

24 November 2017

AA Newsletter 2017.11

APS Review

The 2015 – 16 APS (Access to Premises Standard) Review resulted in Federal government agreement to implement 21 NCC / BCA technical amendments, to increase awareness of educational and training materials, establish a data framework for collecting information and evidence across state and territory jurisdictions, and put in place a cohesive structure for progressing future reforms of the APS.

The APS Review report is available at [Australian Government Website: Government's Response to the Review of the Disability \(Access to Premises - Buildings\) Standards 2010.](#)

The ABCB (Australian Building Codes Board) intent is to incorporate these amendments into the 2019 NCC / BCA and a public comment draft is scheduled for release in February 2018.

Accessible housing

The NCC / BCA includes minimum accessible housing requirements for Class 2 buildings, and access criteria for public buildings. AS4299 and LHA provide advisory and voluntary criteria for adaptable and 'livable' housing.

Since 2011 community groups, industry and government have been progressing initiatives for mainstream accessible housing in Australia. These community initiatives are led by Rights & Inclusion Australia www.riaustralia.org and ANUHD www.anuhd.network@gmail.com.

The October 2017 Building Ministers Forum agreed that – *'in consultation with Disability Ministers, (the BMF) will undertake a national Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) regarding accessible housing for private residences.'*

This RIA will be managed by the ABCB and is scheduled to commence in 2018.

International

Access Australia (AA) director Michael Fox was invited to attend the Pacific Rim October Conference in Hawaii and presented a paper on *Sustainable and Accessible Communities*. Refer www.accessaustralia.com.au.

In November 2017 Michael Fox met with the UK Department of Communities and Local Government in London, to discuss the status of Part M adaptable and accessible housing legislation, introduced in 1995. The draft 2017 London Plan includes mandatory requirements for adaptable and accessible housing. Refer <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan>.

Access Australia

AA was established in Sydney in 1985 and provides integrated access and architectural consultancy services – including access assessments, DDA reports and strategies, access inspections and certification, awareness seminars, and national and international access research.

Michael Fox was the initial Chair of the Standards Australia ME64 Committee during the initiation, publication and adoption of the AS1428 suite of access standards. He is a current member of a Standards Australia Working Group regarding a review and planned update of AS4299.

As President of RI Global www.riglobal.org Michael Fox was actively involved in the negotiations, drafting, adoption and ratification of the UN CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) – ratified by Australia in 2008.

Please visit our website www.accessaustralia.com.au and contact AA as required – so we can assist with your planning, building or research programs.

MICHAEL FOX AM
Director
