



Creating
an inclusive
community
together

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031

How to use the Strategy's principles to support people with disability

Easy Read version



How to use this document



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

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



We wrote this document 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 27.



This is an Easy Read summary of the Guide to Applying Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/guide-to-applying



You can ask for help to read this document.

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

Acknowledgment of Country



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First Peoples of Australia.



They have always looked after Country.

Country means the land, water, sky and everything within them.



We respect the important connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with Country.



And we respect their Elders from the past and now.

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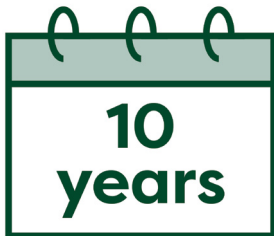
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About Australia's Disability Strategy



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

In this document, we call it the Strategy.



The Strategy will last for 10 years.

It will finish in **2031**.

The Strategy is for:

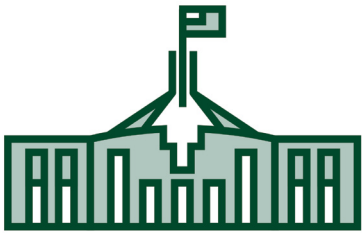


- people with disability



- the Australian community.

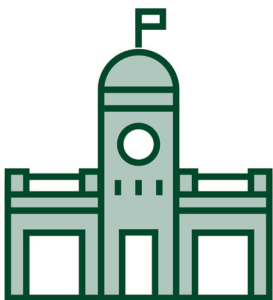
The Strategy is also for all levels of government in Australia, including:



- the Australian Government



- state and territory governments



- local governments.

About the Strategy's principles



The Strategy has 8 **principles**.



Principles are important ideas that everyone should always think about.



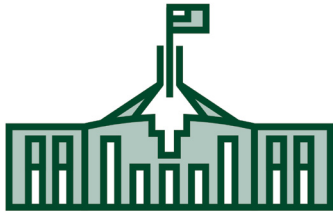
These principles focus on the **rights** of people with disability.



Rights are rules about how people should treat you:

- fairly
- equally.

The principles are for everyone, including:



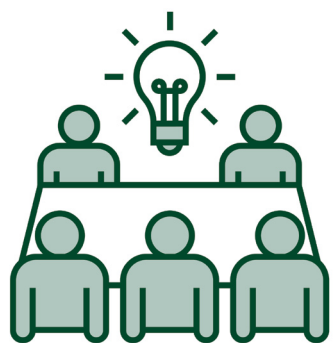
- all levels of government



- businesses



- the community.



Everyone can use these principles for any new project.

For example, new buildings or services for Australians.



The Australian Government made a guide to help people follow these principles.



They worked with people with disability to make the guide.



This document explains how to use the guide.

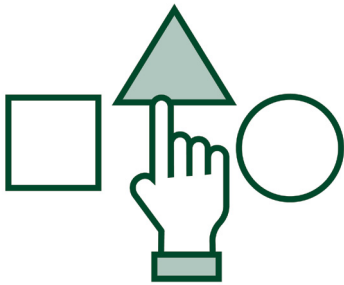
Questions to ask for each of the principles



In this section, we share questions you can ask for each principle when you start new projects.



Principle 1: Everyone can make their own choices



When people can make choices, they have more control over their lives.



Before you start a project, you can ask the following questions about this principle.



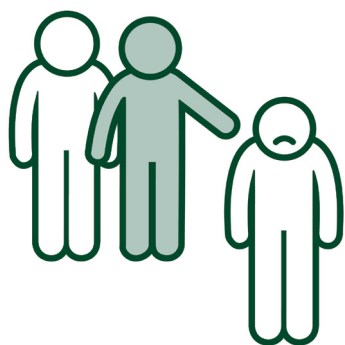
How does your project let people with disability make their own choices?



Is there a way for people to get support if they need it?



Principle 2: Everyone should be safe from discrimination



Discrimination is when you are treated unfairly because of a part of who you are.



