



Creating
an inclusive
community
together

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031

What we did during 3 December 2021
to 30 June 2023

An Easy Read report



How to use this report



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) wrote this report.

When you see the word 'we', it means all levels of government.



This includes:

- the Australian Government
- state and territory governments
- local governments.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We wrote some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



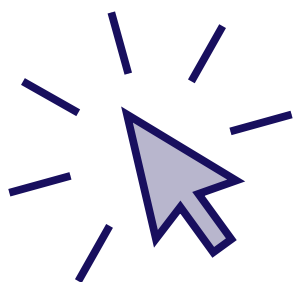
We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **37**.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document 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.

What's in this report?

About this report 5

Our outcome areas 8

What we did in our outcome areas 10

How we carried out the Strategy 20

What each state and territory has done 33

More information 35

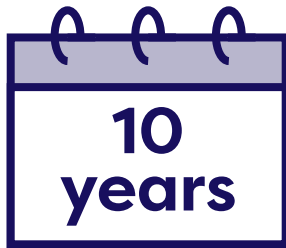
Word list 37

About this report



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.



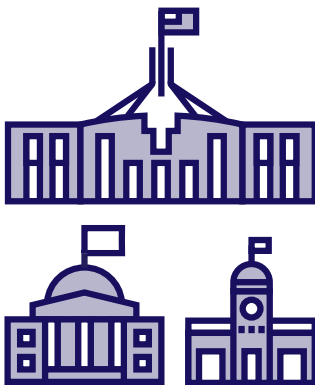
The Strategy will last for 10 years.

It will finish in 2031.



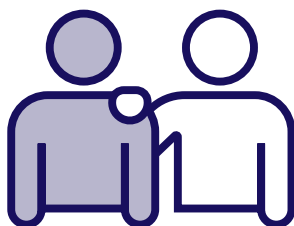
The Strategy is for:

- people with disability
- the Australian community.



The Strategy is also for all levels of government in Australia, including:

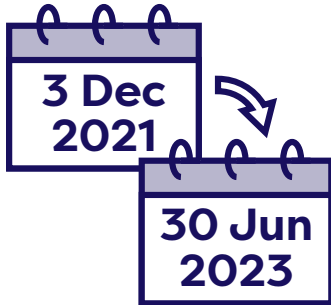
- the Australian Government
- state and territory governments
- local governments.



We want all levels of government in Australia to have plans to support people with disability.



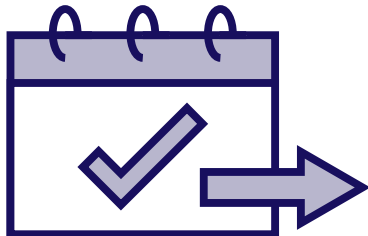
These plans are how we will reach the goals in the Strategy across Australia.



This is our first report about what we have done to reach the goals in the Strategy.

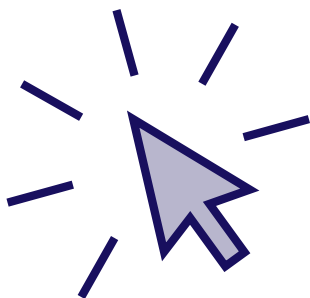
It covers what we did from 3 December 2021 to 30 June 2023.

Our timeline



We created a timeline that explains the parts of the Strategy that we:

- have already done
- are doing now
- plan to do in the future.

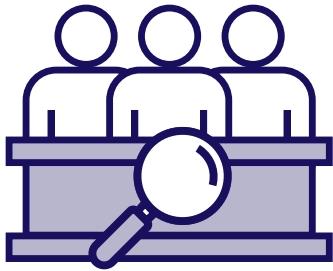


We call this timeline our roadmap.

You can find our roadmap on our website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/document/311

The Disability Royal Commission



The Australian Government created the **Disability Royal Commission**.



The Disability Royal Commission looked into problems people with disability have experienced.

It helped the Australian Government find out:

- what went wrong
- what we need to fix.



We took what the Disability Royal Commission found when we made the Strategy.



We will use the Disability Royal Commission's final report to check how the Strategy is going.

Our outcome areas



The Strategy includes **outcomes**.

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



The Strategy has ideas about how to make different areas of life better for people with disability.

We call these outcome areas.

We are:



- working towards these outcome areas
- making reports about what we achieved in these outcome areas.

