

# Leadership<sup>+</sup> Plus

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).

We at Leadership Plus, an organisation dedicated solely to quality and professional disability advocacy, would like to add our support to the submission by Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA) on the draft Framework and what is needed to realise its intended Outcomes.

We are hopeful that the combined wisdom and dedication of the Commonwealth and State governments can help achieve reliable and easily accessible independent advocacy for people with disability by:

- Ensuring ongoing funding for independent advocacy – that is, advocacy entirely focussed on the needs of the person with disability, regardless of the source of the issue, and free of any conflicts of interest;
- Ensuring that professional standards of advocacy practice are developed and promoted;
- Developing a coherent national system of advocacy so that access to advocacy is not contingent the person with disability's state of residence;
- Increasing support to disability advocacy organisations for proactive activity and preventative measures so fewer people with disabilities have their rights impinged and need to call on reactive advocacy after the fact.

We are hopeful that the Disability Advocacy Work Plan will ensure that advocacy can effectively address the diversity of advocacy needs of people with disabilities – diversity of background, diversity and complexity of disabilities, that focus on specific cohorts does not leave behind any individuals who do not fit those categories.

We urge 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

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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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoff Southwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Geoff Southwell  
Chief Executive Officer