

7<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Australian Government  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport and  
Regional Development and Communications  
To: [DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au)

**RE: Reform to the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the reforms to the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT).

Disability Resources Centre (DRC) conducted a research project in 2017-2018 to identify the key issues experienced by people with disabilities and these are collated in the [Transport for All Report 2018](#). DRC also partnered with VCOSS in 2006 in the [Accessible Public Transport Watch Project](#). Whilst findings and recommendations were specific to the Victorian Public Transport system, they are relevant to the proposed updates to DSAPT.

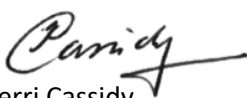
DRC has recently completed an 18-month campaign to shine a light on the impact of inaccessible transport and we have shared your consultation options with our members. We will also have representatives attend the forum.

Whilst we are pleased to see that there are number of different ways for community members to take part in this consultation, we suggest that you adapt the online consultation sign up process to enable attendees to select more than one issue of concern. For most travelers there are several issues that together render public transport inaccessible.

Additionally, we alongside other disability advocacy organisations around Australia, find ourselves severely disadvantaged in being able to fully analyse, explain to our members and consult their views on this 180 page Regulation Impact Statement due to lack of dedicated staff and resources. Transport providers with large budgets have taken a number of years to put forward these changes and now the disability community have only months to meaningfully reply to these changes.

We recommend that the consultation time be extended and we support the request from the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) to fully fund and resource Disability Organisations so that together we can give voice to the huge diversity of need and experience within the disability community.

We look forward to hearing from you,



Kerri Cassidy  
Executive Officer  
On behalf of the DRC Public Transport Committee