



Australia's Disability Strategy National Forum

2-3 November 2022

Be part of the conversation.
#ADSNF2022



Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We also acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which the forum is broadcasting from, the Ngunnawal people. We recognise their continuing connections to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may attend this event.

Minister's foreword



I'm honoured to provide the foreword to the program for Australia's Disability Strategy National Forum. This event is a key milestone on our journey to ensure people with disability are treated as equal members of society.

All governments have agreed to Australia's Disability Strategy (the Strategy), which sets out a plan on how they will make practical changes, working with people with disability, to deliver real outcomes over the next decade.

As the Australian Government Minister responsible for the Strategy, I am pleased to convene this Forum and to continue to build partnerships with people with disability.

Under the Strategy, all governments in Australia (Australian, state, territory and local) are committed to working with you to drive progress and better outcomes in education, employment, health and safety, and other key policy areas.

Over the next day and a half you will hear about what changes have already been made to make our workplaces, schools, services and communities more inclusive and accessible.

It is critical we engage with you on the Strategy to ensure it remains fit for purpose and we respond to the changing needs and priorities of Australians with disability. While it is early days into this Strategy, a lot more is planned, which is why we need to engage regularly with you and work together to make this Strategy a success.

Whether you are participating in person or online, please feel encouraged to contribute your voice, your lived experience and your ideas. They are incredibly valuable and we need to hear what changes your governments need to deliver.

I want to hear your views on how we create that change.

Thank you to the Strategy's Advisory Council and Disability Representative Organisation Reference Group for helping shape this Forum. The agenda supports comprehensive discussion on each of the Strategy's Outcome Areas and to set out how governments can improve their implementation efforts.

Following the Forum, the Strategy's Advisory Council will provide a report to all disability ministers. This report will set out what practical changes can be made to existing services and systems to deliver on commitments in the Strategy. Once disability ministers have considered the report it will be published as a record of the Forum's outcomes.

Thank you for your participation in this Forum, with your help we can make this Strategy a success and make sure Australia is a more inclusive and accessible society.

The Hon Amanda Rishworth MP
Minister for Social Services



Event overview

Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031 (the Strategy) is a national plan to improve the lives of people with disability. Across this two-day event, people with lived experience of disability are invited to have their say on how it is progressing.

There are seven sessions to match the seven key Outcome Areas in the Strategy.

Each session includes a panel of guest speakers. The panel ends with a 30-minute live Q&A, where the audience will submit their questions to the speakers.

Outcome Areas and Session Descriptions



Employment and Financial Security
Panel Session 1, Facilitator: Liz Reid AM,
Executive Officer of YouthWorX NT

Australian of the Year Dylan Alcott AO speaks on creating more job opportunities and less barriers. Joined by Vice President of People with Disability Australia (PWDA) Claire Gibellini.



Inclusive Homes and Communities
Panel Session 2, Facilitator:
Jane Spring, Director of the Paraplegic
Benefit Fund

Are we building houses and neighbourhoods that include everyone? Disability advocates Dr George Taleporos and Amy Marks consider the question. Joined by Chair of the ACT Disability Reference Group Renee Heaton.



Safety, Rights, and Justice
Panel Session 3, Facilitator:
Natalie Wade, Lawyer and
Founder of Equality Lawyers

Australian laws should keep all people with disability safe from harm and discrimination. Hear why we’re pushing for better with Researcher Jen Hargrave and Author Sandy Jeffs OAM. Joined by Seriako Stephen from the First Peoples Disability Network.



Health and Wellbeing
Panel Session 4, Facilitator: Leah Van
Poppel, National Disability Insurance
Agency Board Member

Learn how the healthcare sector is changing to meet the needs of people with disability. Before, during, and after a public emergency. Disability advocates Christine Bryden AM PSM, Laura Naing and Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM share the panel.



Education and Learning
Panel Session 5, Facilitator:
Kathy Hough, CEO of Far North
Community Services

Explore our plans for a more inclusive education system and speak with those who’ve had to carve a path before. Leading the conversation is Lawyer Catia Malaquias, Dr Scott Avery, and PhD student Jerusha Mather.



Personal and Community Support
Panel Session 6 (Day 2),
Facilitator: Dr Ben Gauntlett,
Disability Discrimination Commissioner

We see a future where every person with disability gets the support they need. Find out what we’re doing to get there with disability advocates Kerry Allan-Zinner and Grace Edward. Joined by Anne Kavanagh, Head of Disability and Health at Melbourne University.



Community Attitudes
Panel Session 7 (Day 2),
Facilitator: Cindy Liu, Founder of
Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network

As we build positive attitudes towards people with disability, we reduce stigma and bias. Wheeler Centre CEO Caro Llewellyn talks changing perspectives. She’s joined by Queensland Young Australian of the Year (2019) Angel Dixon OAM and Executive Officer for Brain Injury Australia Nick Rushworth.

Forum Agenda

Forum Day 1

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:30am – 9:30am	Event Registration, coffee / morning tea provided (Foyer)
9:30am – 9:45am	Welcome to Country by Uncle Paul House and Opening from Anja Christoffersen
9:45am – 9:55am	Short Break (10 minutes)
9:55am – 10:10am	Address from The Minister for Social Services Hon Amanda Rishworth MP
10:10am – 10:15am	Short Break (5 minutes)
10:15am – 11:10am	Panel session 1 – Employment & Financial Security Facilitator: Liz Reid AM Guest Speakers: Dylan Alcott AO / Clare Gibellini
11:10am – 11:35am	Morning Tea in Meals Area (25 minutes)
11:35am – 12:30pm	Panel session 2 – Inclusive Homes & Communities Facilitator: Jane Spring Guest Speakers: Dr George Taleporos / Amy Marks / Renee Heaton
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch in Meals Area (1 hour)
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Panel session 3 – Safety, Rights & Justice Facilitator: Natalie Wade Guest Speakers: Seriako Stephen / Jen Hargrave / Sandy Jeffs OAM
2:30pm – 2:45pm	Short Break (15 minutes)
2:45pm – 3:40pm	Panel session 4 – Health & Wellbeing Facilitator: Leah Van Poppel Guest Speakers: Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM / Christine Bryden AM PSM
3:40pm – 4:05pm	Afternoon Tea in Meals Area (25 minutes)
4:05pm – 5:00pm	Panel session 5 – Education & Learning Facilitator: Kathy Hough Guest Speakers: Dr Scott Avery / Catia Malaquias / Jerusha Mather

Forum Day 2

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:00am – 9:05am	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
9:05am – 9:15am	Address from The Minister for Social Services Hon Amanda Rishworth MP
9:15am – 9:20am	Short Break (5 minutes)
9:20am – 10:15am	Panel session 6 – Personal & Community Support Facilitator: Dr Ben Gauntlett Guest Speakers: Anne Kavanagh / Grace Edward / Kerry Allan-Zinner
10:15am – 10:40am	Morning Tea in Meals Area (25 minutes)
10:40am – 11:35am	Panel session 7 - Community Attitudes Facilitator: Cindy Liu Guest Speakers: Angel Dixon OAM / Caro Llewellyn / Nick Rushworth
11:35am – 11:45am	Short Break (10 Minutes)
11:45am – 12:15pm	Final address and event conclusion



Learn more about Australia's Disability
Strategy 2021-23 at

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads



**Have your say,
scan the QR code
and post a question**