



Creating
an inclusive
community
together

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031

National Forum

2-3 November 2022

An Easy Read report

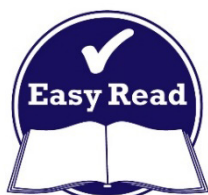


How to use this report



The Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council (the Council) wrote this report.

When you see the word 'we', it means the Council.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 28.



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



You can find the other report on our website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads



You can ask for help to read this report.

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

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What's this report about?



Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 is a plan to support people with disability in all areas of their life.

In this report we call it the Strategy.



In November 2022, we had a meeting about how the Strategy is going.

It was our first meeting about the Strategy.

We also call these meetings National Forums.

We ran sessions with:



- experts



- **disability advocates** – people who speak up for people with disability.



People from the community could also:

- come to these sessions
- send in questions to ask.



These meetings are a way for people with disability to:

- share what they think about the Strategy
- help guide how the Strategy works.



We will have a meeting about the Strategy:

- every year
- in a different state or territory in Australia.



This will happen until the Strategy finishes in 2031.



This report explains what people shared at the first meeting.



The meeting went for 2 days.



And there were 7 sessions in the meeting.



Almost everyone who shared their ideas at the meeting was a person with disability.

What were the key ideas?



4 key ideas kept coming up during the meeting.



1. People should plan and design things to be **inclusive** and **accessible** from the start.



When something is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.

When something is accessible, it is easy to:



- find and use
- understand
- move around.



2. People often have negative **attitudes** towards people with disability.

This stops people with disability from taking part in many areas of life.



People's attitudes are what they:

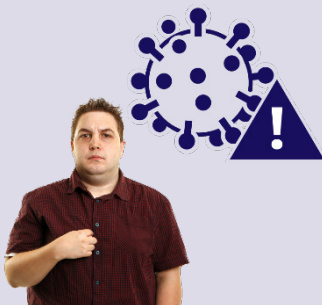
- think
- feel
- believe.



3. It's important to understand and respect:

- who people are
- the different ways people live.

For example, their background and who they're attracted to.



4. People with disability have faced challenges because of COVID-19.

What did they talk about at each session?



The Strategy focuses on 7 main areas of life for people with disability.

We call these **outcome areas**.



The meeting had a session about each of the 7 outcome areas.



On the following pages we explain what people:

- talked about in each session
- want the Strategy to do.

Session 1 – Working and earning money

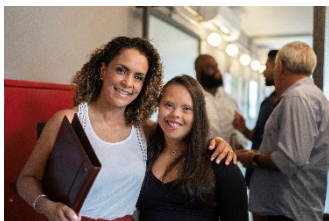


This session focused on how people with disability find jobs and get paid.



People said the number of people with disability with jobs hasn't increased very much in 20 years.

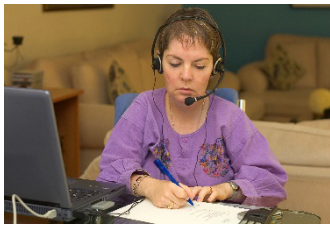
So we need to do things differently.



They talked about how **employers** can support people with disability who work for them.



An employer is a person who hires other people to work for them.



They said it works well when people with disability can do their work:

- in different ways
- to suit their needs.



They also talked about ways to support young people with disability to go from school to work.

What do people want to happen?



People want the Strategy to have goals about how people with disability find and keep jobs.

We need to be able to measure these goals.

And they want a way to make sure people and organisations meet the goals.



People also want schools to have the skills to support young people with disability to find work after they leave school.

This includes training for teachers.

Session 2 – Inclusive homes and communities



This session focused on creating homes that are:

- accessible
- easy to afford.

People were happy that the **standards** have changed about how accessible homes must be.



Standards are rules about how to do things well.

You can:

- meet standards
- go above standards.



New homes must be at least silver standard now.

This is part of the National Construction Code.



But people shared it's also important for homes that are already built to be accessible.

And to help people understand why this is important.

What do people want to happen?



People want rules to say **public housing** must be at least gold standard.



Public housing is for people who need support to pay for a place to live.



People also want to encourage businesses to make homes accessible.

This includes making homes that are already built as accessible as new homes.

Session 3 – Rights for fair treatment and safety



Rights are rules about how people must treat others:

- fairly
- equally.

This session focused on:



- violence towards women with disability



- mental health support not working well for people with disability



- problems people with disability have with the **justice system**.

The justice system includes:



- police



- the courts



- the law



- prisons.



People talked about how there are too many people with disability in the justice system.



And too many First Nations peoples with disability in the justice system.



People shared that there isn't enough support for people with disability in prison.



And the justice system can treat people's behaviour as dangerous.

Even when it might be related to their disability.

They also shared that some people in the community:



- hurt people with disability
- don't always respect their rights.

They said this is because people have negative attitudes about people with disability.

What do people want to happen?



People want to create a plan with First Nations peoples.

This plan would work to help First Nations peoples with disability in the justice system.



People also want to work towards stopping violence against women with disability.

We can do this by using programs in schools that think about how people treat:



- women
- people with disability.