The outcome areas are:



Working and earning money



Inclusive homes and communities



Rights for fair treatment and safety



Getting support



Learning and skills



Health and wellbeing



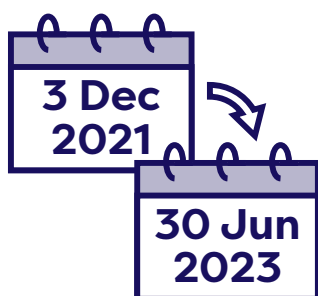
Community attitudes

What we did in our outcome areas

In this section we talk about what we have done:



- in each outcome area



- from 3 December 2021 to 30 June 2023.

Working and earning money



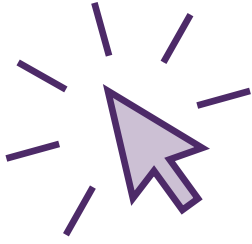
We made plans to support people with disability to find and keep a job.



For example, the Disability Employment Strategy.

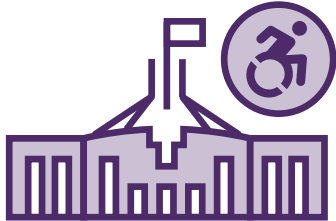
We also call it 'Employ My Ability'.

It is a plan to help more people with disability get jobs.



You can learn more about it on our website.

www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/disability-employment-strategy



Some governments also made plans to help more people with disability get government jobs.

www.apsc.gov.au/publication/australian-public-service-disability-employment-strategy-2020-25

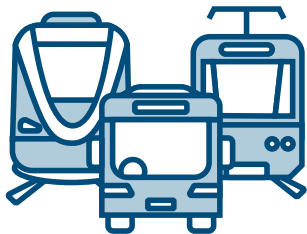
Inclusive homes and communities



When homes and communities are **inclusive**, everyone can:

- take part
- feel like they belong.

We are working on making **accessible**:



- public transport



- buildings in the community.



When the community is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use services
- move around.



This also includes:

- homes
- transport
- how people get information about their community.



We supported projects to build more accessible toilets across Australia.



The Victorian Government supported organisations to build safe and accessible homes for people with disability.

Rights for fair treatment and safety



We worked to protect the **rights** of people with disability.

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



We helped make a place where people with disability can get **advocacy services** anywhere in Australia.

We call it the National Centre for Disability Advocacy.



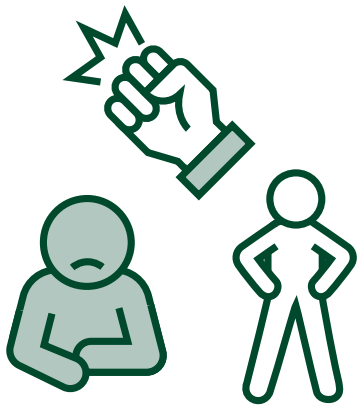
Advocacy services can:

- support you
- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.



The New South Wales Government worked to support people with disability who experience **violence**.

This includes when people experience violence from people who are close to them.



Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.

Getting support



We continued to deliver the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The NDIS is a way the Government supports people with disability.



The South Australian Government created programs to support people with disability who can't take part in the NDIS.

This includes the Community Connections program.



You can learn more about the Community Connections program on the South Australian Government website.

**[www.dhs.sa.gov.au/how-we-help/
community-connections](http://www.dhs.sa.gov.au/how-we-help/community-connections)**



We worked to improve the way people with disability get support to make decisions.



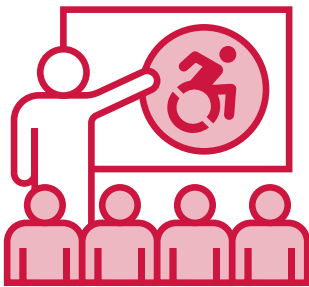
We also created programs that can support people with disability as early as possible.

Learning and skills



State governments supported more people with disability to take part in schools.

For example, the Victorian Government created:



- the Disability Inclusion program



- the **Autism** Education Strategy.



