

*National Disability  
& Carer Alliance*



## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

## United in Purpose

Australia's major disability and carer organisations have joined forces for the first time to advocate on issues affecting people with disabilities, their families and carers.

The three national peak bodies cover people with a disability, carers and disability service organisations. They have come together to work on the many common issues where results are best achieved by "working together with one voice".

The new group, called the National Disability and Carer Alliance, at this point, consists of representatives from the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations; National Disability Services; and Carers Australia.

The Alliance members are Lesley Hall and Graham Douglas-Meyer (CEO and Chair of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations), Joan Hughes and Pam Webster (CEO and President of Carers Australia), Ken Baker (Chief Executive of National Disability Services). The group is supported by Rhonda Galbally (CEO of Our Community) and Bruce Bonyhady (Chair of Yooralla).

The President of Carers Australia, Pam Webster, said the aim was to get a better deal for people with disabilities and their families and carers.

"It is imperative that the organisations assisting people with a disability, their family carers and disability service organisations unite to work on common issues," she said.

Lesley Hall agrees. "This alliance recognises that people with disability alongside their families can be united with service providers in advancing human rights," she said.

Ken Baker said the new alliance would strengthen the voice of the disability sector.

"It will bring matters of joint concern, such as the urgent need for more disability services, to the attention of government and community," he said.

Two priority areas in which the Alliance is already co-ordinating action are the need for a National Disability Insurance Scheme and more accessible "built environments" for disability access.

The Alliance's vision is an Australian society that ensures the equal social, economic, civic and cultural participation of people with disabilities, their families and carers. This means co-operating to achieve joint aims, including:

- programs that provide timely and dignified support for people with disabilities, their families and carers.



*Supported by: Our Community*

- programs for people with disabilities their families and carers, in all their diversity, that are based on principles of entitlement, individualised responses, self determination, portability and cultural sensitivity.
- implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in all Australian jurisdictions.
- building broad community support to fully include people with disabilities, their families and carers, in all their diversity.

The new Alliance will be launched at the *Communities in Control Conference* in Melbourne on Monday morning 15 June, an event which all members are attending. The conference venue is the Moonee Valley Racing Club, Members Gate 1, McPherson St, Moonee Ponds, Victoria.

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