Before you start a project, you can ask the following questions about this principle.



How will you make sure your project avoids discrimination?



How can you make changes to your project so people with disability are included?



Principle 3: Everyone can take part in the community



Everyone should have support to take part in the community if they want to join in.



Before you start a project, you can ask the following questions about this principle.



How does your project support people with disability to take part?



Does your project stop anyone from taking part?



Principle 4: Treat people with disability with respect

It's important to:



- respect all parts of a person



- understand that there is more to a person than their disability



- understand that everyone has different abilities.



Before you start a project, you can ask the following questions about this principle.



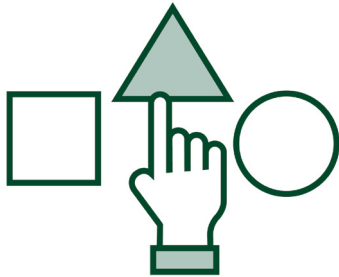
Does your project respect the ideas of people with disability?



Does your project think about the full person, not just their disability?



Principle 5: Give everyone the same chances



Everyone should have lots of options to do what they want to do.



These options should work in different ways so different people can use them.



Before you start a project, you can ask the following questions about this principle.



How will your project treat people fairly?

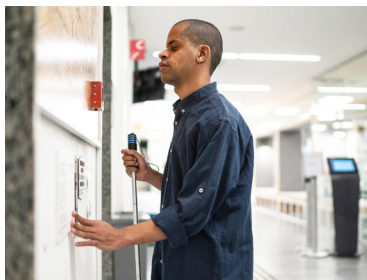


**Is there anything that will stop
people with disability from doing
what they want to do?**



Principle 6: Make things accessible for everyone

When something is **accessible**, it's easy to:



- find and use



- move around.



Before you start a project, you can ask the following questions about this principle.



Are there lots of ways for people to communicate about your project?

For example, through the internet.



Can people with disability find and use everything about your project?

For example, information and services.



Principle 7: Treat people with disability equally



It's important to treat people with disability the same as everyone else.



This means different people with disability should also be treated the same as each other.



Projects should work to meet people's different needs.



Before you start a project, you can ask the following questions about this principle.



How does your project treat everyone equally?



How will your project respect different parts of a person?

For example, their:

- **gender**
- **age**
- **culture.**

Your culture is:



- **your way of life**
- **how you think or act now because of how you grew up**
- **your beliefs**
- **what is important to you.**



Principle 8: Treat children with disability with respect



It's important to treat children with disability the same as every other child.



It's also important that they get the same chances as every other child.



Projects should work to meet children's different needs.



Before you start a project, you can ask the following questions about this principle.



Can children with disability help make decisions about your project?



Are you treating children with disability the same as children without disability?



Are children with disability able to find and use the supports they need?

Steps to use the principles



The guide has **3** steps to help people use the principles:



1. Think about how your project could respond to the needs of people with disability.



2. Plan your project with people with disability.



3. When you are doing your project, think about how you can improve it to better support the needs of people with disability.

Contact us



For more information, you can visit our website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads



You can send us an email.

australia'sdisabilitystrategy@dss.gov.au



You can write to us.

**Department of Social Services
GPO Box 9820
Canberra ACT 2601**

Word list

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



Accessible

When something is accessible, it's easy to:

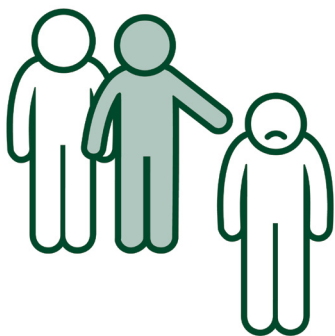
- find and use
- move around.



Culture

Your culture is:

- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.



Discrimination

Discrimination is when you are treated unfairly because of a part of who you are.



Principles

Principles are important ideas that everyone should always think about.



Rights

Rights are rules about how people should treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



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Quote job number 6028.



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