**Disability Discrimination Commissioner National Consultations**

**Other Areas of Work Video Transcript**

Disappointingly, people with disability continue to face discrimination, barriers and challenges in many parts of everyday life.

You told me that progress towards the outcomes of the National Disability Strategy has been slow and inconsistent, and as a result, many people with disability still face discrimination and barriers to health care, transport and other essential services. People with disability are often denied their right to appropriate health care. They are prevented from accessing their communities by physical, sensory, communication and cost barriers, and the biggest barrier – people’s attitudes. And because both systemic and individual advocacy are not sufficiently funded and are at risk of further funding cuts, people with disability do not have the support they need to get better outcomes from their interactions with mainstream systems.

You told me that the voice and representation of people with disability is missing from the media, politics and public life. People with disability can’t access television, media or online content in their preferred format – for example, it is not Auslan interpreted or audio described. And the increasing use of online and touch screen technology is creating many communication and information barriers for people with disability.

You also told me that people with disability continue to face discrimination in accessing insurance, superannuation and airline travel, in exercising their right to have sexual relationships and to be parents, and in migrating to Australia. All of these instances of discrimination contribute to a negative public perception of people with disability, and prevent the full realisation of their rights.

A lot of people agreed that we need initiatives to increase opportunities for the voice and representation of people with disability, and to increase diversity and inclusion in advertising and media. There is also a need for more effective monitoring of the Disability Discrimination Act Standards. And most importantly, there is a need for a commitment from all levels of government to implement the National Disability Strategy and to remove the barriers and laws that result in discrimination against people with disability.

We will know that people with disability are enjoying their human rights on an equal basis with others when a person’s disability does not define their opportunities for participation in all aspects of society. When society expects and anticipates people with disability to participate in schools, workplaces, sport, cultural activities, social and recreational activities and generally in the community in the same way that people without disability do. And when people with disability can take risks and participate in all aspects of society, just like anybody else.