



**Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs
Deputy Leader of the Legislative Council**

Our ref: 62-13698

Mr Jesse Williams
Executive Chair
Youth Disability Advocacy Network Inc.
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Dear Mr ^{Jesse}Williams

Thank you for your email received on 4 April 2019, regarding developing the disability workforce in Western Australia (WA).

I appreciate receiving this update on the achievements of the Youth Disability Advocacy Network Inc. (YDAN) and I offer my congratulations on the recent awards received. I commend YDAN's commitment to advancing the rights and opportunities for young people with disability.

As the Minister for Disability Services, I am committed to increasing employment opportunities for people with disability in WA. The State Disability Plan (the Plan) is currently being developed by the Department of Communities (Communities), and I am advised that YDAN has engaged with Communities in this process. The Plan will underpin all State Government activities and initiatives that support and empower people with disability over the coming decade, including opportunities for increasing employment for people with disability.

A strong focus of the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building grants awarded in February 2019 and administered by Communities, is to increase employment opportunities for people with disability. This includes building capacity of people with disability to engage in meaningful employment and developing information and tools for employers to employ people with disability. A total of \$7 million was provided to the 42 successful recipients.

As noted in your correspondence, the Plan identifies the National Disability Insurance Scheme workforce as a key sector requiring significant growth.

On 2 April 2019, the Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Education and Training, and I released the Social Assistance and Allied Health Workforce Strategy. Communities is actively involved in implementing the Social Assistance and Allied Health Workforce Strategy through its Steering Committee and associated working groups.

I am also aware that strategies aimed at increasing training and employment opportunities for people with disability who wish to pursue careers in these sectors are being considered.

The McGowan Labor Government is taking action to implement the recommendations of the Ministerial Review of the State Industrial Relations System Final Report. The first round of legislative reforms will focus on increased protection for workers, including people with disability in supported employment.

Additionally, as I am sure you are aware, Communities is developing a new Youth Strategy for WA. This strategy will be developed following consultation with young people, youth service providers and government agencies. For further information on the Youth Strategy please contact Mr Stephen Eadie, Manager Inclusion at Communities via email at stephen.eadie@communities.wa.gov.au.

As your correspondence crosses portfolio responsibilities, I have also taken the liberty of forwarding your correspondence to the Hon Sue Ellery MLC, the Minister for Education and Training.

Once again, thank you for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

29 MAY 2019