



Children and Young People
with Disability Australia

PO Box 172, Clifton Hill VIC 3068

P: 03 9417 1025

P: 1800 222 660 (regional or interstate)

E: info@cyda.org.au

ABN: 42 140 529 273

Premier Peter Gutwein
Premier of Tasmania
Level 9, 15 Murray Street, Hobart 7000
(03) 6165 7650

Tuesday, 19 March 2021

Dear Premier Gutwein,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy discussion paper*.

Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) is the national representative organisation for children and young people with disability aged 0 to 25 years. Our vision is that children and young people with disability are valued and living empowered lives with equality of opportunity; and our purpose is to ensure governments, communities, and families, are empowering children and young people with disability to fully exercise their rights and aspirations.

We are heartened to see the paper is seeking feedback on the specific needs of children and young people with disability. Often the distinct needs of the cohort are overlooked in both children and youth-specific and disability-specific policies. CYDA encourages the Tasmania Government to continue to seek feedback directly from children and young people with disability in the formation and implementation of the *Strategy* to not only to ensure their needs are accounted for, but that their strengths are as well.

At the end of September 2020, CYDA hosted the inaugural National Youth Disability Summit – a five-day, online conference designed by and for young people with disability. The Summit offered young people from across Australia the opportunity to network and attend a range of sessions and workshops where they could develop new skills and knowledge. Over 250 young people attended the Summit, with four of the five days being ‘youth only’.

CYDA has recently released a series of papers summarising the themes that emerged over the Summit. The five papers represent young people’s ideas, insights and expertise on the topic areas:

- Education
- Employment
- Awareness, Access and Inclusion
- The National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Mental Health and Wellbeing

There is a lot of overlap in these topics and the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework Domains. We have attached the five *National Youth Disability Summit*:

Website www.cyda.org.au

Facebook facebook.com/CydaAu

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What young people with disability said papers as an attachment. Please accept these as CYDA's formal submission.

As outlined in the papers, young people who attended the Summit shared what helps and prevents them to participate in the community and live the lives they would like to live. A prominent theme that emerged across the papers was that young participants saw themselves as a core part of the solution in building a more inclusive society; whereby they believe they can enact positive change if governments and systems invested in their skill development and provided meaningful platforms where they can be heard and exercise their lived expertise.

If you would like to know more about The Summit or CYDA's work, please feel free to contact our me or our Youth Action Team on 03 9417 1025 or info@cyda.org.au.

Kind regards,

Maeve Kennedy
Policy and Programs Manager
CYDA