

Australia's Disability Strategy

2021–2031

Action Plan – Early childhood

Easy Read version



How to use this plan



The Australian Government wrote this plan.
When you see the word 'we', it means the Australian Government.



We wrote this plan in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold
Bold

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 37.



This Easy Read plan is a summary of another plan. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other plan on our website at www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads



This plan is quite long.

It includes a lot of information.



You don't need to read it all at once.



You can ask for help to read this plan.

A friend, family member or support person
may be able to help you.

What's in this plan?

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031	5
Getting the outcomes we want	7
Who is the Strategy for?	9
Our action plans	11
Early childhood	13
Actions	16
Knowing how well our action plan is going	35
Word list	37
Contact us	40

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 will last:



- for 10 years



- until 2031.

Getting the outcomes we want



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



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.

If something is accessible, everyone can use it.

This might be:

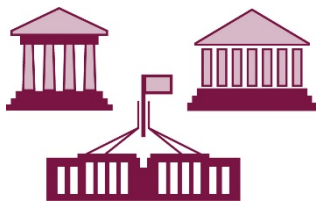


- a place or a building
- transport
- a service
- information
- a website.

Who is the Strategy for?

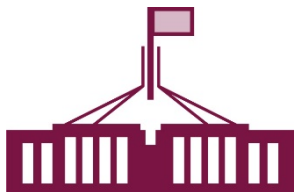


The Strategy is for people with disability.

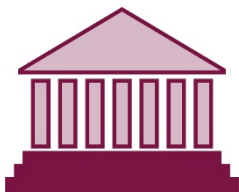


The Strategy is for all levels of government in Australia.

This means:



- the Australian Government



- state and territory governments



- local governments.



The Strategy is also for the Australian community.

This includes:



- people



- businesses



- organisations



- services.

Our action plans



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

We call these **outcome areas**.



We will do this through Targeted Action Plans (TAPs).

We just call them action plans.



Our action plans will talk about what we will do to help get the outcomes.



We talk to people with disability about what should be in our action plans.



We use their ideas to write our action plans.



This action plan is about the Health and wellbeing outcome area.



This action plan is about the early childhood of people with disability – when they are very young children.



Childcare and early learning services must make sure young children with disability have good:

- early learning experiences
- care.

Early childhood

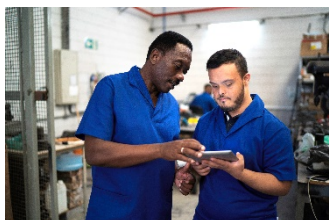
The outcomes we want

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



- school
- learning
- training.

We want people with disability to:

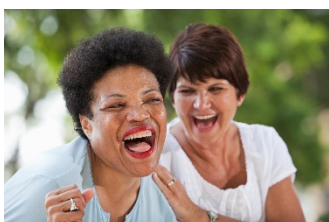


- learn
- develop their skills.

This will help them:



- be who they want to be



- live the life they want to live.

Our goals



Our Early childhood action plan has 3 goals.



1. Help young children with disability get the support they need during early childhood.



2. Support services to help parents and carers make choices about young children with disability.



3. Give parents, carers and young children with disability more chances to connect with others.



This includes **First Nations** parents, carers and young children with disability.



First Nations peoples are also known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



This also includes parents, carers and young children from different **cultures**.

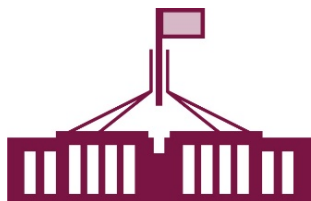
Your culture is:

- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.

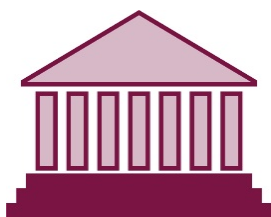


Actions

Our action plan talks about what:



- the Australian Government will do



- state and territory governments will do.

The Australian Government



The Australian Government will look at ways to support families when they first learn about their child's disability.



This includes looking at early childhood services and seeing what:

- can be better
- is missing.



The Australian Government will support health care services so staff can learn how to tell if a child has a disability.

The Australian Government will make more services that:



- are safe for other cultures



- can help people tell if a young child has a disability.

The Australian Government will make online tools to help:



- schools
- teachers
- families.



This information will also respect:

- First Nations peoples
- people from other cultures.



The Australian Government will look at what online information they can:

- change
- make better.

The Australian Government will do more to make sure early childhood services:



- are accessible and inclusive



- understand the **rights** of children with disability.



Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated:

- fairly
- equally.



The Australian Government will think about what children with disability need when they talk to other governments about preschool.



The Australian Government will look at how to give young children with disability the best support early in their lives.



They will use what they learnt to update a plan to support children with disability around Australia.



The Australian Government will make information for teachers who support children with disability.

The Australian Government will look at how community supports can help parents and carers to:



- take part
- feel included.



The Australian Government will work with parents and carers to make new ways to support children with disability.

State and territory governments

New South Wales Government



The New South Wales (NSW) Government will look at how services help children learn about their disability at a young age.



They will see what:

- can be better
- must change.

The NSW Government will change an online tool to make it easy to:



- see if a child has a disability at an early age
- add information about a child's disability.

The NSW Government will work with First Nations organisations to:



- help First Nations communities



- give First Nations peoples a choice about getting support from First Nations organisations.