Autism is a disability that can affect how you:

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



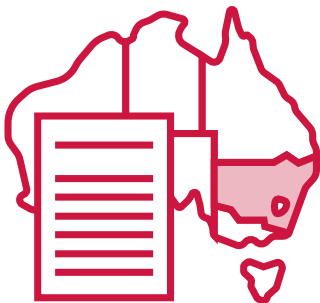
You can learn more about the Disability Inclusion program on the Victorian Government website.

www.schools.vic.gov.au/disability-inclusion



You can learn more about the Autism Education Strategy on the Victorian Government website.

www.schools.vic.gov.au/autism-education-strategy



The New South Wales Government also created the Department of Education's Disability Strategy.

We made resources to help students with disability and their families understand their rights.



You can find these resources on the Australian Government website.

www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005

Health and wellbeing



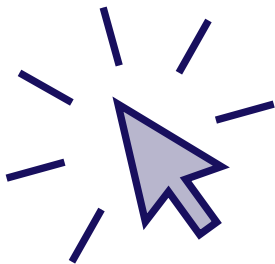
We made a plan to improve healthcare for people with **intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability affects how you:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



It's called the National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability.



You can find it on the Australian Government website.

www.health.gov.au/our-work/national-roadmap-for-improving-the-health-of-people-with-intellectual-disability



State governments made plans for health services to act quickly if a person with disability needs support.

For example, the Northern Territory Emergency Plan.

Community attitudes



Your **attitudes** are what you:

- think
- feel
- believe.

We want the community's attitudes to be inclusive.



When the community's attitudes are inclusive, everyone can:

- take part in the community
- feel like they belong.



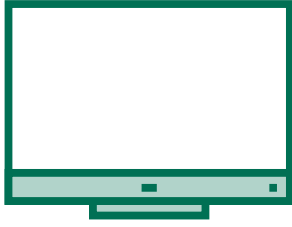
We updated our rules to include more people with disability in ads about the Australian Government.



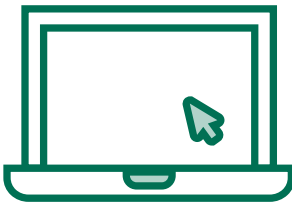
We also ran **media** programs to change people's attitudes about people with disability.

Media is a way of getting information.

Parts of the media include:



- TV



- the Internet



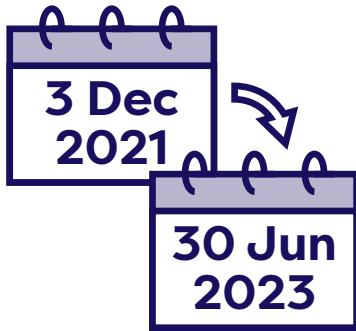
- social media, like Facebook.



We supported **employers** to understand why they should hire people with disability.

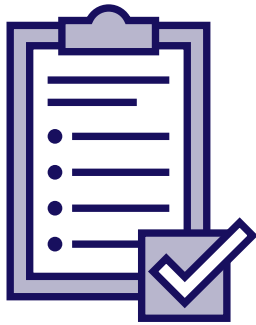
An employer is a person who hires other people to work for them.

How we carried out the Strategy



In this section we talk about how we carried out the Strategy from 3 December 2021 to 30 June 2023.

What governments need to do



All levels of government need to work together to reach the goals in the Strategy.



We worked to create rules that make services:

- accessible
- inclusive.

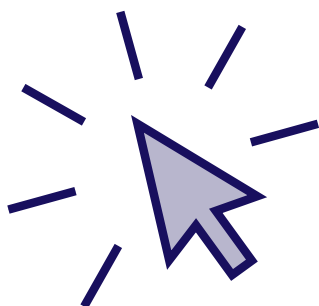


Some governments also updated laws to better protect the rights of people with disability.



The Australian Government worked with the First Peoples Disability Network.

This was to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.



You can learn more about the First Peoples Disability Network on their website.

www.fpdn.org.au/national_disability_footprint

Guiding principles



The Strategy has **guiding principles**.

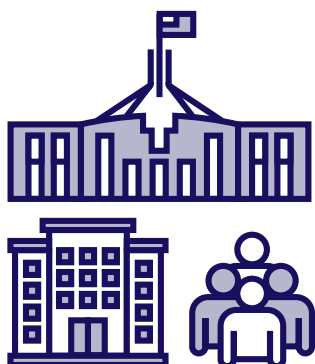
Guiding principles are important ideas we should always think about.



They focus on the rights of people with disability.

And help everyone make sure they include people with disability.

The guiding principles are for:



- all levels of government
- businesses
- the community.



These groups should use the guiding principles for any new project.

For example, when they create new buildings or services.



We are making a guide to help these groups understand how to use these principles.

We also use the guiding principles:



- to work more closely with people with disability
- when we make plans about improving the lives of people with disability.

How we work with the disability community

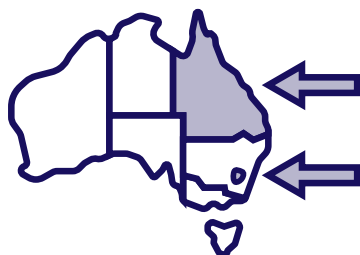


We work with the disability community to:

- carry out the Strategy
- find out how to improve the Strategy.

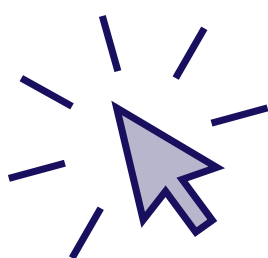


We hold public meetings every year to hear from the disability community about the Strategy.



The public meetings we had in 2022 and 2023 included:

- a national public meeting in the Australian Capital Territory
- a state public meeting in Queensland.



You can find out more about the meeting in Queensland on the Queenslanders With Disability Network website.

www.qdn.org.au/ads_forum_delegate-pack

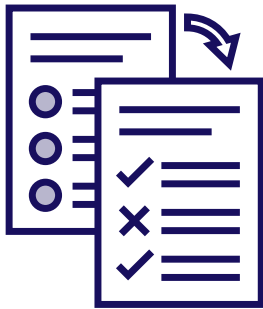


We made a plan called Australia's Disability Strategy Engagement Plan.



This plan will make sure we work with people with disability when we make new:

- programs
- **policies.**



A policy is:

- a plan for how we should do things
- where rules come from.



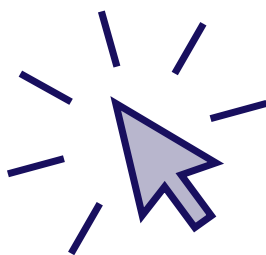
You can find Australia's Disability Strategy Engagement Plan on the Disability Gateway website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/document/3126



We also made a guide about how we can support more people with disability to work with us.

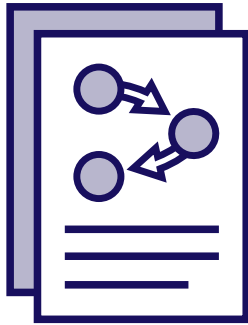
We call it the Good Practice Guidelines for Engaging with People with Disability.



You can learn more about it on the Disability Gateway website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/good-practice-guidelines

Targeted Action Plans



Our Targeted Action Plans talk about what we will do to reach our outcome areas.

We call them action plans.



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

And we used their ideas to write our action plans.



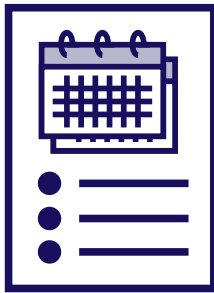
We published yearly reports about our plans.



You can find them on our website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/reporting-ads

Plans that are part of the Strategy



We created long-term plans that are part of how we will carry out the Strategy.



The long-term plans include:

- Employ My Ability
- the National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability.



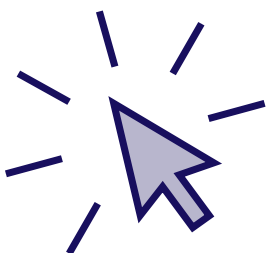
We also made the National Disability Advocacy Framework 2023–2025.



This is a plan for all levels of government to work together to make advocacy services:

- better for people with disability
- work in the same way across Australia.

You can learn more about it on our website.



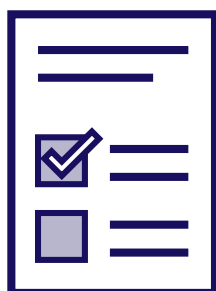
www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-programs-services-for-people-with-disability/national-disability-advocacy-framework-2023-2025

The Outcomes Framework



The Outcomes Framework explains what **data** we will collect.

Data includes facts, information and records.



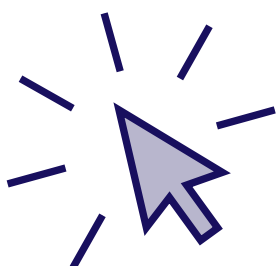
We use this data to keep track of how we are working towards the outcome areas.



