# Australia’s Disability Strategy

## 2021–2031

## What is Australia’s Disability Strategy?

### An Easy Read guide

## How to use this guide

The Australian Government wrote this guide. When you see the word ‘we’, it means Australian Government.

We wrote this guide in an easy to read way.

We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 13.

This Easy Read guide is a summary of a fact sheet. This means it only includes the most important ideas.

You can find the fact sheet on our website at [www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads](http://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads)

You can ask for help to read this guide. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

## What’s in this guide?

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## Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031

Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031 is a plan to make life better for people with disability.

In this guide we call it the Strategy.

The Strategy talks about what we can do to make Australia   
more **inclusive**.

If something is inclusive, everyone can take part.

If Australia is inclusive, people with disability can take part in everything that happens in Australia.

The Strategy also talks about how we must treat people with disability:

* as equals
* with respect.

The Strategy supports the goals of the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**

We call it the UN Convention.

The UN Convention:

* is an agreement between countries
* explains how people with disability should be treated fairly.

The Strategy will last:

* for 10 years
* until 2031.

## What will the Strategy do?

We talk about our **vision** in the Strategy.

Our vision is what we want Australia to be in the future.

Our vision is for Australia to be inclusive.

Our vision is for Australia to be a place where people with disability:

* can be who they want to be
* can live the life they want to live
* are treated the same as other people in the community.

## Outcome areas

**Outcomes** are the important results we want to get for people   
with disability.

The Strategy has ideas about how to make life better for people with disability in 7 main areas.

We call these **outcome areas**.

We have 1 main outcome we want for each outcome area.

### Working and earning money

We want people with disability to have the chance to have a job and enough money so they can:

* live well
* plan for their future
* have choice and control of their own lives.

### Inclusive homes and communities

We want people with disability to live in homes that have what   
they need.

We want people with disability to live in communities that are:

* **accessible**
* inclusive.

If something is accessible, everyone can use it.

This might be:

* a place or a building
* transport
* a service
* information
* a website.

### Rights for fair treatment and safety

**Rights** are rules about how everybody should be treated:

* fairly
* equally.

We want people with disability to:

* feel safe
* have their rights protected
* be treated the same as other people in the community.

### Getting support

We want people with disability to have supports and services that help them to:

* be part of their community
* do things for themselves.

### Learning and skills

We want people with disability to get what they need from:

* school
* learning
* training.

We want people with disability to:

* learn
* develop their skills.

This will help them:

* be who they want to be
* live the life they want to live.

### Health and wellbeing

We want people with disability to:

* be healthy
* enjoy the life they live.

People with disability must get good care and services when they:

* go to hospital
* visit their doctor
* use health care services
* use mental health services.

An **emergency** is something dangerous that:

* we don’t expect to happen
* can put your health at risk.

We use **emergency services** when an emergency happens.

They do their best to:

* make people safe
* fix the dangers and risks caused by the emergency.

Emergency services must include people with disability when they plan what to do in an emergency.

### Community attitudes

Your **attitudes** are what you:

* think
* feel
* believe.

We want the community to have positive attitudes towards people   
with disability.

We want community attitudes to:

* support treating people with disability as equals
* be inclusive
* let people with disability take part.

## Getting the outcomes we want

We must all work together to get the outcomes in the Strategy.

This includes:

* people with disability
* governments
* the community
* businesses
* organisations
* services.

If we all work together, we can make our community:

* accessible
* inclusive.

We have **priorities** for each outcome area.

Our priorities are things we think are very important.

Governments will work towards the priorities in each outcome area.

We will use Targeted Action Plans (TAPs).

We just call them action plans.

Our action plans will help governments focus on certain areas.

The first 5 action plans are about:

* community attitudes
* the early childhood of people with disability – when they are very young children
* working and earning money
* managing emergencies
* safety.

We will make sure the community can tell us how well things are going.

We will make sure we:

* talk to lots of people with disability
* listen to what they say.

This includes our **Strategy Advisory Council (the Council).**

The Council is a group of people who help us understand what people with disability need.

More than half of the people on the Council are people with disability.

We will use what we learn to:

* write different reports
* decide where we need to make more effort.

We will share our reports with the community each year.

## Who did we talk to about the Strategy?

Before we made the Strategy, we spoke to more than 3,000 people   
with disability.

We also spoke to their:

* family members
* carers
* support workers.

We listened to what everyone had to say about the Strategy.

This includes what:

* works well
* could change
* needs to be better.

## Where can you find more information?

You can visit the Disability Gateway website to:

* read the Strategy
* get more information about the Strategy.

Website – [www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads](http://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads)

We have made different versions of the Strategy, including:

* an Easy Read version
* an Auslan version
* versions in different languages.

If you have any questions about the Strategy you can email us.

Email – [australia'sdisabilitystrategy@dss.gov.au](mailto:australia'sdisabilitystrategy@dss.gov.au)

You can find more information about the UN Convention on   
their website.

Website – [www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/ convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/%20convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html)

## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.

**Accessible**

If something is accessible, everyone can use it.

This might be:

* a place or a building
* transport
* a service
* information
* a website.

**Attitudes**

Your attitudes are what you:

* think
* feel
* believe.

**Emergency**

An emergency is something dangerous that:

* we don’t expect to happen
* can put your health at risk.

**Emergency services**

We use emergency services when an emergency happens.

They do their best to:

* make people safe
* fix the dangers and risks caused by the emergency.

**Inclusive**

If something is inclusive, everyone can take part.

**Outcomes**

Outcomes are the important results we want to get for people   
with disability.

**Outcome areas**

The Strategy has 7 ideas to make life better for people with disability.

We call these outcome areas.

**Priorities**

Our priorities are things we think are very important.

**Rights**

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated:

* fairly
* equally.

**Strategy Advisory Council (the Council)**

The Council is a group of people who help us understand what people with disability need.

**UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**   
**(UN Convention)**

The UN Convention:

* is an agreement between countries
* explains how people with disability should be treated fairly.

**Vision**

Our vision is what we want Australia to be in the future.

The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document.   
For any enquiries about the document, please visit   
[www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com). Quote job number 4489.

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