Review Committee

NSW Electoral Commission

Via email: tav.review@elections.nsw.gov.au

10 Jan 2023

Dear Review Committee,

**RE: Vision Australia Submission to Review of Technology Assisted Voting – Endorsement**

The Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) is the peak body representing the systemic interests of people living with physical disability across New South Wales. Our core function is to influence and advocate for the achievement of systemic change to ensure the rights of all people with a physical disability are improved and upheld.

We write to express our support of Vision Australia’s submission to the Review of Technology Assisted Voting. The provision of accessible voting options is critical to the full participation of people with disability across the democratic process, accordingly, we support the following:

* The reinstatement of the IVote, as the most convenient, confidential and verifiable voting option for people who are blind or have low vision,
* National coordination to ensure consistency across assistive technology voting policies and processes,
* Investigation into the expansion of braille ballot papers beyond Local Government elections
* The simplification registration processes for people who require assistive technology, in recognition that this represents an additional step for this proportion of the voting population; and
* Codesign with the disability community across all assistive technology design, implementation, and review processes.

We also support Vision Australia’s assertions that a requirement to verify people who claim to fall within a particular technology assisted voting class would be logistically impossible and impose an unjustifiable burden on people who require these supports. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on 0422 855 681 or via email, Hayley.stone@pdcnsw.org.au.

Kind regards,

Hayley Stone

Policy and Government Relations Manager