**CEO update 29 May**

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| SALLY | Hi, everyone, and thank you for joining me for this CEO update. It is currently Reconciliation Week and I would like to pay my respects to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members and recognise all that has happened in the past and the many steps that we have to take. To launch reconciliation earlier this month, the board of Blind Citizens Australia endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart and it has been a privilege to be part of that discussion and to see that work go through, and we know that this is just the first step in many other things that the organisation can and will be doing over the near future.  Um, as you are all aware, there are a lot of opportunities to provide feedback on various consultations and inquiries at the moment. Things like the review into the NDIS and the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport. We are running multiple consultations on those and some of them will even be happening in person over the coming months. I do encourage you to continue to watch this space. Check out BCA's website as well for details on each of those.  In addition, I do just want to thank Jackson Reynolds-Ryan, our Policy and Advocacy Manager, for a submission that he wrote on BCA's behalf to the Human Rights Commission late last year. The submission was based on Ryde City Council's request for a five-year exemption during which they would upgrade their bus stops, but requested they did not have to meet these Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport. We've just heard that that exemption has not been approved and that the bus stops in that council area must remain compliant during their upgrade. So this is a fantastic win as it will ensure the safety of those users of those bus stops, especially people who are blind or vision impaired.  As an organisation, we're also doing some consultation of our own. We are very interested to hear from members about how they feel about different topics like during some meetings you may have noticed that some people after acknowledging country, they'll also acknowledge people with disability that are in the meeting. Or perhaps you might have been to some meetings or presentations where people have been giving a visual description of themselves and their surrounds. We want to know how people feel about those things. Are they things that they would like BCA to do or introduce or do they not prefer those things? You can come along to one of our upcoming BCA conversations on those topics, details of which will be on our member update or on the BCA website, or you can provide us your feedback in the comments below or send it to bca@bca.org.au. Thanks very much, everyone. |