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From: Roen Meijers <roen.meijers@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2020 5:02 PM
To: secretariat.PESRAC
Subject: Disability needs in Tas recovery plan

Hello,

I understand that the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Council is undertaking the first stage of their work in mapping Tasmania's recovery from COVID-19. I am a person with multiple disabilities and am an active advocate in that community; this email is in regards to comments and questions I have heard raised regarding the inclusion of disability in the state's recovery plan.

There are significant and wide-ranging concerns from people with disabilities in Tasmania about how their needs will be accounted for in the broader recovery plan for the state. These concerns are varied, but particularly emphasise worries of being "left behind" or "forgotten about" as parts of society return to business as usual in ways that do not incorporate those needs.

Given the Statement of Concern issued by the Disability Royal Commission earlier in the pandemic (available here: <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/statement-concern-response-covid-19-pandemic-people-disability>), and other similar statements from bodies such as the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (<https://www.afdo.org.au/statement-of-concern-covid-19-human-rights-disability-and-ethical-decision-making/>) and Disability Advocacy Network Australia (<https://www.dana.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/An-Open-Letter-to-The-National-Cabinet-Final-small.pdf>), it is clear that there is a real need for disability considerations to be embedded into all stages of COVID-19 responses and recovery planning. Proper design could make it possible for many forms of disability to be accommodated as part of mainstream strategies.

So that I can assure other members of the disability community that our needs will not be forgotten about, or left as an afterthought in a plan that could have incorporated us from the start, I would like to know: what consideration of disability needs is being (or has been) made as part of the Tasmanian recovery plan?

Many thanks,

Roan Meijers
Disability Advocate
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