CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Hon Kristie Johnston, MP
Independent member for Clark

ANSWERED BY: Hon Jo Palmer, MLC
Minister for Disability Services

QUESTION:

My question is from a constituent in Mount Nelson.

Minister, the Disability Inclusion Plan is a welcome framework, but the disability community has serious concerns about how it will be delivered. Every priority area requires real resourcing, staff time, systems and expertise, yet there is little confidence defined entities will get what they need in the current budget environment. The Defined Entity Working Group, while critical to a whole of-government approach, has no disability community representation, and with an estimated 22 defined entities each required to develop their own action plan, the community simply does not have the numbers of people ready and resourced to sit on that many co-design bodies at once.

Will you commit to funding and paying disability community representatives to participate in developing defined entities action plans and will you guarantee that the disability community has a seat at the table of the Defined Entity Working Group itself?

ANSWER:

The Defined Entities Working Group was established in early 2025 to support government agencies and other defined entities to understand and meet their responsibilities under the *Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024* (the Act). The Working Group is designed as an interagency forum that helps defined entities coordinate their efforts and implement their obligations under the Act.

The Tasmanian Government recognises that people with disability are the experts in their own lives, and their lived experience must be central to disability inclusion planning. That is why the Act requires defined entities to consult with people with disability, the Disability Inclusion Advisory Council, and disability advocacy and representative organisations when developing their Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

The Disability Inclusion Advisory Council, whose membership was announced in June this year, also has an important role in bringing lived experience and expert advice into disability policy and reform across Tasmania.

As defined entities begin developing their own Disability Inclusion Action Plans, they will be expected to engage meaningfully with people with disability and the broader disability community. Many entities already have established advisory and consultation arrangements in place, while others will develop approaches that best suit their circumstances.

Importantly, the Tasmanian Government is committed to engagement that is accessible, inclusive and respectful. We recognise the value of lived experience and, where appropriate, remuneration or honorariums may be provided to acknowledge the time, expertise and contribution of people who participate in advisory groups, consultations or other engagement activities.

Decisions about the specific arrangements for consultation and any remuneration will ultimately be made by individual defined entities, reflecting their responsibilities, governance arrangements and available resources.

Separately to the defined entities Disability Inclusion Action Plan process noted above, I can advise that through the Tasmanian Disability Inclusion Plan, released in August 2026, one of the Government's priority commitments is to develop a Disability Engagement Strategy. This strategy will provide guidance on inclusive engagement, consultation and co-design to help ensure people with disability continue to have a strong voice in decisions that affect them. I have asked the Department of Health to consider including some information about remuneration in this Strategy.

We are committed to working alongside Tasmanians with disability to build a more inclusive state, and ensuring their lived experience continues to inform policy, services and system reform.

Hon Jo Palmer, MLC
Minister for Disability Services

Date: 7 · 10 · 26