



Creating
an inclusive
community
together

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031

Our report about the state and territory forum

Queensland – 19 June 2023

Easy Read version



How to use this report



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

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



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 **32**.



This is an Easy Read 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
might 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.



The Queensland Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services (DCSSDS) had a meeting on 19 June 2023.



This meeting was about what Queensland:

- has done to deliver the Strategy
- has achieved for people with disability.



It was the first state and territory meeting about the Strategy.



We also call these meetings state and territory **forums**.

A forum is a meeting that anyone can go to.

DCSSDS ran the meeting with:



- us – the Department of Social Services (DSS)



- the Queenslanders with Disability Network.

At the meeting, we heard from:



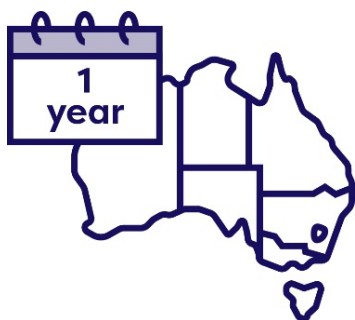
- experts



- organisations who work with people with disability

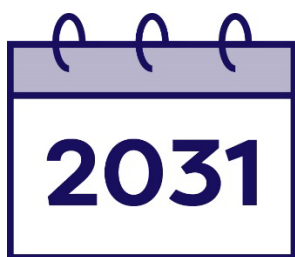


- **disability advocates** – people who speak up for people with disability.



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 meeting.

What did they focus on at the meeting?



People shared ideas about Queensland's Disability Plan.



This is a plan to make Queensland more **inclusive**.



When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.



People also celebrated what Queensland has achieved for people with disability.



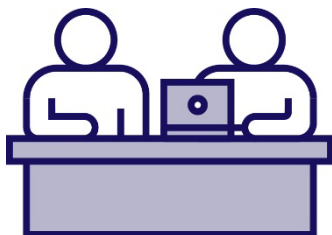
There were **3** sessions in the meeting.



1. Working and earning money



2. Ways Queensland is inclusive



3. The work everyone needs to do

What were the main ideas?



4 main ideas kept coming up at the meeting.

1



- 1.** People should work with people with disability when they plan and design new things.

For example, when people make new:



- buildings



- programs.

2



2. Everyone needs to work together to make Queensland and Australia better for people with disability.

3

3. There are things Queensland does:



- to support people with disability



- that other parts of Australia could do.



Brisbane 2032

Olympic and Paralympic
Games Host

Queensland



4. The Olympic and Paralympic Games

Brisbane 2032 will help Queenslanders to:

- come together for people with disability
- show the world what everyone can do to support people with disability.

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 earn money.

Jobs that need workers



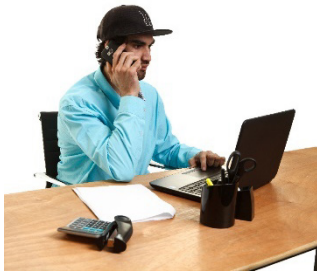
People shared that there are many jobs in Queensland that don't have enough workers.



People shared that **employers** should think about hiring people with disability to fill these jobs.

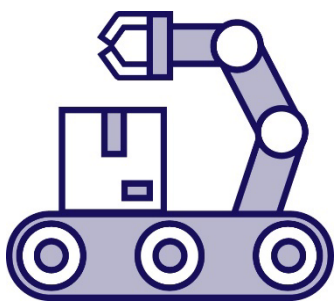
An employer is a person who hires other people to work for them.

New technology



New technology is also making it easier for people with disability to do jobs they couldn't do before.

For example, people can use technology at home to control machines at work.



People also shared that many jobs won't need people to do physical things in the future.

They shared that computers and machines will be able to do a lot of the physical parts of many jobs.

Supporting employers to remove barriers



We also heard that employers need more support to remove **barriers** for people with disability.

For example, to apply for a job.

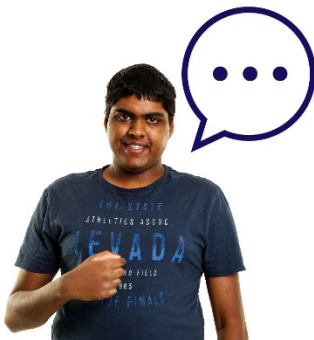


A barrier is something that stops you from doing something you:

- need to do
- want to do.



