16 May 2017

**Communique**

The Disability Council NSW held its 27 April 2017 meeting at Parliament House.

Council Members were delighted to welcome the Hon. Ray Williams MP, Minister for Disability Services, and Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary, Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), to the meeting.

Minister Williams shared with the Council his enthusiasm for ensuring that new buildings are accessible and that new developments include affordable and accessible housing. The issue of the eventual sale of some group homes was discussed. Minister Williams welcomes Council advice on this and other issues affecting people with disability.

Mr Coutts-Trotter shared with the Council some exciting steps occurring in the public sector to increase the employment of people with disability across the NSW public sector. The Council and Mr Coutts-Trotter also discussed the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in NSW, and the Secretary welcomed further discussion on this topic.

Other issues discussed by the Council included:

* The new State Insurance Regulatory Authority
* Submissions provided to various Government agencies on matters affecting people with disability
* How the Disability Council can consult further with people with disability
* The importance of local government consulting with people with disability in the development, implementation and monitoring of their Disability Inclusion Action Plans (which they are due to have in place 1 July 2017)
* How the Council can help government improve the health of people with intellectual disability.

The Council also received a presentation from Dr Breda Carty, CH Currey Memorial Fellow, State Library of NSW, on her research on the changing social participation of people with disabilities in 19th and 20th century Australia.

The next meeting will take place in June 2017.