

MEDIA RELEASE

The Physical Disability Council of NSW Rally for An Accessible Lift to be Installed on The Sydney Harbour Bridge

The Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN), MP's, PDCN members, wheelchair users and other members of the general public gathered at the Kirribilli Steps of the Sydney Harbour Bridge at midday today to rally for the funding of an accessible lift on the iconic landmark.

A fortnight ago, PDCN were quietly informed that the 10 million dollars promised to fund this much-needed access project a year prior, had been reallocated to other Roads priorities. Minister for Roads, Melinda Pavey subsequently announced that the government would be recommitting to the project, but only partial funding of 5 million dollars was pledged.

After lobbying for this project for over 10 years, PDCN are pushing for the full-funding and an earlier completion date of this project to be announced. They swiftly organised a media campaign using the hashtags #EverybodysBridge and #AccessForAll in the leadup to today's rally.

CEO of PDCN, Ms Serena Ovens, says the NSW Government should honour their promise to fully fund and build the lifts with a completion date of September 2018.

"The project is now supposed to be completed at the end of next year. For us, this isn't good enough. We want full funding, and we want a completion date of September next year, in time for the Invictus Games, to allow those hundreds of people with disability from 19 different countries to also be able to access the bridge when they come." Ms Ovens said in her address.

"But more importantly, the bridge is for everybody, not just people with disabilities, but for parents with prams, the elderly – for anybody."



Liesl Tesch, MP for Gosford and five-time Paralympian said, “I see that we have a voice in our community. It’s great to see all our able-bodied friends because this is about access for all.”

Shadow Minister for Disability Services Ms Sophie Cotsis says, “We are calling on the Berejiklian government to fully fund the access lifts as soon as possible. They were promised a year ago and we need this project funded immediately.”

Five-time Paralympian wheelchair athlete Ms Angela Ballard commented, “as a community we want to include everyone. I’ve had the wonderful privilege of travelling all around the world and visiting lots of places, and some cities are doing it really well... I think as Sydney and as NSW, we can do a lot better, and I think the Sydney Harbour Bridge is a great start.”

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