



Director, Aviation White Paper Project Office
Aviation White Paper
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications & Arts
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Aviation Green Paper Endorsement of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre's Submission to the Aviation Green Paper 30th November 2023

28th November 2023

Dear Director of the Aviation White Paper Project Office,

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.

The Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Aviation Green Paper and this opportunity to endorse the submission from the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC). PDCN have had a long and valuable relationship with PIAC, collaborating on a multitude of issues affecting people with disability with great success. We greatly appreciate and value PIAC as an organisation and have witnessed firsthand the quality of their work within the disability space.

As the peak body for physical disability in NSW, aviation is a key concern that has been raised by our membership in 2023. PDCN has previously supported PIACs response to these issues and extends that support through the endorsement of their official submission to the Aviation Green Paper. We believe that as it currently stands, protections for people with disability in the aviation space are not adequate and have resulted in discrimination. Due to this, PDCN endorses the recommendations put forward by PIAC.

PDCN gives particular note to the following recommendations.

Recommendation 1 – Specific standards for air travel should be co-designed.

PDCN supports the development and introduction of new Air Travel Standards in codesign with people with disability and their representative organisations. It is essential

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that these standards are developed from the beginning stages to the implementation stage and iteratively with people with lived experience of disability and relevant stakeholder groups. These standards should be implemented within the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (2002) and should be reviewed regularly.

Recommendation 2 – The Australian Human Rights Commission be funded to provide independent oversight of industry compliance with the Air Travel Standards

And

Recommendation 3 – The Australian Human Rights Commission be empowered and funded to enforce the Air Travel Standards

PDCN supports the implementation of the Australian Human Rights Commission as an independent regulatory body to oversee compliance and enforcement of the new Aviation Standards. This support extends to the adequate funding of this body, and collection and transparency of industry data on compliance with the proposed standards. It is essential that there are adequate and appropriate mechanisms for enforcement that are proactive in nature and independent to ensure compliance of industry in meeting standards of accessibility for people with disability.

PDCN appreciates the opportunity for comment on the Aviation Green Paper, and thanks PIAC for their in-depth analysis and work in this space for people with disability.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Green Paper and we look forward to seeing the recommendations arising from this that will help improve the aviation experiences of people with disability across Australia.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Edward Morris', written in a dark ink or grey color.

Edward Morris
Chief Executive officer
Physical Disability Council of NSW

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