



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QoN No. 01

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION  
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Chair), Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

## Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

### **Inquiry into Disability Inclusion Bill 2024** **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by: MR JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Disability

In relation to: Disability Inclusion Bill 2024

Hearing Date: 04/04/2024

Question Lodgement Date: 08/04/2024

- (1) Minister, if this bill is passed, will the government consider additional funding for the Directorates and other agencies to implement the extensive requirements of the Bill?
- (2) What would be the impact on the Disability Reference Group (DRG) functions if the Bill is passed as it is?
- (3) What changes would the DRG like to see in the Bill?
- (4) What timeframe would be needed to successfully implement the bill, as it currently is?

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) The Government will consider the final Bill and any additional resourcing requirements will be determined when the full implications of the Bill are known. Any resourcing requirements would be subject to a Budget process.
- (2) If the Bill passes, a review of the DRG's ongoing role and function will be undertaken, noting the DRG essentially functions as a Disability Advisory Council but without a legislative framework. It is anticipated a transition from the DRG to a Disability Advisory Council would be reasonably straightforward.
- (3) The DRG's submission to the inquiry noted the substantial volume of consultation the Bill would impose in a potentially short period of time, particularly in a landscape of broader disability reform after several years of consultation. The DRG also noted a

lack of enforcement or non-compliance clauses in the Bill. The DRG's feedback will be taken into consideration in formulating the Government's position.

- (4) The Government will consider the final Bill and work with Directorates and agencies to confirm a realistic timeframe once the full implications of the Bill are known.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date: 15/7/24

By the Minister for Disability, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA