



Creating  
an inclusive  
community  
together

# Data Improvement Plan 2024

*Australia's Disability Strategy 2021 – 2031*





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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 Purpose

**This 2024 Data Improvement Plan (DIP) under Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 (ADS) aims to improve the data that is able to be used to track progress against the ADS Outcomes Framework (Outcomes Framework), with a focus on collecting and reporting data for future measures.**

**The data used to report against the Outcomes Framework helps to support the development and implementation of policies and programs to improve the lives of people with disability.**

The initial DIP was endorsed by members of the Disability Reform Ministerial Council (DRMC) in December 2022 and published on ADS Hub in January 2023.

All levels of government are committed to collecting and sharing high-quality data to better monitor and report outcomes for people with disability under ADS to drive change. People with disability are central to ADS and their insights are critical to informing data improvement activities. Engagement will continue with people with disability and groups such as First Nations people with disability, people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, women with disability and young people with disability, to ensure that their diverse voices are heard and considered.

In 2024, the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) revised the DIP in consultation with Disability Representative Organisations (DROs), ADS Advisory Council and Australian, state and territory government agencies. The revised DIP has also been endorsed by Disability Reform Ministers.

The first review point of the DIP aligns with the release of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (Disability Royal Commission, or DRC) Final Report on 29 September 2023. The revised DIP has also been endorsed by Disability Reform Ministers. This revision occurred as part of the broader ADS review work under ADS Roadmap commitment.

The revised DIP provides a progress update on the data gaps that are being addressed, identifies areas of further data development and collection and provides a DRC Action Plan that outlines actions to implement data related DRC recommendations, noting that Australian, state and territory governments need to undertake further work to settle timeframes and approaches, in consultation with other Ministerial Councils and relevant stakeholders (see section 4 and Attachment A).

Future revisions of the DIP will be endorsed through the same mechanisms and occur according to ADS review points detailed in section 2.1.

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## 1.2 Background and development

On 3 December 2021, ADS was launched by all levels of government. The vision of ADS is for an inclusive Australian society that ensures people with disability can fulfil their potential as equal members of the community. This continues to hold true with the re-release of ADS as part of the ADS Review on 3 December 2024.

The Outcomes Framework is a key part of ADS. It tracks, measures and reports the outcomes for people with disability across all 7 Outcome Areas, see Figure 1 below for further details. The Outcome Areas are based on areas people with disability have said need improvement to achieve the vision of ADS. They set out where governments at all levels, working with people with disability, the community and business, will focus to deliver the required change.

By delivering against the policy priorities under each Outcome Area, governments will help ensure all aspects of Australian life become more inclusive of people with disability.

**Figure 1: Outcome Areas of ADS**



The Outcomes Framework consists of 88 measures across 7 Outcome Areas. Forty-one are systems measures, 40 are population measures and 7 are community attitudes measures. Some measures had data available at launch of ADS to report against them (launch measures), others had data developed and reported since the start of ADS, and the remainder (future measures) still require data to be developed or linked in order to report against them. Some currently reported measures will be replaced by future measures that report against the same outcome.

Progress made under the Outcomes Framework is reported quarterly and via annual reports on the [Outcomes Framework webpages](#). The webpages were launched in December 2022 and provide high-level data against the measures in the Outcomes Framework. Embedded within the regular reporting cycle are data quality checks against each Outcomes Framework measure. This involves periodic reviews of available data sources to determine the most relevant and appropriate data are used for ADS Outcomes Framework reporting, and updating previously reported data where there is a change to source data.



## 2. Objective

**All levels of government in Australia have endorsed ADS and the Outcomes Framework. As part of ADS, governments agreed to work collaboratively to develop a comprehensive DIP.**

The revised DIP:

- provides a progress update on the data gaps that have been addressed, including more detailed data since 2022
- considers how linked data can help develop data for future measures and deliver deeper insights into intersectionality for different cohorts
- outlines areas for data development, collection and reporting to address data gaps over the life of ADS
- provides a DRC Action Plan that outlines actions to implement some of the key data related DRC recommendations, noting the need to undertake further work to settle the timeframes and approaches for some of these actions
- identifies other data improvement activities relevant to ADS that enable data-driven and evidence-based policy and decision making.

