

16 December 2020

National Disability Strategy Governance and Engagement Section  
Department of Social Services

By email to: [disabilityreform@dss.gov.au](mailto:disabilityreform@dss.gov.au)

To Whom It May Concern

**Re: Introductory Paper on the National Disability Strategy and National Disability Insurance Scheme Outcomes Framework**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the Introductory Paper on the National Disability Strategy (NDS) and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Outcomes Framework (the Introductory Paper).

The RANZCP is the principal organisation representing the medical specialty of psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand and is responsible for training, educating and representing psychiatrists on policy issues. The RANZCP represents more than 5000 qualified psychiatrists in Australia and New Zealand and is guided on policy matters by a range of expert committees, including the Section of Psychiatry of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

The RANZCP supports the Outcomes Framework in principle, including the outcomes, indicators and measures as outlined in the Introductory Paper. The RANZCP supports recognition in the Introductory Paper of mental health and wellbeing as a critical component of improving outcomes for people with disability.

The RANZCP would like to highlight the following key areas for further focus within the Introductory Paper:

- Further details would be welcomed as to how the Outcomes Framework will be implemented and operationalised given the large and broad nature of the outcomes, indicators and measures being evaluated. Inclusion of disability services outside the NDIS should be included.
- Strengthening of data and reporting is important in improving outcomes for people with disability. The RANZCP would welcome further information on how it will be implemented across the NDS and NDIS and what this will look like for people with disability, including how it will be applied across sectors as mentioned in the Introductory Paper.
- Currently, services in regional, rural and remote areas remain largely unavailable to people with disability which must be addressed in the Outcomes Framework.

- The criminal justice sector should be included as while the Introductory Paper mentions, 'Rights, protection, justice and legislation', it does not appear to be referring to the criminal justice sector itself. This is a noticeable gap as people with disability, particularly people with intellectual disability, are over-represented in the criminal justice sector. [1, 2]

As the Introductory Paper is at present quite a high-level document, we would welcome the opportunity to provide further comment on the draft Outcomes Framework when they become available to gauge a better understanding of how the Outcomes Framework will be implemented in practice.

To discuss any of the issues raised in this letter and submission, please contact Rosie Forster, Executive Manager, Practice, Policy and Partnerships Department via [rosie.forster@ranzcp.org](mailto:rosie.forster@ranzcp.org) or by phone on (03) 9601 4943.

Yours sincerely



Associate Professor John Allan  
**President**

Ref: 2023

#### References

1. National People with Disabilities and Carer Council. Shut Out: The Experience of People with Disabilities and their Families in Australia. . 2009.
2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The health of Australia's prisoners 2015. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; 2015.