We share information about how the Outcomes Framework is going every 3 months.



We also write a report every year.



You can learn more about the Outcomes Framework on the Australian Government's website.

www.aihw.gov.au/australias-disability-strategy

Making our data better



We want to have good data about the Strategy.



Good data is how we can find out:

- if we are reaching the outcomes
- what we need to improve.



The Australian Government made a plan about making data better.

We call it the Data Improvement Plan.



You can find an Easy Read version of the plan on the Disability Gateway website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads

Collecting evidence



We collect **evidence** so that we can carry out the Strategy in the right way.

Evidence is proof that something is true.

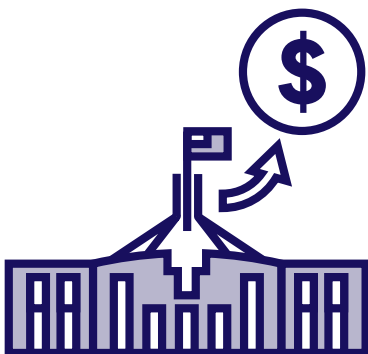
When we collect evidence, we:



- use research



- get advice from people with disability.



The Australian Government gave \$15 million to the National Disability Research Partnership.

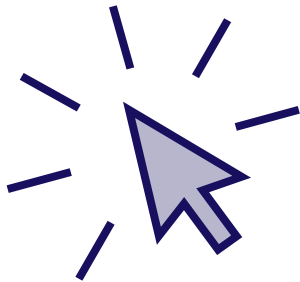
They do research that people with disability:



- take part in

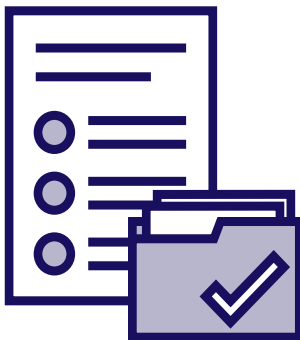


- help to run.



You can learn more about the National Disability Research Partnership on their website.

www.ndrp.org.au



We collected evidence from state governments about their different policies and plans.

And we learned about how well they work to support people with disability.



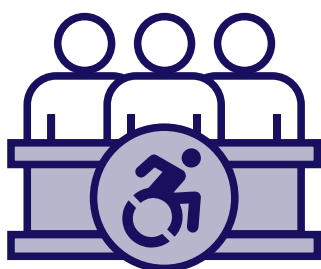
We also collected evidence about how well the Disability Gateway website works.

Who runs the Strategy



A group of **ministers** called the Disability Reform Ministerial Council help run the Strategy.

A minister leads an area of the government.



Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council (the Council) shares their opinions about the Strategy.

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



The Council:

- is made up of people with disability
- doesn't work for any government
- makes its own decisions.



We also run meetings where organisations who work with people with disability can share their:

- ideas
- opinions about the Strategy.

ADS Online



We made a website called ADS Online.

It's part of the Disability Gateway website.



It's a place for all the information about the Strategy.

It includes:

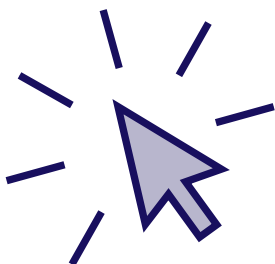
- news
- resources
- reports.



The main information on the website is accessible.

When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



You can visit the ADS Online section of the Disability Gateway website to find out more.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads

What each state and territory has done



You can learn about what the New South Wales Government has done on their website.

www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/community-inclusion/disability-and-inclusion.html



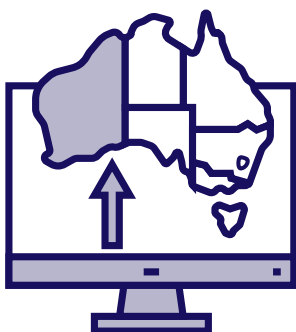
You can learn about what the Victorian Government has done on their website.

www.vic.gov.au/state-disability-plan



You can learn about what the Queensland Government has done on their website.

www.dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au/campaign/queenslands-disability-plan