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### 2.1 Review points

In 2024, a targeted review of ADS was undertaken to take account of the DRC's Final Report to the Australian Government in September 2023 and other learnings from the first few years of ADS implementation. This review builds on existing research, consultation reports and advice provided by stakeholders and takes into consideration relevant findings and recommendations from the [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(NDIS\) review](#). The revised DIP includes a focus on practical improvements to implementation and current processes.

In addition to this review point there will also be two major evaluations of ADS. These evaluations will focus on the outcomes against the policy objectives and vision of ADS. As part of the first major evaluation, recommendations for improvement will be considered.

The first major evaluation will involve a review of the Outcomes Framework and will be a key point where amendments to measures will be considered. In the context of the first revision to the DIP, any changes to measures, or introduction of new outcome measures are out of scope.

The first major, independent evaluation of ADS is scheduled for 2025, with the report due to be delivered in 2026. The second major independent evaluation is planned for 2029 with further details to be determined.

A revised DIP will be published following each major evaluation point updating the status of improvement activities and outlining any changes to the Outcomes Framework, including amendments to any of the measures.

# 3. Defining and measuring disability

The definition and identification of disability and how it is conceptualised can vary depending on the context. ADS is based on the social model of disability, which recognises that attitudes, practices and structures can act as barriers preventing people from fulfilling their potential and exercising their rights as equal members of the community. People with disability may have specific needs, priorities and perspectives based on their individual identities including their gender, age, sexuality, race and cultural background, and can face additional barriers and inequities. ADS focuses on removing these barriers so people with disability can fully and effectively participate in and contribute to society.

Where ADS mentions people with disability, it means people with disability of all ages, whether their disability has been present from birth or acquired through illness, injury, accident or the ageing process. It is important to note that disability can also be self-identified by the individual. This allows us to consider individuals who may not be able to receive a diagnosis through traditional channels.

When measuring disability, First Nations people often have their own understanding of disability based on cultural practices and beliefs, which is quite distinct from both social and medical models of disability. This cultural understanding of disability needs to be considered in the collection, analysis, use and reporting of data.<sup>1</sup>



## 4. Progress on data improvement under ADS

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### 4.1 Progress on data improvements for future measures

There were 41 future measures at the time of release of the initial DIP in 2022. This section provides an overview of the progress on reporting of these measures over the last 2 years and outlines the key achievements for some future measures along with the future measures experiencing some delays. Amendments to some measures will be considered at the next major evaluation point. For more detailed information pertaining to the status of all future measures see [Tables 1-4](#).

#### 4.1.1 Key achievements for future measures

There has been significant progress on the data collection and reporting of several future measures since 2022. One key achievement was the reporting of data on the 7 measures in the Community Attitudes Outcome Area. Prior to the work conducted as part of the Australia's Disability Strategy Survey (ADS Survey) there was no existing data relating to community attitudes towards people with disability.

Data from the first wave of the [ADS Survey](#) was first reported in October 2023. Data from the next wave of the survey (Wave 2) is expected to be published in the second half of 2025 and will be used to report against the 7 community attitude measures. For more information on the ADS Survey, please see [section 7.2](#).

Reporting on Community Attitudes provides various benefits which link into the overarching objectives of ADS. In particular, the measures captured by this outcome area link into the social model of disability in that it promotes a person-centred approach and gives some consideration to the personal barriers which could affect people with disability. Additionally, these measures are instrumental in helping governments and the disability community, understand the community attitudes towards people with disability, to foster more positive attitudes within the community, as well as improve outcomes such as health, education and employment.

Another future measure that is now regularly reported on relates to the proportion of public sector employees with disability. This data is collected from APS administrative data and is updated bi-annually. This measure links into the economic independence priority of ADS, which centres around supporting people with disability to earn enough money to live well, plan for their future, and have choice and control over their own lives.

