

28 February 2011

Findings of Productivity Commission on disabilities “long overdue”

The CEO of Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), Michael Moore, has welcomed the draft findings of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into *Disability Care and Support*.

Mr Moore commented “an equitable approach to people with disabilities is finally within sight. It is high time that people with disabilities and their carers had a sensible national system with certainty and appropriate support,” he added.

Commissioner Scott has identified what many have known and have had to experience – that the current system is “underfunded, unfair, fragmented, and inefficient, and gives people with a disability little choice and no certainty of access to appropriate supports”.

The PHAA believes that the proposal for a National Disability Insurance Scheme can only improve the lives of people with disabilities and particularly for those who have been further disadvantaged through such barriers as socio-economic factors, location, gender or race.

“This scheme will simply mean ‘a fair go’ for people with disabilities and for their carers,” added Mr Moore. “By providing choice about service providers, support organisations and the nature of their support package individuals would be further empowered. This would assist in improving certainty and ensuring a long term approach. As such it will be a major contribution to the individuals, their families and the broader community”.

The draft report needs widespread community support if people with disabilities are to be treated in a fair and equitable manner.

For further information/comment:

Michael Moore, PHAA CEO

0417 249 731