



Creating
an inclusive
community
together

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031

Our Strategy Advisory Council meeting
23 February 2023

An Easy Read meeting bulletin

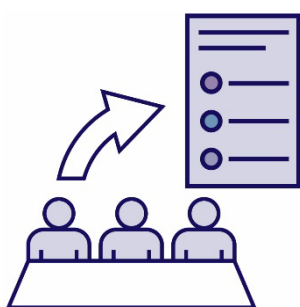


How to use this bulletin



Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council (the Council) give advice to governments.

The Council holds meetings as part of their work.



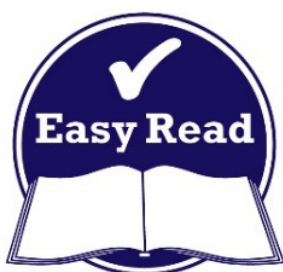
The Council wanted to share a **bulletin** about what they did in their last meeting.

A bulletin is an important news item to share with the community.



The Council asked the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) to write this bulletin for them.

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



We wrote this bulletin 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 26.



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



You can find the other bulletin on our website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/advisory-council



You can ask for help to read this bulletin.

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

What's in this bulletin?

Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council 5

What did the Council talk about? 8

The DRO and DPO Forum 22

Word list 26

Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council



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

In this bulletin we call it the Strategy.

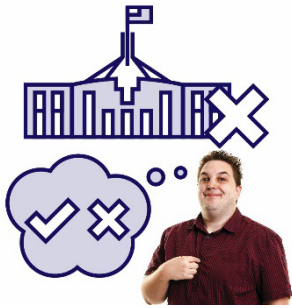
Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council (the Council) gives advice about the Strategy.



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



All the people on the Council are people with disability.

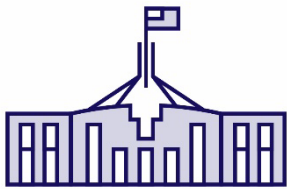


The Council is **independent**.

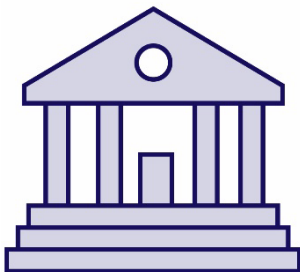
That means they:

- don't work for the government
- make their own decisions.

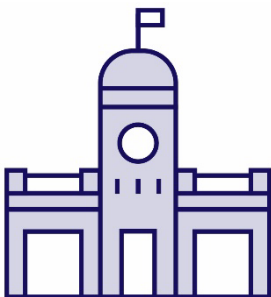
The Council gives advice to:



- the Australian Government



- state and territory governments



- local governments.

Their advice is about how well these governments:



- use the Strategy



- share reports about the Strategy



- work towards the goals of the Strategy.

What did the Council talk about?



The Council held their meeting on 23 February 2023.



They shared important updates about their work.



Their next meeting is planned for 27 April 2023.

Forward Work Plan



The Council talked about their 2023 Forward Work Plan.

This plan explains what work they want to do in 2023.



The disability **ministers** agreed to the plan on 10 February 2023.



A minister leads an area of government.

Disability advisory councils



The Council wants to connect with disability advisory councils in states and territories.



The Council talked about how they can do this.

The National Forum



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

They call these meetings National Forums.

It was the first National Forum about the Strategy.



People from all over Australia could take part in the National Forum.

It included:



- experts



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

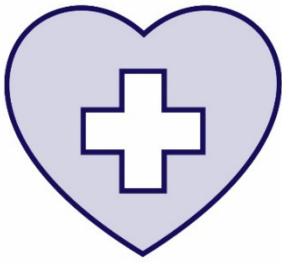


- people from the community.



The Council talked about the key ideas from the National Forum at their meeting.

The key ideas included:



- the health and wellbeing of people with disability



- education for students with disability



- making **inclusive** homes and communities.



When something is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.



