

**6 July 2022**

Dear Disability Advocacy Secretariat,

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this consultation on the draft for a new National Disability Advocacy Framework 2022-2025 (the Framework).

Our disability advocacy organisation Explorability Inc. would like to add our support to the detailed submission by Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA) on the draft Framework and what is needed to realise its intended Outcomes. In addition, Explorability has completed a separate submission that captures locally based feedback from people with disability, and their families and carers.

We would like to add particular emphasis on the need to ensure proactive and targeted outreach that improves access to advocacy for people with disability in our community who are most vulnerable, isolated and at risk of harm.

In addition, Explorability Inc is supportive of a National Disability Advocacy Data Taskforce, that seeks input from Advocacy agencies in all States and Territories irrespective of their funding source, with relevant expertise to:

- Developed agreed national and jurisdictional data collection systems to:
  - identify optimal approach for outcomes measurement across sector
  - enable greater efficiency and consistency of data collection
  - define agreed priority data sets
  - yield robust data with potential for aggregation, cross-system data linkages and systemic analysis
  - implement agreed processes for data release and protection of confidentiality
  - enable transparency and public sharing of high level information
  - support building an evidence base of effective disability advocacy models, approaches and systems
- Incorporate mechanism for collecting and disseminating data at federal and state and territory levels on systemic issues that adequately reflects on-the-ground experience

A more collaborated and coordinated approach across all governments, inclusive of disability advocacy agencies, in relation to the above is fundamental to achieving the Outcomes of the Framework.

Explorability Inc believes one of the highest priorities in relation to the Framework itself, is ensuring that clear, measurable, shared targets are agreed by all governments in the Work Plan and effective ongoing measurement and review of progress occurs, regarding Work Plan targets as well as Framework Outcomes, throughout the life of the Framework. This will contribute significantly to the overall achievement of the Outcomes.

Explorability encourages all governments to involve people with disability, and advocacy agencies, in the development and review of the Work Plan and evaluation of the Outcomes, and to publish high-level, de-identified data from both the Work Plan and Framework Outcomes progress reviews and evaluations. This will ensure people with disability, their families and carers, advocacy agencies and other interested stakeholders are well informed and well placed to contribute to further consultations and reviews.

Furthermore, Explorability strongly encourages comprehensive sharing and analysis of data and joint decision-making regarding advocacy programs and parameters, across governments, rather than separate decision-making and responsibility in relation to “how each advocacy program is developed, funded and managed”. This will ensure disability advocacy is considered as a whole sector across States and Territories and nationally, minimising program gaps and complexities for people and families, and ultimately ensuring better access to advocacy support.

Explorability urges the Disability Reform Ministers and their respective governments to prioritise this work and make strong commitments on disability advocacy funding and collaboration to help realise the vision of Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021-31 and the National Disability Insurance Scheme: an Australia that includes and values people with disability and respects human rights for all.

Sincerely,



**Joanne Ende**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Explorability Inc.