In addition to the measures where data has been collected, there are 13 more measures which are expected to be reported on in 2025. Some of these measures will draw on data collected in Wave 2 of the ADS Survey.

The remaining measures will be derived via data linkages through the implementation of the [National Disability Data Asset](#) (NDDA). This is an innovative process which will improve the reporting of these measures and allow data to be analysed through different lenses which will allow for more meaningful interpretation of the implications of the data (for more information on the NDDA see [section 7.6](#)).

A full list of future measures that have been reported on since 2022 and those which are on track to be reported on within the timeframes specified in the original DIP are in Table 1.

**Table 1: Key achievements for future measures**

| Outcome Area                      | Future Measure  | Data Reported  | Data Source   | Data Custodian                       |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Employment and Financial Security | % of public sector employees with disability  | Data first reported in March 2023<br><br>Data reported bi-annually | Australian Public Service Employment Database (APSED)             | Australian Public Service Commission |
|                                   | % of NDIS participants with employment goal in receipt of employment income in last 12 months     | Data expected to be reported in January 2025                       | Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA), to transition to NDDA | ABS                                  |
| Inclusive Homes and Communities   | % of people with disability reporting the internet sites and apps they want to use are accessible | Data expected to be reported in second half 2025                   | ADS Survey  | DSS                                  |
|                                   | % of people with disability whose home is suitable and accessible                                 | Data expected to be reported in second half 2025                   | ADS Survey  | DSS                                  |

| Outcome Area                   | Future Measure  | Data Reported  | Data Source | Data Custodian |
|--------------------------------|---|--|-------------|----------------|
| Safety, Rights and Justice     | % of people with disability supported to communicate and participate when interacting with police or judicial officers at court | Data expected to be reported in second half 2025                 | ADS Survey  | DSS            |
|                                | Average length of time a child with disability remains in the child protection system compared to children without disability   | Data expected to be reported October 2025<br>Future NDDA linkage | NDDA        | ABS            |
|                                | Rate of children with disability aged 0–17 years who were the subject of a child protection re-substantiation in a given year   | Data expected to be reported October 2025<br>Future NDDA linkage | NDDA        | ABS            |
| Personal and Community Support | % of people who report that they can access mainstream support services when they need them                                     | Data expected to be reported in second half 2025                 | ADS Survey  | DSS            |
| Education and Learning         | % of people with disability who report having participated in an informal learning activity in the last 12 months               | Data expected to be reported in second half 2025                 | ADS Survey  | DSS            |

| Outcome Area         | Future Measure   | Data Reported   | Data Source | Data Custodian |
|----------------------|--|---|-------------|----------------|
| Health and Wellbeing | % of people with disabilities reporting satisfaction in the accessibility of emergency, disaster preparedness and response information and services                | Data expected to be reported in second half 2025  | ADS Survey  | DSS            |
|                      | % of people with disability who are satisfied with the quality of care provided by the allied and community health sector  | Data expected to be reported in second half 2025  | ADS Survey  | DSS            |
|                      | % of people with disability who accessed prevention and early intervention services in the last 12 months without difficulty compared to people without disability | Data expected to be reported in second half 2025  | ADS Survey  | DSS            |
|                      | Number of potentially avoidable deaths in hospital for people with disability compared to people without disability  | Data expected to be reported in January 2025<br><br>Future National Health Data Hub (NHDH)/NDDA linkage | NDDA        | ABS            |
|                      | Number of involuntary hospital admissions  | Data expected to be reported in January 2025<br><br>Future NHDH/ NDDA linkage                           | NDDA        | ABS            |

| Outcome Area        | Future Measure  | Data Reported   | Data Source | Data Custodian |
|---------------------|---|---|-------------|----------------|
| Community Attitudes | % of employers who value the contribution and benefits of employing people with disability  | Data first reported in October 2023                         | ADS Survey  | DSS            |
|                     | Key professionals are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability (% of educators)                              | The next data update is expected in the second half of 2025 |             |                |
|                     | Key professionals are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability (% of health professionals)                   | Data will be updated every 2-3 years over the life of ADS   |             |                |
|                     | Key professionals are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability (% of personal and community support workers) |   |             |                |
|                     | Key professionals are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability (% of justice/legal sector workers)           |   |             |                |
|                     | % of people with disability who report feeling represented in leadership roles  |   |             |                |
|                     | % of people with disability who report feeling valued and respected in their community  |   |             |                |

