



Standing Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

March 2010 Meeting Report

The SACDI Chair welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (SACDI) and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

There were no apologies and it was noted that there was now a vacant position on SACDI. The meeting noted that the selection criteria for SACDI membership is being adjusted to ensure balance, after which a formal selection process will take place.

Election of Deputy Chair

Jan Ashford was nominated and unanimously endorsed as the inaugural SACDI Deputy Chair.

Discussion of Member issues

Members discussed the following issues that were affecting their constituents:

Members noted the recent concern about the pitfalls of international calling cards.

SACDI noted that consumers with hearing impairments are experiencing a lack of mandatory captioning which will be apparent in newly available digital channels and was evident in a Government DVD on fire safety.

Members also raised the issue of information dissemination and the importance of how information is presented and delivered to people with communication disabilities. Members noted that the rights of people with disabilities may be left behind in the development of the National Broadband Network (NBN).

Members encouraged ACCAN to monitor the Government's pledge for audio descriptions on the ABC, which currently has no timeline.

Digital Switchover Set-top boxes and remote controls

The meeting noted that the Government has launched an assistance scheme for the transition to digital television. In conjunction with this, ACCAN met with Australian Digital Testing who have been commissioned by the Government to research and develop accessible set-top boxes.

SMS Emergency Calls

ACCAN staff reported that they had met with the Minister who stated that he had received the ACMA's Feasibility Study report. ACCAN has recommended the Minister release the report and make a formal commitment to implement the scheme.

Public Procurement

ACCAN position on Public Procurement policy has been sent to Government. The meeting then discussed the need to implement a Public Procurement policy, noting that the United States has had the policy in place for 10 years. SACDI and ACCAN also agreed that the implementation of Procurement policy should be linked to the web accessibility guidelines.

Inclusive Communications and the National Disability Strategy Campaign

The meeting discussed what inclusive communications means for the National Disability Strategy (NDS), the current status of the NDS and current SACDI member activities.

There was discussion about future meeting arrangements and the possibility of SACDI becoming more directly engaged in this issue. It was suggested that SACDI and ACCAN run a roundtable on inclusive communications and the National Disability Strategy.

Independent Disability Equipment Program

There was general discussion about the IDEP and ACCAN encouraged the meeting to find ways of popularising these issues to bring them to the Government's attention.

Future meetings

It was concluded that the next meeting will be held on 4 June 2010 from 10am to 3pm in Brisbane. The following meeting will be on 11 November 2010 in Sydney and following that will be a February/March 2011 meeting in Adelaide.

The Chair encouraged the SACDI to attend a stakeholder meeting from 2pm to 4pm for ACCAN members in Brisbane on 3 June 2010.