



ACT Council of Social Services
6 Gritten St, Canberra Australian Capital Territory 2611

ACT Down Syndrome Association
Building 1, Pearce Community Centre, Pearce ACT, 2607

Advocacy for Inclusion
2.02 Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St Canberra City, 2601

Mental Health Community Coalition
level 1, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St, Canberra City

Women with Disabilities ACT
Building 1, Pearce Community Centre, Pearce ACT, 2607

Joint Media Release

27 June 2023

Lack of disability strategy funds makes for a ‘disappointing’ ACT Budget

Canberra organisations representing people with disability have said the failure to deliver funding for disability strategies, especially the disability health strategy, means that this is a disappointing Budget for people with disability.

They have however welcomed the Governments indication that it is committing to funded and comprehensive disability strategies and also noted positive standalone initiatives in areas like housing, justice, education and transport.

AFI Head of Policy Craig Wallace said: “While we note the Budget does contain welcome statements which commit to injecting funding into strategies once they are finalised, these are major initiatives and we expected to start seeing some dollars attached to them now.

In particular, Canberrans with disability have invested time and expertise working with Government to working to build a disability health strategy. We have told Government they want a strategy to deliver dedicated funding to improve diagnostic services, accessible equipment, information and infrastructure and cultural change towards people with disability so it would have been good to see funding set aside to start work now.

“AFI does welcome investments to index community sector wages, improve accessible infrastructure, improved housing maintenance and public housing supply, to limit gambling harm and continue the Disability Justice Strategy, to address family violence and a boost to the ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme as well as support with costs of utilities. We also welcome a focus on inclusive education and will be seeking more details on measures in the coming days”

Shannon Kolak, Chief Executive Officer of the ACT Down Syndrome Association (ACTDSA) said “In response to the ACT Budget 2023-2024, ACTDSA welcomes the Government’s commitment to fund the various disability strategies however we are very disappointed that no actional funding has been allocated to fund this commitment.

“The disability community has worked tirelessly on these strategies, especially the ACT Disability Strategy and the ACT Disability Health Strategy and we would like to see a financial commitment from the Government for the implementation of this work”.

Kat Reed the Chief Executive Officer of Women with Disabilities ACT (WWDACT) said:

Etc

Media Contacts

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