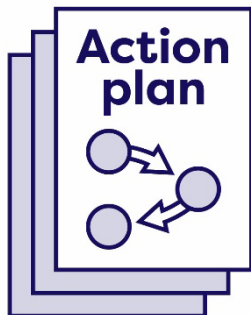
The Council agreed to give advice to the government about these key ideas in 2023.



When the Council gives this advice, they'll also think about:

- what people in the disability community have to say
- the work of the Disability Royal Commission.

The Targeted Action Plans report



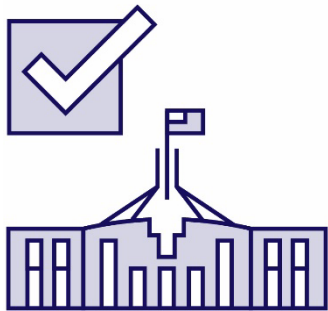
The Targeted Action Plans talk about what governments will do to help get the **outcomes** in the Strategy.

We call them action plans.



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

The action plans include what:



- the Australian Government will do



- state and territory governments will do.



We created a report to explain each action plan.

We call it the Targeted Action Plan Report.



The report is about what happened between

3 December 2021 and 30 June 2022.



It included how many actions governments:

- have finished
- are still working on.



The Council agreed to give advice about the report.



Before the Council gives the advice, they will talk to Disability Representative Organisations (DROs).



DROs support people with disability:

- to have a say
- by taking action for them.



The Council will also talk to Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs).



DPOs are organisations that people with disability run.



The Council will talk more about their advice in their meeting in June 2023.

The justice system

The **justice system** includes:



- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.



The Council talked about giving advice to the disability ministers about the justice system.



The Council wants to understand the problems people with disability face with the justice system.



They agreed to work with state and territory governments to check:

- disability plans
- policies – plans for how to do things.



The Council will also think about young people with disability in the justice system.

This includes young people with disability who:



- live far away from cities and towns
- and
- are in the justice system.

The disability community



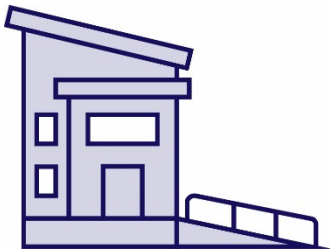
The Council talked about issues that the disability community shared with them.



The community shared problems with housing.



They said rent costs a lot of money.

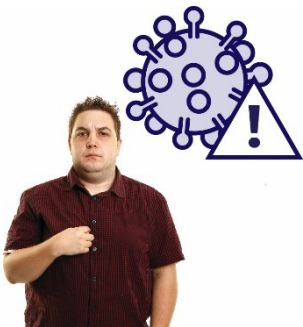


They also told the Council there should be more **accessible** homes.



When something is accessible, it's easy to:

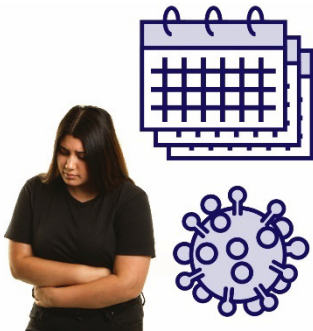
- find and use
- move around.



The community shared that they worry about how COVID-19 might affect people with disability.



They worry about having to stay at home.



They also worry about how COVID-19 might affect people over a long time.

This includes health problems you might have after you get better from COVID-19.



The community also shared issues with airlines.

They said airlines aren't always accessible.



And it can be hard to use airline websites.



The Council talked about the work that the NSW Disability Council has done.



The Council also talked about how Council member Ms Liz Reid is now part of the First Nations **Reference Group**.



A Reference Group is a group of people who give the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) advice about a certain topic.

The DRO and DPO Forum



We told the Council about a meeting between DROs and DPOs.

The meeting was called the DRO and DPO Forum.



The meeting was in December 2022.



DROs and DPOs shared reports about what they had done in the last year.



We told DROs and DPOs about how we were reaching the goals in the Strategy.



