



# SA Disability Justice Plan

## **MEDIA RELEASE: September 13th, 2013**

The SA Labor Government should be congratulated on the professional development of the proposed new "Disability Justice Plan"

People within the community should review the attached information and respond as they see it? The Government is actively seeking your input!

Following the positive lead of Disability Minister Tony Piccolo, The Attorney General, the Hon John Rau, has embarked on a wide ranging community consultation process using a series of round table discussions with an open invitation to participation.

Mr. Piccolo's decision to abandon the non-representative Ministerial Advisory Committee (MDAC) was long overdue and he should be widely applauded for his leadership. Shutting down MDAC where the committee elected new members and where other disability community members with very different or alternative opinions could not be fully engaged, stifled debate and did not assist lateral thinking and in many ways did not encourage entrepreneurial, divergent and personal service ideas.

In engaging in a round table community format Mr. Piccolo and Mr. Rau have ensured that all opinions have a chance to be aired and that more robust and broad ranging feedback is received by the Government.

This is a very appropriate consultative format given the era of individualized and self-managed funding that is evolving.

No longer should expert committees be recommending disability policy to governments.

People with disability, parents, families and carers should be asked what they want and the government should put process in place to deliver that style of service

Please ensure you review the information on the Disability Justice Plan and provide your feedback as requested

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**Safe Communities,  
Healthy Neighbourhoods**



Government of South Australia  
Attorney-General's Department

# Disability Justice Plan Consultation Update



While the Disability Justice Plan consultation formally closed on 22 July 2013, we have continued to meet with a number of organisations as we consider the feedback from formal submissions, online surveys and public meetings. This includes a follow-up visit to Port Augusta last week, where we met with the Pika Wiya Health Service.

We are pleased to have received 28 formal submissions, approximately 50 completed surveys, and to have more than 120 people take part in our five public meetings, including three held in regional areas. In addition, we received valuable information from our meetings with a broad range of individuals and organisations, including people in secure care who would not otherwise have been able to take part in the consultation.

The formal submissions and issues raised in our public meetings are now on our website, along with an overview of the key themes raised in the online survey: [Disability Justice Plan consultation website](#)

We are now working on the development of a draft Disability Justice Plan, which we will release back to the community for further comment, so that the conversation about improving access to justice can continue.

In the meantime, work on the community co-design of best-practice guidelines for the taking of evidence has already commenced, as part of a Change@SA 90-Day Project. The Project Team overseeing this work comprises criminal justice agency and community representatives. For more information about this project, click on the link: [Change@SA 90 Day Project](#)

Amendments to the *Evidence Act 1929* are also being progressed, with a Bill expected to be introduced into Parliament by the end of the calendar year.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the consultation process, either through attending meetings, making a submission, completing a survey, phoning in, or promoting awareness. We will keep you updated on the development of the Plan via email and our website.

This initiative contributes to the Safe Communities Healthy Neighbourhoods Strategic Priority.



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