The NSW Government will create one place where people can find and use information about school and learning.

The NSW Government will share more information about early childhood services with First Nations:



- children
- families
- communities.

Victorian Government



The Victorian Government will help support families to find and use disability services for their child.



The Victorian Government will connect **vulnerable** families to disability services for their child.



When someone is vulnerable, they might be in danger of:

- being hurt
- getting sick
- someone taking advantage of them.



The Victorian Government will support early learning services to be more inclusive.



The Victorian Government will do more to know when families need support for their child with disability.



The Victorian Government will make a program that supports:

- parents
- carers.

This program will connect parents and carers with:



- other parents and carers
- information
- support.

Queensland Government

The Queensland Government will support early childhood services by:



- helping staff understand what children with disability need



- making new training information about how to support children with disability.



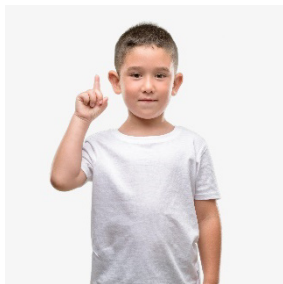
The Queensland Government will connect different early childhood services together.



This will help children with disability move between different early childhood services.



The Queensland Government will set up a program to support parents of children with disability.



The Queensland Government will support organisations that help children with disability:

- speak up for themselves
- have control over their life.



The Queensland Government will make it easier for parents and carers to find and use information about early childhood.



The Queensland Government will do more to support what carers do.



The Queensland Government will be more inclusive of children with disability from different cultures.

The Queensland Government will make sure there are services that speak up for children with disability who are:



- First Nations peoples
- from different backgrounds.



The Queensland Government will support other organisations to be more inclusive.

Western Australian Government



The Western Australian (WA) Government will help people who work at schools understand how to support children with disability.



The WA Government will make a plan that helps give students with disability what they need.

The WA Government will support children with disability to:



- join sports clubs
- take part in sports.



The WA Government will share information about early childhood with communities from different cultures.



The WA Government will work with First Nations organisations to help them become disability service providers.

South Australian Government



The South Australian (SA) Government will help the community understand how to teach children with disability.



The SA Government will support services that help children learn about their disability at an early age.



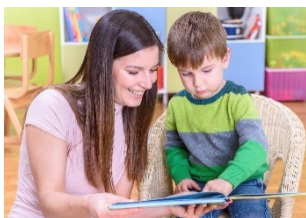
The SA Government will add information to the Adults Supporting Kids website.

adultssupportingkids.com.au

This information will be about:



- supporting children with disability



- early childhood supports



- information for early childhood services.



The SA Government will see how many children with disability are in the Child and Family Support System (CFSS).



The SA Government will plan better outcomes for children with disability.



The SA Government will share more accessible information about early childhood.



The SA Government will do more to connect with parents and carers.



The SA Government will make it easier for different services to share information about caring for children with disability.



The SA Government will make sure a guide for parents and carers of children with disability is accessible.



The SA Government will talk about different ways to help parents and carers of children with disability.



This includes having:

- workshops
- online videos.



The SA Government will include parents and carers of children with disability when they plan workshops.



The SA Government will make new information for children who are:

- First Nations
- from different cultures.

Tasmanian Government



The Tasmanian Government will use new ideas about how to support children with disability.



The Tasmanian Government will give more money to **autism** services.

Autism is a disability that might affect how well you can:



- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect with others.



The Tasmanian Government will build 6 new buildings to support:

- parents and carers
- children with disability.



The Tasmanian Government will make sure people can get different services wherever they go for support.



This includes:

- children with disability
- their parents and carers.

Australian Capital Territory Government



The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government will keep supporting services for children with disability.

The ACT Government will keep following a plan that:



- started in 2020



- supports early childhood learning.



The ACT Government will keep supporting groups where children with disability go to:

- play
- connect with each other.



The ACT Government will keep supporting an early learning program for First Nations children.

Northern Territory Government



The Northern Territory (NT) Government will make a health care program for NT children aged 0 to 5 years old.



The NT Government will support people who children with disability call their family.



The NT Government will help them get the support they need.



The NT Government will make sure all children with disability can find and use the right services.



The NT Government will connect children with disability to the right services.



The NT Government will train families and carers to support children with disability.

The NT Government will support children with disability if they:



- can't live with their parents or carer



- live in a home with a different family.



The NT Government will support First Nations women who have just had a baby.



The NT Government will support young children with disability and their families if they live in places far from cities and towns.



The NT Government will look at early childhood services to see what:

- works well
- can be better.

The NT Government will connect with:



- students with disability



- their families and carers.

Knowing how well our action plan is going

We will:



- check how well our action plan is going



- talk to the community about how well it's going.



We will make sure we talk to people with disability.



We will check if we are getting the outcomes we want.



We will use what we learn to write a report.



We will share our report with the community.

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.



Autism

Autism is a disability that might affect how well you can:

- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect with others.



Culture

Your culture is:



- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.



First Nations

First Nations peoples are also known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Inclusive

If something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



Outcome areas

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

We call these outcome areas.



Outcomes

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



Rights

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated:

- fairly
- equally.



Vulnerable

When someone is vulnerable, they might be in danger of:

- being hurt
- getting sick
- someone taking advantage of them.

Contact us



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