### 4.1.2 Future measures where data collection timeframes exceed 18 months

Further to the above measures there are 3 future measures which have had some progress towards data collection. These measures are expected to come from the NDDA; however the linkages are complex and require further definition. As such, these measures are not expected to be collected within the next 18 months. For a list of these measures please see Table 2.

**Table 2: Measures where data collection timeframe exceeds 18 months**

| Outcome Area                      | Future Measure   | Data Collection  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Employment and Financial Security | % of school leavers with disability who are not in employment/education/training 12 months later | Data to be requested from States and Territories<br>Future NDDA linkage<br>Data custodian TBA                                    |
| Education and Learning            | % of children with disability who meet school readiness indicators in first year of school       | Data to be requested from Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)<br>NDDA linkage<br>Data custodian TBA |
|                                   | % of students with disability attending school 90% or more of the time                           | Data to be requested from ACARA<br>Future NDDA linkage<br>Data custodian TBA   |

In addition, there are 9 measures which are under development and do not have a clearly defined timeframe or process relating to the data collection of the measures. Work has begun to develop these processes and discussions with key stakeholders and jurisdictions are ongoing to develop a data collection approach, including data sharing arrangements.

The Intergovernmental Agreement on data sharing between Commonwealth and State and Territory governments commits all jurisdictions to share public sector data as a default position, where it can be done securely, safely, lawfully and ethically.

For a list of these measures see [Table 3](#).



**Table 3: Measures under development**

| Outcome Area                    | Future Measure  | Actions to progress measure  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Inclusive Homes and Communities | % of compliance with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport   | <p>A working group, including disability representative organisations, governments and industry, has been established to discuss compliance reporting for Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport and determine how data for this measure could be captured and reported</p> <p>Data source/custodian TBA</p>   |
|                                 | Number and % of homes that are built to standards according to the National Construction Code (NCC) and the Livable Housing Design, Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) Standard | <p>State and territories are at varying stages of data collection</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing to develop a more consistent approach across all jurisdictions</p> <p>Data source/custodian TBA</p>   |
|                                 | % of social housing dwellings that meet Livable Housing Design silver accessibility standards   | <p>State and territories are at varying stages of data collection</p> <p>The development of the future Social Housing accessibility measure for all four data collections: Public Housing, State-Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing, Indigenous Community Housing and Community Housing could be undertaken via the Housing and Homelessness Data Working Group (HHDWG) and the Advisory Committee Housing and Homelessness Information</p> <p>These groups have the knowledge and expertise to advise on housing and homelessness data availability and can ensure data definition and collection is standardised across Australia</p> <p>Data source/custodian TBA</p> |
|                                 | % of Australian, state and territory, and local government websites that meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 accessibility standard or above                              | <p>Engagement is underway regarding future development of reporting tools that will enable Australian, state and territory governments to assess the accessibility of their websites</p> <p>Data source/custodian TBA</p>  |
|                                 | % of people with disability who can access public or private transport when needed  | <p>Data could potentially be collected through established data collections such as Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) 2028</p> <p>Data custodian ABS</p>  |