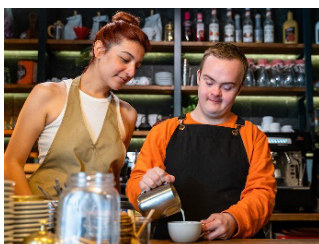
We also heard there should be more leaders of organisations with **lived experience** of disability.



If you have lived experience of disability, you:

- have a disability
- know what life can be like for people with disability
- can tell your story to help others.

Employers and governments need to do more



People shared how employers and governments need to do more to support people with disability to work and earn money.



We heard employers and governments need to:

- be more creative
- have higher goals.



We learned that Deaf Connect is a good example of this.

Deaf Connect is an organisation that offers services to people who are deaf or hard of hearing.



About **45%** of people working at Deaf Connect have a disability.



And about **60%** of its leaders have a disability.

Research about supported employment



Woolworths shared research they did on people with disability who get **supported employment**.

In supported employment, people with disability can get extra support while they are at work.



This means they get paid based on how much work they are able to do compared to someone without disability.



Woolworths found that **85%** of people with disability could do the same amount of work as people without disability.



This could change how people with disability who receive supported employment get paid.

Finding paid work after university



We heard about how we can support people with disability to find paid work after university.



We heard that people and organisations need to work together to do this.

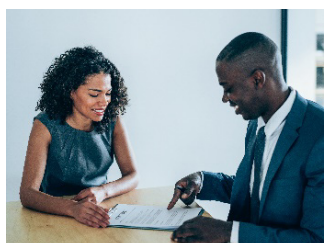
This includes:



- universities



- TAFEs



- employers



- **providers** – who support people with disability by delivering a service.



People also shared that students with disability need more **funding** to finish their studies.

Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.



We also heard that universities should work with people with disability who have finished university.



This could help them plan and design how students with disability can study best.

Session 2 – Ways Queensland is inclusive



This session focused on things Queensland has done to:

- be inclusive
- improve the lives of people with disability.

Managing risks from natural disasters



An **emergency**:

- is a dangerous situation
- is a thing we don't expect to happen
- can put our health and safety at risk.



An example of an emergency is natural disasters, like bushfires and floods.



Queensland is working to become a safer place for people with disability when natural disasters happen.

The Queensland Government and the Queenslanders with Disability Network are doing this work with:



- people with disability



- providers

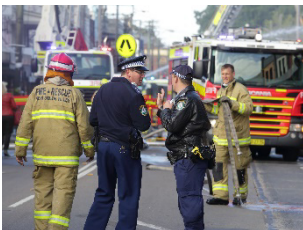


- local governments



- **emergency services.**

We use emergency services when an emergency happens.



They do their best to:

- make people safe
- fix the dangers and risks caused by the emergency.



The Queenslanders with Disability Network made plans and resources to help keep people safe.

They worked with people with disability and providers to make them.

These plans and resources focus on:



- what each person with disability needs



- having a group of people and services around each person that can give support.

The justice system



We also heard about a way people are trying to improve the **justice system** in Far North Queensland.

The justice system includes:



- prisons
- the courts
- police
- the law.



We heard that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are supporting people who:

- appear in court
- have a disability or brain injury.



These communities find someone older who can support the person to do what the court decides.

Session 3 – The work everyone needs to do



This session focused on how we can reach the outcomes in:

- the Strategy
- Queensland's Disability Plan.

Improving health services

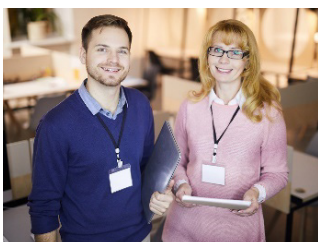


We heard that health services in Queensland are working to support people with disability better.

They are doing this work with:



- the disability community



- other providers.



Queensland health services are focusing on **5** things to do this work.

1



1. Everyone can find and use the support they need, where they need it.

2



2. Find ways to help health workers understand what people with disability need.

3



3. Make sure that different parts of healthcare work well.

This includes making sure that people with disability have control and choice over their care.

4



4. Support people with disability to combine the care they get from other places with their healthcare.

For example, the care they get from providers or their family.

5



5. Make sure health services are safe and welcoming for people with disability.



We also heard that it's a good idea to hire more health workers with disability.

This will help make health services more confident to support people with disability.

Housing



People shared how housing organisations in Queensland are getting better at delivering services to people with disability.

This includes renting, buying and selling housing.



We heard that the Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ) has done work in this area.



REIQ made their website more **accessible**.



When something is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



REIQ also made it easier for people with disability to use their services.

For example, by changing the way people need to sign documents.

