



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Mr Dan Wootton  
Moderator  
130 Little Collins Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

T +61 3 9251 5216  
F +61 3 9650 7019

[Dan.wootton@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Dan.wootton@victas.uca.org.au)

June 2, 2014

The Hon. Tony Abbott, MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

**Re: Disability Discrimination Commissioner**

I am writing on behalf of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania to raise serious concerns about the proposed defunding of this significant role. Since its inception in 1993, the Disability Discrimination Commissioner's role has been at the forefront of countless issues in Australian society, reducing discrimination and enhancing justice and community participation for people with disabilities. The Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania supports the retention of this role in order to maintain the momentum of enhanced dignity for people with disabilities, and to be a significant legal deterrent for prejudicial attitudes and actions.

The inaugural Disability Discrimination Commissioner, the late Elizabeth Hastings subsequently became Director of Social Justice with our organisation, and influenced the development of our Disability Action Plan 2000-3, which has been a most important document in enhancing our capability and response to people with disabilities. Along with myriad government and community organisations which have produced Disability Action Plans in response to the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, I am aware that other faith communities in Victoria are also considering their responses to the needs of people with disabilities. This is a result of legislation and the ongoing vigilance of the Disability Discrimination Commissioner.

Whilst affirming your Government's commitment to the ongoing support and implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, I am very concerned that the Government not act in haste to diminish the key role of Disability Discrimination Commissioner. Rev Andy Calder, Disability Inclusion, would be pleased to answer any queries you may have. He can be contacted on 03 92515489 or [andy.calder@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:andy.calder@victas.uca.org.au)

Yours Sincerely

**Mr Dan Wootton**  
Moderator