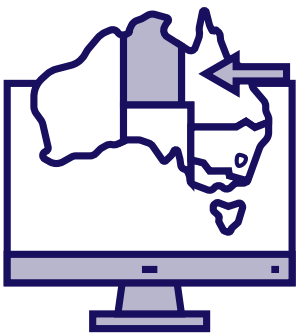
You can learn about what the Western Australian Government has done on their website.

www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/disability-services



You can learn about what the South Australian Government has done on their website.

www.inclusive.sa.gov.au/have-your-say/state-disability-inclusion-plan



You can learn about what the Northern Territory Government has done on their website.

tfhc.nt.gov.au/social-inclusion-and-interpreting-services/office-of-disability/disability-strategy



You can learn about what the Tasmanian Government has done on their website.

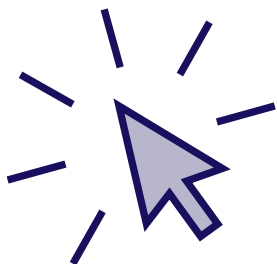
www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/cpp/community-policy-and-engagement/people-with-disability



You can learn about what the Australian Capital Territory Government has done on their website.

www.communityservices.act.gov.au/disability_act

More information



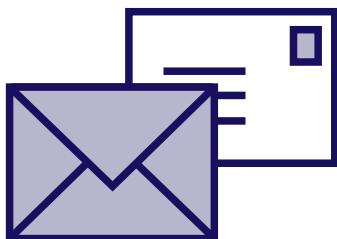
You can find out more about the Strategy on the Disability Gateway website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads



You can email us.

AustraliasDisabilityStrategy@dss.gov.au



You can write to us.

Australia's Disability Strategy Branch

GPO Box 9820

Canberra

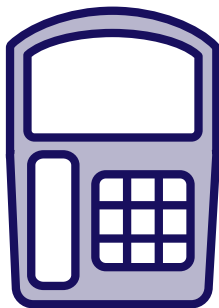
ACT 2601

Support to talk to us



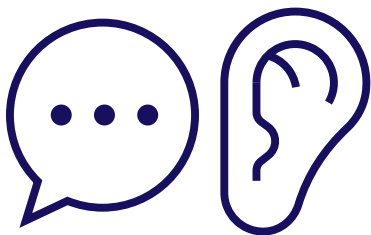
You can call the National Relay Service if you:

- are deaf or hard of hearing
- find it hard to speak using the phone.



Teletypewriter (TTY)

1800 555 677



Speak and listen

1800 555 727

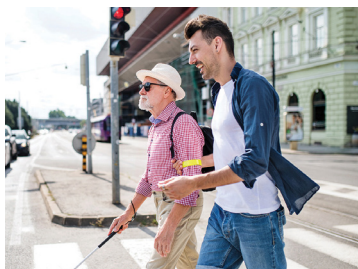


If you speak a language other than English, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS).

131 450

Word list

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



Accessible

When the community is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use services
- move around.



Advocacy services

Advocacy services can:

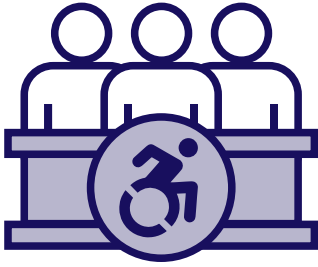
- support you
- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.



Attitudes

Your attitudes are what you:

- think
- feel
- believe.



Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council (the Council)

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



Autism

Autism is a disability that can affect how you:

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



Data

Data includes facts, information and records.

Disability Royal Commission

The Disability Royal Commission looked into problems people with disability have experienced.

It helped the Australian Government find out:

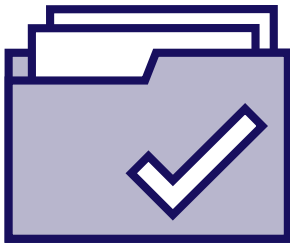
- what went wrong
- what we need to fix.





Employer

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



Evidence

Evidence is proof that something is true.



Guiding principles

Guiding principles are important ideas we should always think about.



Inclusive

When homes and communities are inclusive, everyone can:

- take part
- feel like they belong.



Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how you:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



Media

Media is a way of getting information.

Parts of the media include:

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



Minister

A minister leads an area of the government.



Outcomes

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



Policy

A policy is:

- a plan for how we should do things
- where rules come from.



Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



Violence

Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.



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Creating
an inclusive
community
together