Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth

Office for Youth

Department of Education

GPO Box 9880

Canberra ACT 2601

01 September 2023

Dear Hon Dr Anne Aly MP,

**Response to Australia’s youth engagement strategy**

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.

Please accept this letter and attached policy papers, entitled the LivedX series, as CYDA’s formal submission to the Australia’s youth engagement strategy.

Through this submission CYDA aims to bring your attention the issues for young people with disability as discussed in the attached LivedX Policy Papers. (Refer appendix on page two for explanation and background to the papers).

As the LivedX series has been designed and written by young disabled people from the CYDA community and it is our vision to give direct voice to young people, this submission is focussed on the section of the discussion paper targeted to young people.

Each policy paper, in its own right, addresses the following questions from the discussion paper:

1. What are the top issues that the Government should work with young people to address?
2. What are some of the ways Government can improve how we engage with young people?

If you would like to know more about this submission or the LivedX series, please feel free to contact Liz Hudson, Policy and Research Manager on 03 9417 1025 or lizhudson@cyda.org.au.

Kind regards,



Skye Kakoschke-Moore

Chief Executive Officer

**Appendix A: Background to the LivedX Policy Papers**

The LivedX consultations were designed to capture the Lived-Experience and Lived-Expertise of young people with disability on topics and issues they value and deemed important. The series brought together young people from around Australia to share their insights, experiences and ideas for a future that embraces young people with disability and enables them to thrive.

The project is a component of CYDA’s Our Voices Our Visions: Youth Advocacy project and is funded by the Youth Advocacy Support Grant from the Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

There were seven sessions held over the course of seven months in 2021. A total of 63 participants attended across the sessions. There was representation from many different disabilities, age (15-29) and all states and territories except Northern Territory. Participants included LGBTQIA+ people, people of colour, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, people who speak a language other than English at home, and people who are living in regional, rural, or remote areas.

These consultations have been synthesised into a series of five papers:

* [Tertiary Education and Learning](https://cyda.org.au/search/details/353/livedx-2022-series-full-policy-paper-tertiary-education-and-learning)
* [Financial Security and Employment](https://cyda.org.au/search/details/354/livedx-2022-series-full-policy-paper-financial-security-and-employment)
* [Healthcare Settings for LGBTQIA+ Youth with Disability](https://cyda.org.au/search/details/355/livedx-2022-series-full-policy-paper-healthcare-settings-for-lgbtqia-youth-with-disability)
* [Community Spaces for LGBTQIA+ Youth with Disability](https://cyda.org.au/search/details/356/livedx-2022-series-full-policy-paper-community-spaces-for-lgbtqia-youth-with-disability)
* [Inclusion and Decision Making](https://cyda.org.au/search/details/357/livedx-2022-series-full-policy-paper-inclusion-and-decision-making)

LivedX has been designed by and for young disabled people. Co-design with young people was integral to this project and consequently LivedX was steered by a working group of the Youth Council.

This policy paper series was written by members of the working group, who also participated in the consultation design, topic selection and facilitation, and conducted the data analysis. The working group was supported by Policy and Research team staff, however as a principle, the decisions were made by the young people involved.