**Media release: Disability community forgotten as NSW Government puts Park’nPay app in jeopardy**

**Thursday 14th September 2023**

Yesterday it was reported that NSW Government is considering the discontinuation of the Park’nPay app. The disability community consider Park’nPay to be one of the major successes in improving inclusion across the state in recent years. In February, the app released an accessibility portal allowing drivers with disabilities to search for accessible parking bays, working towards activating 3600 spots across 30 Sydney metro councils. The Park N Pay app allows people with disability to plan their journeys, locate accessible bays and see availability in real time.

It is disappointing that one of the first budget steps of the new NSW Government could be to end support for technology which allows people with disabilities to get out and about in their community. Millions of dollars were invested into the development of the app and sensor technology, in addition to the significant consultation time invested by the community in its design. This announcement was made without any consultation with those living with disability.

We need to support solutions like Park’nPay that make it easier for the disability community to participate fully in their community. We call on the NSW Government to champion inclusion by continuing to support Park’nPay.

**Quotes from Ed Morris, CEO of the Physical Disability Council of NSW:**

*“For people with lived experience of disability, the Park’nPay technology is not an optional convenience, but key to determining whether they will be able to access community facilities. This technology allows drivers with a disability (or their carers/family/friends) to plan their journey with more confidence that their accessibility needs will be met.”*

*“We are disappointed that NSW Government may let down the disability community in this way and that the first we are hearing about this is through a media story. The NSW government needs to rethink its position, thereby making it easier people with disabilities to access their communities.”*

**Michael Rabbitt, President of the Physical Disability Council of NSW:**

*“I have seen the successful implementation of Park’nPay firsthand and how it makes a huge difference as a father in accessing playgrounds and other community facilities. The disability community has been forgotten in all this; the NSW Government should be taking a whole of government approach to decisions like this and consulting with the disability community about decisions that will have a significant impact on our lives.”*

**Media contact: Ed Morris, 0295521606**

**Notes:**

* One in five people in NSW have a disability and as our population ages, this figure is likely to increase.
* PDCN heard about this proposed cut via this article: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/park-npay-app-on-nsw-budget-chopping-block-but-fuelcheck-spared-20230912-p5e3xj.html>

**[END]**