

12 December 2018

Attn: AGAC Project
Guardianship Division
NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal
PO Box K1026
Haymarket NSW 1240

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) appreciates the invitation to provide comment to the Australian Guardianship and Administration Council on the draft guidelines on the participation of the proposed represented person in guardianship and financial management/ administration hearings.

PDCN is the peak body representing people with physical disabilities across New South Wales. This includes people with a range of physical disability issues, from young children and their representatives to aged people, who are from a wide range of socio-economic circumstances and live in metropolitan, rural and regional areas of NSW.

PDCN is impressed by the draft guidelines and believes they are practical and comprehensive and where applied will support the full and effective participation and inclusion of people with disability in society.

PDCN fully supports maximising the participation of the proposed represented person in the decision-making processes of tribunals. We believe this approach promotes personal and social well-being for people with disability and supports their rights to decision making in all aspects of their lives.

We are pleased to see the draft guidelines reflect the principals of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and promote an empowered view of people with disability.

PDCN recommends Draft Guideline 11 be expanded to require hearing venues be accessible by public transport and this takes into account whole of journey accessibility to ensure access for individuals with both a physical and decision-making disability.

Finally, PDCN would like to see these guidelines formally endorsed by the tribunals in each state and territory.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Serena Ovens', written in a cursive style.

Serena Ovens
Executive Officer