| Outcome Area                   | Future Measure   | Actions to progress measure  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Personal and Community Support | % of people with disability who can access the assistive technology they need                              | Data could potentially be collected through established data collections such as SDAC 2028<br><br>Data custodian ABS   |
|                                | % of NDIS participants who report systems accessed through their individual support package were effective | Discussions are ongoing with NDIA to develop data collection for this measure<br><br>Data custodian NDIA   |
| Safety, Rights and Justice     | % of domestic and family violence services that are accessible and inclusive for women with disability     | Under the <a href="#">National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032</a> (the National Plan), all governments have committed to ending violence against Women and Children in Australia in one generation. The Australian Government (led by DSS) has developed <a href="#">The Outcomes Framework 2023-2032</a><br><br>Discussions are ongoing about developing data collection and reporting of this measure.<br><br>Data source/custodian TBA |
| Health and Wellbeing           | % (and number) of disaster management services that have disability inclusive plans in place               | A working group has been set up with relevant stakeholders to develop a toolkit with the aim of developing a nationally consistent approach to disability inclusive disaster management<br><br>Discussions are ongoing about developing data collection and reporting of this measure<br><br>Data source/custodian TBA   |

For the most part, these measures are complex and if there are existing data collections, these are fragmented, incomplete and inconsistent between jurisdictions. Some of these measures may also rely on additional data being collected as part of current or new administrative data collection processes. This will require extensive preparatory work.

Work is ongoing with jurisdictions to focus on these key measures to develop an approach that ensures data for these measures will be collected and reported on over the life of ADS.

### **Next steps: Reporting on data for future measures**

- **Work to continue across Australian Government agencies, state and territory governments and the disability community to progress the collection and reporting of data for future measures through development of enhanced and consistent data collection, and linking data into the NDDA over the next 12 months.**

## **4.1.3 Future measures to be reevaluated at the first major evaluation point**

A core component of ADS are the two major evaluation points which are to provide analysis and findings of ADS, including recommendations for improvement. For more information on the major evaluations of ADS please see [section 2.1](#).

The first major evaluation is scheduled for 2025 to coincide with the mid-point of ADS. As part of the planned work leading up to this evaluation several measures have been identified as potentially requiring amendments. These measures as written are generally difficult to capture or are less clear in terms of the intention of what is to be measured. The potential changes may vary from requiring some rewording to substantial changes through to removing them from the Outcomes Framework. Whether or not any changes to these measures will occur is dependent on the results of the independent review and agreement by Disability Reform Ministers.

For these measures, consultation with states and territories as well as other relevant stakeholders is planned to capture their views on the suitability and efficacy of measures in the Outcomes Framework.

### **Next steps: Review of the Outcomes Framework**

- **Seek endorsement from DRMC of a proposed approach for future reporting under ADS, including any changes to the Outcomes Framework in the context of the first major independent evaluation by the end of 2026.**

A full list of the current and future measures which are planned to be reassessed can be found in [Table 4](#). As part of the first major independent evaluation, other measures may also be reviewed in light of assessing the effectiveness of ADS Outcomes Framework.

**Table 4: Measures to be reviewed during major evaluation**

| Outcome Area                           | Future and Current Measures  |
|--|--|
| <b>Inclusive Homes and Communities</b> | Number of community, political, social, recreational, sporting, religious and cultural groups that have active inclusion policies for people with disability |
| <b>Safety, Rights and Justice</b>      | % of people with disability who reported having equal access to justice compared to people without disability  |
|  | Number of services for people with disability use a trauma-informed approach   |
|  | % of people with disability returning to corrective services within two years compared to % of people without disability                                     |
|  | % of people with disability detained in prisons and forensic facilities compared to people without disability  |
| <b>Education and Learning</b>          | % of people with disability who reported satisfaction with their access to ACE (Adult and Community Education)   |
|  | % of students with disability in Year 9 achieving at or above the Strong proficiency level for Reading   |
|  | % of students with disability who complete Year 10 (or equivalent)   |
| <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>            | Rates of restraint of people with disability in acute mental health hospital services  |

## 4.2 Progress on data improvements for current measures

As well as developing data for future measures, linked data should also help improve some current measures by:

- increasing the frequency for reporting on the measures
- potentially improving the quality of some data used in analysis of the measures (as linked administrative data can instead identify that the same concept is being measured *differently* in different data sets. Different concepts may also be reported as if they were the *same* between different data sets, and therefore require substantial 'post-processing' in the creation/construction of variables derived from newly linked administrative data sources to support future ADS measures) offering new insights that were not previously available
- allowing people to filter data based on measures more relevant to them – for example, based upon their geography, type of disability, use of disability supports.