And how this overlaps.

Session 4 – Health and wellbeing



This session focused on the challenges people with disability face with health care services.

This includes when they:



- aren't accessible
- don't know how to work with people with disability.



People talked about how negative attitudes towards people with disability can affect health care.

They can affect how people with disability:



- find and use health care
- get information about their health
- make decisions about their treatment.

What do people want to happen?



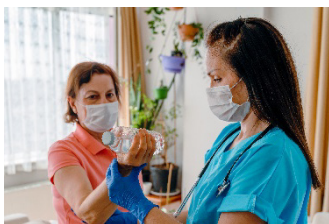
People want the places you go to receive health care services to be more accessible.



People want hospitals to get more **funding** for people who work with people with disability in hospitals.



Funding is money from the government to pay for supports and services.



People also want better support during COVID-19 for:

- people with disability
- people who have a weakened immune system.

Session 5 – Learning



This session focused on how schools and learning need to be more inclusive for students with disability.



This includes First Nations students with disability.

People talked about how:



- community attitudes needed to change



- teachers and schools needed more support and resources.



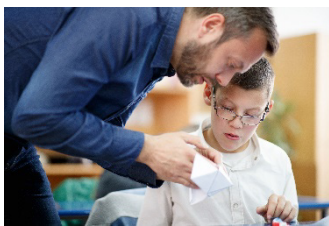
People also talked about students with disability learning with everyone else.



They said we shouldn't separate students with disability from other students.

It can make students with disability feel like they don't belong.

What do people want to happen?



People want teachers to learn how to support students with disability better.



This would help students with disability:

- have a good experience at school
- work towards their goals.

People also want to support schools where everyone can learn to:



- be more inclusive
- know how to support what students with disability need.

Session 6 – Getting support



This session focused on working together to make supports work better for people with disability.

People talked about government programs like the:



- Strategy



- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

They also talked about how supports need to understand and respect:



- who people are
- the different ways people live.

For example, their background and who they're attracted to.

What do people want to happen?

People want to make community support better by:



- changing community attitudes toward people with disability



- supporting people to understand how to be inclusive.



They also want more people to design things so everyone can take part in them.



They want more people to:

- understand how to do this
- start doing this when they work.

Session 7 – Community attitudes



This session focused on community attitudes towards people with disability.

And how better attitudes will make things more:

- accessible
- inclusive.



People talked about ways they could change community attitudes.



They said it would help if more people with disability were:

- leaders
- in the **media**.

The media is a way of getting information.



Parts of the media include:

- TV
- the Internet
- social media, like Facebook.

What do people want to happen?

People wanted to see more people with disability as leaders in government.



This includes focusing on jobs that:

- work with people with disability
- run services for people with disability.



People also wanted to see more people with disability in the media on screen.

For example, on television.



They also wanted to see more people with disability working to create media programs.

For example, working on the set of a television program.

What happens next?



Our **Strategy Advisory Council (the Council)**

will look at what people said at the meeting.

They will do this during 2023.

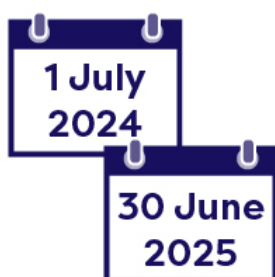


The Council is a group of people who help us understand what people with disability need.



They will think about what people shared at the meeting.

And they will give these ideas to governments to make the Strategy better.



The next National Forum will happen between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.



At that meeting, people will talk about:

- what they shared in the first National Forum
- how governments used their ideas.

Contact us



If you'd like more information about this report,
you can contact us.



You can email us.

australia'sdisabilitystrategy@dss.gov.au



You can send us a letter.

GPO Box 9820

Canberra ACT 2601



You can visit our website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads

Word list

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

Accessible



When something is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand
- move around.

Attitudes



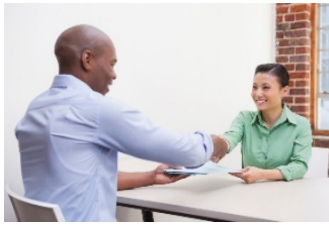
People's attitudes are what they:

- think
- feel
- believe.



Disability advocates

Disability advocates are people who speak up for people with disability.



Employer

An employer is a person who hires other people to work for them.



Funding

Funding is money from the government to pay for supports and services.



Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.



Justice system

The justice system includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.

Media



The media is a way of getting information.

Parts of the media include:

- TV
- the Internet
- social media, like Facebook.



Outcome areas

The Strategy focuses on 7 main areas of life for people with disability.

We call these outcome areas.



Public housing

Public housing is for people who need support to pay for a place to live.



Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat others:

- fairly
- equally.

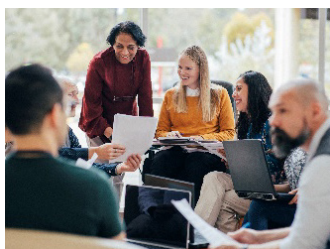


Standards

Standards are rules about how to do things well.

You can:

- meet standards
- go above standards.



Strategy Advisory Council (the Council)

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



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