We also shared information about 2 programs we will spend money on.

What we will spend money on



We will spend money on the **Disability Employment Services (DES)** program.



DES helps people with disability find and keep jobs.

The Australian Government runs DES.



We'll also spend money on the National **Autism** Strategy.

Autism is a disability that affects how you:



- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect and deal with others.

The 2023 referendum

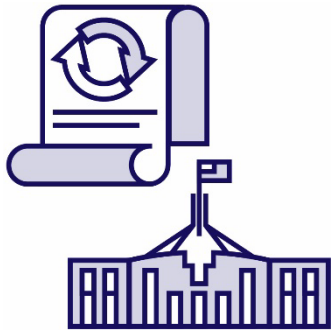


The Australian **Constitution** is a guide to how Australia works.

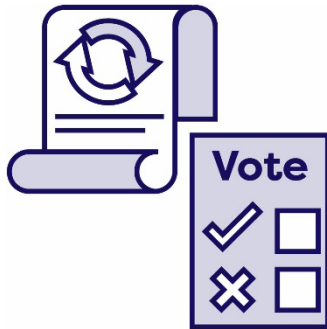


The Constitution includes:

- laws
- rules.



When the government wants to change the Constitution, they hold a **referendum**.



A referendum is when all Australians vote on whether they want to change the Constitution.

They can vote 'yes' or 'no'.



At the DRO and DPO Forum, the First Peoples Disability Network talked about the 2023 referendum.



The 2023 referendum is a question about having a First Nations group to give advice to Parliament.

This group will:

- be made up of First Nations peoples
- speak up about issues that affect First Nations peoples.

Word list

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



Accessible

When something is accessible, it's easy to:

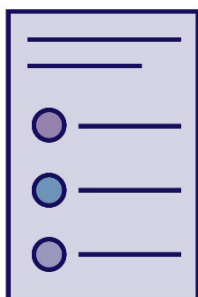
- find and use
- move around.



Autism

Autism is a disability that affects how you:

- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect and deal with others.



Bulletin

A bulletin is an important news item to share with the community.

It explains what the Council did in their last meeting.

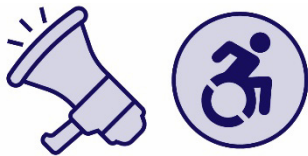
Constitution



The Australian Constitution is a guide to how Australia works.

The Constitution includes:

- laws
- rules.



Disability advocates

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



Disability Employment Services (DES)

DES helps people with disability find and keep jobs.

The Australian Government runs DES.

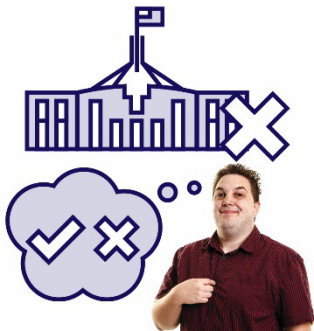
Inclusive



When something is inclusive, everyone feels:

- included
- like they belong.

Independent



Independent means they:

- don't work for the government
- make their own decisions.

Justice system



The justice system includes:

- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.



Minister

A minister leads an area of government.



Outcomes

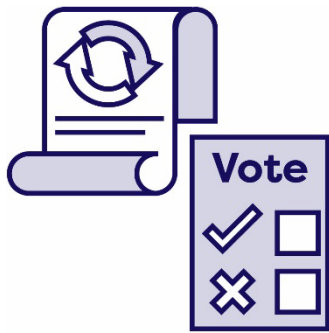
Outcomes are the important results we want to get for people with disability.



Reference Group

A Reference Group is a group of people who give the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) advice about a certain topic.





Referendum

A referendum is when all Australians vote on whether they want to change the Constitution.

They can vote 'yes' or 'no'.

Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council (the Council)



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



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images. The images may not be reused without permission. For any enquiries about the images, please visit www.informationaccessgroup.com. Quote job number 5211.