



Media Release

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Productivity Commission ignores the experiences of women with disabilities

Women's Health Victoria welcomes the Productivity Commission's recommendations on the creation of a National Disability Insurance Scheme, but has questioned the extent to which gender was considered in their development.

"The National Disability Insurance Scheme represents a significant reform for Australia and would provide much-needed support for people living with disabilities" said Rita Butera, Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria.

"We welcome the Productivity Commission's report, but are disappointed that there is limited recognition of the impact that gender has on the experiences of people living with disabilities, Ms Butera said.

"Women with disabilities are often excluded from information about healthy relationships and sexual health under the mistaken assumption that this will keep them safe. They are also at much greater risk of violence than other women and are less likely to receive assistance to prevent violence from reoccurring. Unfortunately, these issues are not adequately considered in the report."

Ms Butera urged the Government to keep women with disabilities front-of-mind as they implement the Productivity Commission's recommendations.

"The unique experiences of women with disabilities need to be reflected in development of the National Disability Insurance Scheme right from the beginning."

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