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The Hon. Dominic Perrottet
Premier of NSW

Via webform (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/premier-of-nsw/contact-premier>)

Dear Premier,

Failure to provide Auslan interpretation at COVID-19 Press Conference

We write with concern regarding the press conferences held on 10 and 11 October 2021 to share public information on COVID-19. We were alarmed that the press conferences delivered by the NSW Premier, and experts such as Dr Jeremy McAnulty, Director, Health Protection, NSW Health had no visible Auslan interpreter.

As you would be aware, Australia is party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (**CRPD**). Article 21 of the CRPD requires that information intended for the public be provided in an accessible format. It is an accepted practice to provide Auslan interpretation at all emergency management press conferences to ensure the information provided can be received by the disability community. This practice upholds the obligation pursuant to article 21 of the CRPD. Failure to do so, as your Government did on 10 and 11 October 2021, places people with disabilities at risk of not receiving the vital information shared and violates their human rights.

We ask that you reinstate the use of Auslan interpreters at all COVID-19 press conferences immediately in accordance with your obligations under the CRPD.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you.

Yours faithfully

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About ALHR

ALHR was established in 1993 and is a national association of Australian solicitors, barristers, academics, judicial officers and law students who practise and promote international human rights law in Australia. ALHR has active and engaged National, State and Territory committees and specialist thematic committees. Through advocacy, media engagement, education, networking, research and training, ALHR promotes, practices and protects universally accepted standards of human rights throughout Australia and overseas