We heard REIQ made resources for people who:



- work for them



- own housing



- rent housing.



These resources can help these people to understand the **rights** of people with disability.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

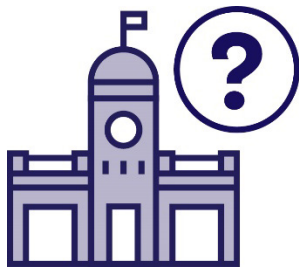
- fairly
- equally.



This includes rights to make housing:

- accessible
- easy to move around in.

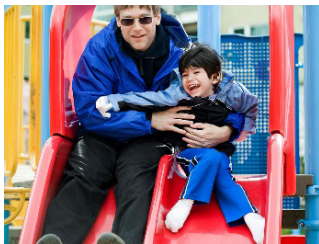
Local governments



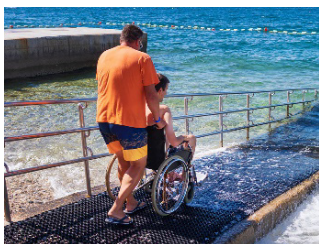
We heard about what local governments are doing to make their communities better for people with disability.



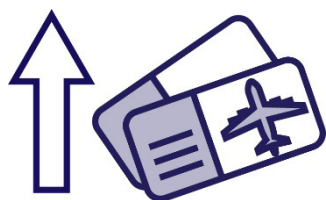
The Mayor of Moreton Bay Council shared what his local government is doing.



For example, they are making playgrounds safer and more accessible for children with disability.



They are also spending **\$3 million** to make it easier for people with disability to get down to the beach.



The Mayor shared that making communities accessible could increase tourism.



And that this would increase the amount of money communities get.



He shared that it's great to see people with disability being able to do things and go to places they couldn't before.



He shared the story of how Dylan Alcott was able to go to the beach for the first time in Noosa.

People with disability want to help



We heard that many people with disability want to help make Queensland more:

- accessible
- inclusive.



We also heard that working with people with disability is the best way to deliver:

- the Strategy
- Queensland's Disability Plan.



We heard that everyone should think about how we can work with people with disability:

- at work
- in the community.

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.



Barrier

A barrier is something that stops you from doing something you:

- need to do
- want to do.



Disability advocates

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

Emergency

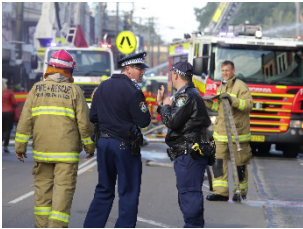


An emergency:

- is a dangerous situation
- is a thing we don't expect to happen
- can put our health and safety at risk.

Emergency services

We use emergency services when an emergency happens.



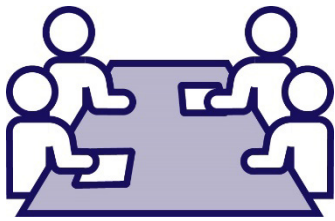
They do their best to:

- make people safe
- fix the dangers and risks caused by the emergency.



Employer

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



Forums

A forum is a meeting that anyone can go to.



Funding

Funding is money from the government that pays for supports and services.



Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.

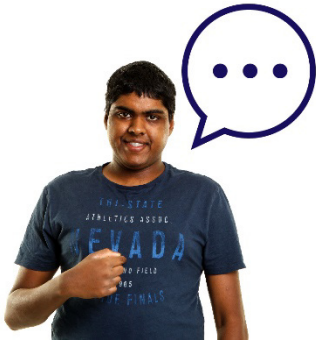


Justice system

The justice system includes:

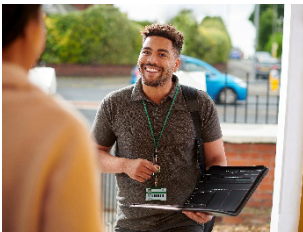
- police
- the courts
- the law
- prisons.

Lived experience



If you have lived experience of disability, you:

- have a disability
- know what life can be like for people with disability
- can tell your story to help others.



Providers

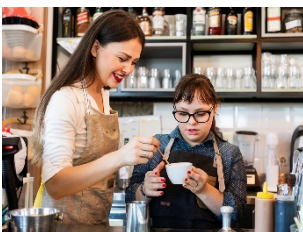
Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



Rights

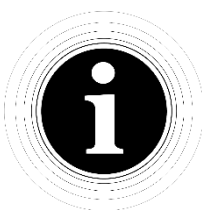
Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



Supported employment

In supported employment, people with disability can get extra support while they are at work.



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