Some of this will be through the NDDA when it is established, and some will be through existing data linkages. For a list of launch measures that may be improved through data linkage, see Table 5.

**Table 5: Current Measures to be improved by data linkages**

| Outcome Area                      | Current Measure   | Data Linkage                      | Linkage by Dec 2025 | Benefits   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Employment and Financial Security | Number of people supported to achieve at least 12 months employment at their work capacity in DES | NDDA                              | Yes                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-population and disability identification improved by additional data sources</li> </ul> |
|                                   | % of VET graduates with disability who are employed on completion of training                     | PLIDA, to be transitioned to NDDA | Yes                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-population and disability identification improved by additional data sources</li> </ul> |
|                                   | % of NDIS young people (15-24 years) in employment  | PLIDA, to be transitioned to NDDA | Yes                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-population and disability identification improved by additional data sources</li> </ul> |

| Outcome Area                             | Current Measure  | Data Linkage                      | Linkage by Dec 2025                    | Benefits  |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Employment and Financial Security</b> | Gap in median gross income for a person with disability aged 15–64 years compared to people without disability       | PLIDA, to be transitioned to NDDA | Yes                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole of population</li> <li>• Data more frequently updated</li> <li>• Disability definition expandable</li> </ul> |
|  | % of young people (15–24 years) with disability in the labour force who are employed                                 | PLIDA, to be transitioned to NDDA | Yes                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole of population</li> <li>• Data more frequently updated</li> <li>• Disability definition expandable</li> </ul> |
|  | Gap in % of people with disability in the labour force who are unemployed compared to % of people without disability | PLIDA, to be transitioned to NDDA | No<br>Expected timing of reporting TBD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole of population</li> <li>• Data more frequently updated</li> <li>• Disability definition expandable</li> </ul> |
|  | % of people with disability in the labour force who use jobactive* and successfully find employment within 12 months | NDDA                              | No<br>Expected timing of reporting TBD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-population and disability identification improved by additional data sources</li> </ul>                        |

\* There may be future changes to the terminology used for the above measure to reflect the change from Jobactive to Workforce Australia

| Outcome Area                           | Current Measure   | Data Linkage | Linkage by Dec 2025 | Benefits   |
|--|---|--------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Inclusive Homes and Communities</b> | Average wait time for social housing for people with disability | NDDA         | Yes                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-population and disability identification improved by additional data sources</li> </ul> |

| Outcome Area               | Current Measure  | Data Linkage                  | Linkage by Dec 2025 | Benefits  |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Safety, Rights and Justice | % of people with disability experiencing domestic and family violence who are assisted into safe and secure housing when requested                         | NDDA                          | Yes                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-population and disability identification improved by additional data sources</li> </ul>                    |
|                            | % of people with disability 15 years and above who have experienced violence compared to people without disability   | NDDA                          | Yes                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole of population</li> <li>Data more frequently updated</li> <li>Disability definition expandable</li> </ul> |
|                            | % of females with disability 15 years and above who have experienced family or domestic violence compared with women without disability                    | NDDA                          | Yes                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole of population</li> <li>Data more frequently updated</li> <li>Disability definition expandable</li> </ul> |
| Education and Learning     | % of VET students with disability (15–64 years)  | PLIDA, to be replaced by NDDA | Yes                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-population and disability identification improved by additional data sources</li> </ul>                    |
|                            | % of undergraduate higher education students with disability   | PLIDA, to be replaced by NDDA | Yes                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-population and disability identification improved by additional data sources</li> </ul>                    |
|                            | Qualification completion rate for VET students with disability compared to qualification completion rate for VET students without disability (15–64 years) | PLIDA, to be replaced by NDDA | Yes                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires data linkage for the measure to become reportable</li> </ul>  |

