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COMMUNIQUÉ – NGO CRPD Shadow Report

The NGO CRPD Shadow Report Project Group, comprising leading disability and human rights organisations, met in Sydney on 5 November 2010 to plan the next phase of preparing the NGO CRPD Shadow Report.

The Shadow Report will provide an NGO perspective on Australia's implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Project Group is being provided with significant pro bono support from DLA Phillips Fox, and has undertaken consultations throughout Australia with the support of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

At the November meeting, Project Group members considered the first draft of the Shadow Report compiled by DLA Phillips Fox, and agreed on a number of actions. In preparing the second draft, each member of the Project Group will review designated chapters of the first draft, with a view to prioritising the issues under each article within an identified structure. The aim is to complete a second draft of the report by 31 March 2011, with the Project Group reviewing this second draft by 16 May 2011.

Project Group members will meet on 16 and 17 May 2011 in Sydney to finalise the second draft of the Shadow Report and incorporate recommendations under each article. It is expected that the second draft will be finalised by 31 June 2011 to enable a further period of comment and feedback.

On 31 August 2011, the Project Group is expecting to complete the final version of the Shadow Report, which will be circulated throughout Australia to be endorsed by individuals and non-government organisations. The Shadow Report will then be submitted to the United Nations in October 2011.

The Australian Government submitted its report on CRPD implementation on 3 December 2010, and is unlikely to be reviewed by the UN CRPD Committee until 2012 or 2013.

Project Group on the Shadow Report on the CRPD:

- Joanna Shulman, Australian Disability Rights Network, Redfern Legal Centre
- Therese Sands, People with Disability Australia
- Ken Wade, Queensland Advocacy Incorporated
- Lesley Hall, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Fiona Given, Disability Discrimination Legal Centre
- Andrea Simmons, Disability Advocacy Network Australia
- Rosemary Kayess, Australian Human Rights Centre