**Media release**

Monday, 4 August, 2025

**VICTORIAN DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS APPOINTED**

The Victorian Government has announced the members of the next Victorian Disability Advisory Council.

The council provides policy and strategy advice to the Minister for Disability to improve the participation and inclusion of Victorians with disability, ensuring the voices of people with disability are heard.

Disability, Fairness & Emergency Management Deputy Secretary Argiri Alisandratos congratulated all 13 members of the new council, including eight new members and 5 returning members.

Over 150 applications were received through the recruitment process.

The council is made up of people with lived experience of disability, and aims to reflect the diversity of people with disability in the community. Together, they bring a wide range of lived experience of disability and expertise in inclusion.

The government has re-appointed Chris Varney and Mija Gwyn as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively. Chris is the founding director and Chief Enabling Officer of I CAN Network, Australia’s largest autistic-led organisation, mentoring over 3,000 young people annually. Mija is the Head of Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS), and has led and coordinated community development, film festivals and arts projects in the United Kingdom and Australia.

The next term of council will run until 30 July 2028.

To find out more visit: www.vic.gov.au/victorian-disability-advisory-council

**Quotes attributable to Disability, Fairness & Emergency Management Deputy Secretary Argiri Alisandratos**

*“The Victorian Disability Advisory Council is instrumental in removing barriers to participation for Victorians with disability, ensuring that the views of people with disability influence important decision-making.”*

*“I congratulate our new and returning council members on their appointments, and thank outgoing councillors for their advice, engagement with reform and tireless work helping make Victoria more accessible and inclusive.”*