Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031

# Our report about the state and territory forum

Queensland – 19 June 2023

A text-only 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 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 **18**.

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/glance](https://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/glance)

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

For example, when people make new:

* buildings
* programs.

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

3. There are things Queensland does:

* to support people with disability
* that other parts of Australia could do.

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. Everyone can find and use the support they need, where they need it.
2. Find ways to help health workers understand what people with disability need.
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.

1. 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.

1. 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](mailto: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](http://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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