



NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance

Media release, 17 November 2020

A win for people with disability in NSW as Budget provides funding certainty for independent disability advocacy.

The NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance is relieved by today's announcement that disability advocacy will be funded for the next three years, and that the government has demonstrated its commitment to facilitate a transition to a new Disability Advocacy Futures Program.

Serena Ovens, convener of the NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance said today's announcement ends more than three years of funding uncertainty for disability advocacy organisations in local communities across NSW.

"The Government commitment will come as a welcome relief to the 1.37 million people with disability across NSW who rely on access to independent disability advocacy for lifesaving support and advice in cases of discrimination, access and inclusion issues," Ms Ovens said.

"It will help guarantee ensuring that people with a disability will continue to have access to a voice and support when they need them most."

The 2020 NSW Disability Advocacy survey recently released by the Alliance found that 85% of respondents said they would need to use advocacy services again, and 80% said that the loss of advocacy services would have either a significant or disastrous effect on them and their families.

More than 600 people from 251 separate postcodes responded to the survey.

"We had responses from all corners of NSW, metropolitan Sydney in the East, to Tweed Heads in the North, Albury in the South and Broken Hill in the west, illustrating how extensive and far reaching the services offered by independent disability advocacy organisations are in NSW," Ms Ovens said.

"The NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance thanks the NSW Government, and Minister Ward for their support of advocacy and their commitment to people with disabilities. This is a win for people with disability in NSW who rely on advocacy, and who have campaigned tirelessly for this funding.

We look forward to working with the government to better understand the detail and co-design the new Disability Advocacy Futures Program based on the independent review undertaken by the NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner a year ago."

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The Stand by Me campaign is run by a coalition of 22 disability advocacy, information and representation organisations in NSW. For more information go to www.standbyme.org.au