

National Disability Commission Equality Opportunities Act

Appointment and composition of the National Disability Commission

21. (1) The Prime Minister shall upon the advice of the Minister appoint a Commission called the National Disability Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") composed of not less than fourteen members. Seven of the members shall be appointed from amongst such persons appearing to the Prime Minister to best represent the Ministries responsible for Social Policy, Labour, Health, Education, Housing and Economic Planning. Another seven of the members shall be appointed from among such persons who, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, best represent voluntary organisations working in the field of disability issues.
- (2) At least one half of the total number of the members of the Commission shall themselves be persons with a mental disability and if possible, there shall be a balanced representation of women and men.
- (3) The Prime Minister shall appoint a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman from amongst the members of the Commission one of whom shall himself be a person with a disability or a family member of a person with a mental disability.

Functions of the Commission

22. The Commission, whilst paying particular attention to the different needs of children, women and men with disability, shall –
- (a) identify, establish and update all national policies directly or indirectly related to disability issues;
 - (b) identify the needs of persons with disabilities, their families and voluntary bodies working in the field of disability issues and to take all necessary steps or propose appropriate measures in order to cater for such needs as much as possible;
 - (c) ensure that all government programmes concerning the affairs and interests of persons with disabilities, their families and voluntary bodies working in the field of disability issues, are implemented in accordance with national policies for disability issues;

- (d) ensure the necessary co-ordination between all government departments and agencies in implementing measures, services or initiatives proposed by government or proposed by the Commission from time to time:
- (e) keep direct and continuous contact with local and foreign bodies working in the field of disability issues and with other groups, agencies or individuals as the need arises;
- (f) monitor the provision of services offered by government or its agencies or by any other person or group of persons, where the clients of such services are persons with disability;
- (g) work towards the elimination of discrimination against people with disabilities;
- (h) carry out general investigations with a view to determining whether the provisions of this Act are being complied with;
- (i) investigate such complaints as may be made to them of failure to comply with any provision of this Act in an individual case and, where it seems appropriate, conciliate in relation to such complaints;
- (j) inquire into, and make determination on, matters referred to it by the Minister;
- (k) provide, where and as appropriate, assistance, including legal and financial assistance, to persons with disabilities in enforcing their rights under this Act;
- (l) keep under review the working of this Act and, when deemed fit by the Commission or so required by the Minister, draw up and submit to the Minister proposals for amendments to same;
- (m) examine enactments, and (when requested to do so by the Minister) propose enactments, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the enactments or proposed enactments are or would be, inconsistent with or contrary to the objects of this Act, and to report to the Minister the results of any such examination;
- (n) provide all such services that may be necessary or required for the Commission to attain its objectives;
- (o) collate, analyse and publish statistics related to the disability sector which, *inter alia*, indicates the national level achieved in inclusive policy.