot employment programs in partnership with Employment Network members to support the employment of people with disability within their organisation.
<p>Accessible Housing project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibiting the research outcomes of the Housing Modifications Research Project, delivered in partnership with the Faculty of Monash Art, Design & Architecture (MADA). This includes the outcomes of the MADA teaching units in which students have considered housing modification options with the Commissioner as the client. • This year will also focus on the development of information kits and further evidence of good practice based on the research findings on campus at MADA. The Commissioner will also compliment this work through engaging on accessible housing issues more broadly including consulting with key stakeholders on the role of specialist disability accommodation.

Partnership with the Australian Public Service Commission

- Engaging with the Australian Public Service Commission to support the implementation of the Australian Public Service Disability Employment Strategy 2022–25.

Policy and law reform engagement

- Representing the rights and interests of people with disability by participating in a range of forums and committees across government and non-government sectors. This includes engagement in areas such as transport, education and employment to ensure the lived experience of people with disability is recognised and considered.
- Chairing Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 Disability Advisory Council, a national body created to advise on the implementation of the Strategy.
- Advocating for policy and law reform to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and to promote the rights of people with disability.
- Contributing to reviews, inquiries and other mechanisms to advocate for a human rights approach across key disability rights policy areas including education, housing and employment.
- Engaging with the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (Disability Royal Commission) on key issues.
- Participating in, and supporting the participation of civil society in, the CRPD's Council of States Parties.