

# 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 theFirst 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, followed by 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  
ddress 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, followed by 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](http://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads)

Have your say, scan the QR code and post a question Or visit the URL:  
<https://app.sli.do/event/n2WPTtuRG1ftsJzYuu6CCv>