

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee**  
**Inquiry into the 2023–24 Budget Estimates**  
**15 June 2023**

**PORTFOLIO: DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS**

**Witnesses:**

- The Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn MP
- Ms. Peta McCammon
- Mr. Argiri Alisandratos
- Dr. Euan Wallace
- Ms. Sherri Bruinhout
- Phillip O'Meara
- Louise McKinlay

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**QUESTION 1**

**1. Provide information on the number of people with a disability on the housing waiting list.**

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Okay. Minister, can I move on to the state disability plan that you referenced in your intro, which says on page 30 that a particular focus in the first two years will be housing, among other things. Given the housing waiting list has now gone beyond 60,000, can you advise how many of those on the housing waiting list have a disability and whether numbers have increased or decreased?

**Lizzie BLANDTHORN:** I might pass to the Secretary for that question, Mr O'Brien.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Sure.

**Peta McCAMMON:** I do not have that information to hand. I would have to check in with Homes Victoria whether we keep that data in terms of people with disability on the waiting list.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** The data is available, though?

**Peta McCAMMON:** I am not sure. I will have to come back to you on that.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Given the housing minister indicated that 5 per cent of the Big Housing Build would be for disability, presumably someone has it. I think I have asked this question actually before, Secretary.

**Peta McCAMMON:** If we do have it, I definitely do not have it here with me today. I am more than happy to take that on notice.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 4*

**Name of Committee members asking question: Mr Danny O'Brien**

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

Under the General Order dated 5 December 2022, the Housing Act 1983 is the responsibility of the Minister for Housing, not the Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers.

## QUESTION 2

### 2. Provide information on how performance and outcomes against addressing housing for people with disability will be measured.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Okay. Given the target of trying to address housing for people with a disability, how are you going to measure your outcomes? How are you going to measure the performance as to whether you are actually increasing housing opportunities? You might think about it and come back to me.

**Lizzie BLANDTHORN:** We will endeavour to provide you with any relevant information we can, Mr O'Brien.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 4*

Name of Committee member asking question: Mr Danny O'Brien

## RESPONSE

### Answer:

The State Disability Plan is supported by a public outcomes measurement framework for measuring changes in the broader population. There are three outcomes indicators relating to housing: affordable, stable and secure and suitable. These are supported by eleven outcomes measures.

The State Disability Plan sets out priority actions specific to housing, including that the Government will increase the supply of accessible social housing for people with a disability.

Delivery of **Inclusive Victoria: State Disability Plan 2022-2026** is supported through:

- monitoring of progress against actions
- formal and informal reporting on progress
- an outcomes framework that uses measures and indicators.

The previous state disability plan, *Absolutely everyone: state disability plan 2017-2020*, introduced an enduring outcomes framework. Indicators and measures were introduced in its first public annual report.

Two formal reports for **Inclusive Victoria** (to be delivered in 2024 and 2026 and tabled in the Victorian Parliament) will include updates against these and other measures to set out longer-term changes in Victoria's inclusiveness and accessibility as experienced by people with disability.

### QUESTION 3

**3. Provide information on how the outcomes of the disability plan will be measured, particularly employment and education.**

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Thank you. Minister, you just took on notice at the end there how you will measure housing disability outcomes. Can I add to that employment levels and education, which are also parts of the disability plan. Could you add those two to the question taken on notice?

**Lizzie BLANDTHORN:** To the extent that we can provide the data, as opposed to the Minister for Education –

**Danny O'BRIEN:** No, this is particularly about how you are going to measure the outcomes of the disability plan.

**Lizzie BLANDTHORN:** The disability plan is a whole-of-government plan, so yes, we can provide information in terms of how it will be reflected within the plan. But it may be that the data itself is data that comes from education.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 6*

**Name of Committee member asking question: Mr Danny O'Brien**

### RESPONSE

**Answer:**

Delivery of **Inclusive Victoria: state disability plan 2022-2026** is supported through:

- monitoring of progress against actions
- formal and informal reporting on progress
- an outcomes framework that uses measures and indicators.

The previous state disability plan, *Absolutely everyone: state disability plan 2017-2020*, introduced an enduring outcomes framework. Indicators and measures were introduced in its first public annual report.

There are three outcomes indicators relating to inclusive education in government schools, supported by five outcomes measures. There are two outcomes indicators relating to early childhood, supported by one measure and one measure that is under development. The Department of Education is undertaking ongoing work as part of its broader Inclusive Education work to develop data sources supporting the outcomes measures.

Outcome indicator **4.2.1 Increase employment** allows long-term measurement of trends in employment for people with disability. Seven outcomes measures support the indicator and are matched to ABS data sources.

Two formal reports for **Inclusive Victoria** (to be delivered in 2024 and 2026 and tabled in the Victorian Parliament) will include updates against these and other measures to set out longer-term changes in Victoria's inclusiveness and accessibility as experienced by people with disability.

## QUESTION 4

### 4. Provide information on net gain of new houses built as part of the Big Housing Build will be suitable for Victorians with disability

**Danny O'BRIEN:** As I mentioned, the former housing minister indicated that at least 5 per cent of the new social housing will meet the needs of Victorians with a disability. Given that, are you able to advise what the net gain in disability-suitable housing will be once the big build is complete?

**Peta McCAMMON:** Sorry, I am just recollecting what the minister actually said at the hearing, in that we had an aggregate number of net gains. So let me see what we can provide in terms of what that means for disability accessible housing.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** The recent departmental annual reports have indicated that there has only been a net increase of 74 new social housing units, and I am wondering whether that will mean that on a 5 per cent basis we are only likely to see four new disability-suitable houses coming?

**Peta McCAMMON:** I am happy to take on notice what data we can get. I cannot do the maths in my head on that.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** That would be good if you could take it on notice. Really what we are after is what the net figure of new houses will be that will be suitable for Victorians with a disability.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 6*

**Name of Committee member asking question: Mr Danny O'Brien**

## RESPONSE

### Answer:

Under the General Order dated 5 December 2022, the Housing Act 1983 is the responsibility of the Minister for Housing, not the Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers.

## QUESTION 5

### 5. Provide information about the activities of the Office of the Public Advocate and any reform activities at the Office of the Public Advocate

**Ellen SANDELL:** Okay. I will ask about the Office of the Public Advocate. This year there is a target for decisions made by the public advocate under the Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act that looks like it is likely to be missed by quite a long way. It shows the government is underperforming in terms of the situation where a person may not have decision-making capacity or is getting a guardian appointed to them by VCAT to make medical treatment decisions. I am just wondering: what is the problem with appointing guardians to make decisions and what is the government's plan to fix it?

**Lizzie BLANDTHORN:** I might ask the Secretary of Health to answer that question for you.

**Euan WALLACE:** I am not sure, Ms Sandell. I will take that on notice. I do not have that information in front of me.

*Hearing Transcript, p. 14*

**Name of Committee member asking question: Ms Ellen Sandell**

### RESPONSE

#### Answer:

This question relates to a BP3 measure attributed to the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) – BP3, Service Delivery, p. 286. There are no targets in BP3 for Health on this matter and there are no targets outlined in the *Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act 2016* relating to this matter.

The Office of the Public Advocate is a program area of DJCS and the Department of Health recommends this question be re-directed to DJCS for their response.