**Disability Discrimination Commissioner National Consultations**

**Introductory Video Transcript**

Hello my name is Alastair McEwin.

I’m your Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner.

It’s my job to promote and protect the rights of people with disability in Australia.

I strongly believe that nothing will change unless people with disability are actively involved and represented in decision-making processes that affect them. “Nothing about us without us.”

I decided to go around Australia to talk to people with disability about what they think needs to change to make sure they can better enjoy their rights.

I went to every capital city and some regional centres. I talked to over a thousand people. I asked for your thoughts and ideas on my proposed priority areas – employment, education, housing, people with disability in the criminal justice system, and implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. You shared these, and many more ideas on the issues that matter to you the most. All of your contributions will make a difference to the work I do in my 5-year term.

I am so grateful for the time and stories you shared. My favourite part was watching the connections, networks and understanding that formed during the consultations. You opened up to me, shared your aspirations, your goals, the issues you face, and you listened and empathised with others.

Shortly, I will release a roadmap that will outline the things I will do during my term as Disability Discrimination Commissioner. But I first wanted to share with you a summary of what I heard about each of my proposed priority areas and other issues that you told me are important and that you think I should work on. I want to make sure that the community and the government hears, responds to and respects the different voices of people with disability and your unique experiences.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your stories and ideas with me.

I look forward to working with you all during my term, towards a society where people with disability enjoy their rights, just like anybody else.