PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA

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RCEP Review Team
Regional Trade Agreements Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
John McEwen Crescent, Barton ACT 0221

Delivered by email to **RCEP@dfat.gov.au**

Dear RCEP General Review team

Submission to the RCEP General Review: disability-inclusive trade

People with Disability Australia (PWDA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) General Review. PWDA is Australia's peak cross-disability disability representative organisation and is funded by the Australian Government to represent the 1 in 6 Australians with disability nationally. Our organisation is made up of, and led by, people with disability.

As you are aware, Australia's International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy (IDEAR Strategy) commits to 'advancing inclusive trade to enable people with disability to share in its benefits, including through multilateral aid-for-trade investments and non-discrimination provisions for people with disability in future free trade agreements'.[1]

In this context, our key recommendation is that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade **identifies opportunities to strengthen disability rights and inclusion within the**

[1] Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) (2024) ***Australia's International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy***, Commonwealth of Australia, accessed 22 December 2025, p. 21.

A voice of our own

RCEP and ensures that these opportunities form part of Australia's priorities for any future negotiations to upgrade the RCEP.

In this regard, we attach our disability-inclusive trade position paper, developed by PWDA with significant input from the Australian Council for International Development and the Australian Disability Development Consortium.

The position paper sets out principles to guide the drafting and revision of disability-inclusive provisions in free trade agreements (FTAs) and identifies existing disability-inclusive FTA provisions that we support in principle.

We thank you again for the opportunity to provide this submission. Please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Ira, Expert Advisor – International and Human Rights, at **lisai@pwd.org.au** or on 0493 490 759 if you wish to discuss this submission further.

Yours sincerely



Megan Spindler-Smith
CEO
People with Disability Australia