



Ms Ruth Robinson  
Executive Director  
Physical Disability Council of NSW  
St Helens Community Centre  
3/184 Glebe Point Road  
GLEBE NSW 2037

Dear Ms Robinson

I am writing regarding your Council's report *The Impact of Ageing on the Needs of People with Disability 2011*, which you provided to Minister Dominello as Minister for Citizenship and Communities and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. The Minister asked me to thank you for the report and to reply to you.

Several of the matters raised by the report are acknowledged in the *NSW Ageing Strategy*, with which I am sure you are familiar as NSW's response to the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population.

Importantly, the Strategy commits to addressing the impact of ageing on carers of people with a disability, and on older people who have or who develop a disability. The Strategy also highlights actions on transport, accessible communities, social connectivity and the cost of living for all members of the community as they age.

The Office of Communities is represented on the committee which supports the Strategy. We would be happy to raise issues from the Council's report in that forum.

In particular, I would be happy to receive ongoing advice from the Council on:

- service responsiveness for people with disability who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders or who are from culturally and linguistically diverse populations, and on the changing needs of these members of our community as they age
- social isolation and opportunities for improved social connectivity for older people with a disability and for ageing carers.

Minister Dominello will continue to advocate for consideration of service delivery models that are culturally appropriate and client focused, and will lead whole of Government action to close the gap in life expectancy for NSW Aboriginal people.

A key goal of the Government is to make it easier for people to be involved in their communities. Better planned and designed communities make it easier for community members to connect and be involved, and the Government is committed to pursuing better urban design.

The *NSW Volunteering Strategy* will also contribute to reducing social isolation by making it easier for people to volunteer, and by supporting the sector to increase its capacity to recruit diverse volunteers, including people with a disability.

Similarly, participation in sport and recreation is an excellent way to reduce social isolation. As you know, the Office's Sport and Recreation division has entered a two year partnership with Ageing, Disability and Home Care to provide more opportunities for people with a disability of all ages to access sport in the community.

If you would like to discuss any of these matters further, please contact Mr Mathew Ferguson, the Office's R/Director, Community and Regional Engagement, at [mathew.ferguson@communities.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mathew.ferguson@communities.nsw.gov.au) or on 8762 9833.

Again, thank you for the report and I look forward to further advice from the Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Robertson', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Robertson  
R/Executive Director, Policy and Reform

23.11.12