

12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Hon Steven Miles MP  
Queensland Premier  
1 William Street  
BRISBANE QLD 400

Delivered via email: [premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Dear Premier,

### **Urgent need for anti-discrimination reforms**

We are writing to you to express our deep concern that time is running out for the introduction of anti-discrimination laws that will make a fairer Queensland for people with disabilities.

The *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (Qld) is more than three decades old and many of the protections in it are antiquated and do not serve to build an inclusive community where people with disabilities can live free from discrimination and harassment.

We have provided extensive feedback on the reform of these laws both in the process of developing the Building Belonging report and considering the subsequent draft consultation Bill. However, we are concerned that this fulsome consultation will be for nothing if changes are not immediately introduced to the Queensland Parliament so they can be considered and hopefully passed in this term of government.

President of Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion, Byron Albury, said the following:

*“As an Aboriginal man with disability I face multiple barriers to inclusion. The changes recommended by the Building Belonging report will take into account the combination of my race and disability when considering whether I have been treated unfairly. The changes will also update the definitions of discrimination to mean that if I am treated unfairly because of my disability I can make a complaint, without having to find a non-disabled person as a comparator. These changes will implement many of the changes*

*in the Disability Royal Commission, a process that countless Queenslanders contributed to and support. It is vital that these changes are implemented immediately, in order to respect the years of consultation undertaken with the disabled community. Our current laws are over thirty years old. We need new discrimination laws so that people with disability can equally participate in public life including workplaces.”*

Sharon Boyce, Queenslanders with Disability Network board director said:

*“As a person with high level disability and a person who represents people with disability across Queensland and across Australia, I believe it is incredibly important that we make sure that these changes to the Anti-discrimination Act are implemented immediately. The disability community has been engaged extensively through this process and we heard from lots of people that it is important that people with disability do not experience discrimination in Queensland because of their disability. Time is running out for the introduction of anti-discrimination laws that will make a fairer Queensland for people with disabilities. We cannot waste this chance to make a real difference for people with disability in Queensland.”*

You have taken the time to fully listen to the disability community on our needs and now the time is right for legislative action.

With this in mind, we urge you to immediately introduce changes to the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)* based on the Building Belonging report recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion

Queenslanders with Disability Network