| Outcome Area           | Current Measure   | Data Linkage                  | Linkage by Dec 2025                    | Benefits  |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Education and Learning | % of students with disability who complete a higher education qualification   | PLIDA, to be replaced by NDDA | Yes                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability definition expandable</li> </ul>  |
|                        | % of students with disability who complete Year 12 (or equivalent)  | NDDA                          | No<br>Expected timing of reporting TBD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole of population</li> <li>Data more frequently updated</li> <li>Disability definition expandable</li> </ul> |
|                        | % of children with disability enrolled in a pre-school program the year before full-time schooling vs representation in community | NDDA                          | No<br>Expected timing of reporting TBD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-population and disability identification improved by additional data sources</li> </ul>                    |
| Health and Wellbeing   | Number of people with disability with GP-type emergency department presentations  | NDDA                          | Yes                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole of population</li> <li>Data more frequently updated</li> <li>Disability definition expandable</li> </ul> |

### Next steps: Improving data for current measures

- Work to continue with key data agencies (such as Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)), jurisdictions and other key stakeholders to improve reporting on current measures, including the ability to report more frequently, improve reporting on sub-populations and enhance disability identification over the next 12 months.



## 4.3 Other data improvement activities

Several other data improvement activities that seek to better support people with disability through enabling data-driven and evidence-based policy and decision making are occurring in parallel to ADS. Much of this work utilises linked data to inform service planning, monitoring and evaluation, and policy development at the national and state and territory level.

### 4.3.1 NDIS related data improvement activities

Among recent initiatives are projects that are bringing together de-identified data on NDIS participants with administrative data from other sectors such as aged care, child protection and health. For example, linked data are being used to increase understanding of younger people in residential aged care so that informed interventions and policy changes can take place to better support people in this cohort, who may be better served by more age-appropriate accommodation options, such as disability services or culturally appropriate aged care.

NDIS data are also being linked with other health data including the [National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System](#) with the purpose of informing policy relevant questions on disability and strengthening evidence-based public health and health system planning and management for future pandemics. Many of these linkages will provide valuable input to the NDDA both by demonstrating the value of data linkage and supporting the development of methods that can benefit the NDDA in future. This work can also be linked to the [National Roadmap for Improving the Health of people with Intellectual Disability](#), where key actions to improve the research and data related to health outcomes of people with intellectual disability are outlined.

As part of the recently released [NDIS Participant Employment Strategy 2024-2026](#), information on employment and progress towards a job is now being gathered more often. This will provide greater visibility of where participants are on the employment journey and ensure the right supports are in place. NDIA is continuing to develop a new outcomes framework, co-designed with participants and the community that will make use of linked data such as the NDDA. Further information can be found in the publicly available Participant Employment Strategy.

Other data improvement work including a review of the NDIS Outcomes Framework will be guided by recommendations in the DRC and NDIS Review reports and will involve consultation and codesign with the disability community and other key stakeholders.

### 4.3.2 Disability Employment Services

Disability Employment Services (DES) is the main employment service for people with disability, injury and/or health condition. The current DES program ends on 30 June 2025 when a new specialist disability employment program will commence. Public consultation and engagement commenced in August 2024 and is ongoing. The new program includes a major digital uplift to modernise the ICT system and a range of other improvements to support ongoing quality, monitoring, and evaluation of the new program, including DES data and reporting.

Current initiatives with a completion window of 30 June 2025 or earlier, include:

- enhancements to data clarity and frequency improvement in publishing the Caseload & Commencement report for Providers to better support DES participants from the March 2024 Quarter onwards
- delivery across the 2024–25 financial year of a new Performance Framework and associated dashboard and reports for the DES Program
- design work that has commenced from July 2024 on how to improve the representation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or asexual (LGBTIQA+) people with disability in standard DES reports
- work with the ABS to add DES program data (existing and new) into the NDDA from September 2024
- analysis of how to improve the specific visibility of DES participation and outcomes for women, young people, First Nations and CALD people with disability in standard DES reports from October 2024.

The below key data outcomes are also being actively worked on at present including:

- data sharing agreements between Services Australia, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and DSS to better support delivery of the DES Program for participants
- enhancements to several current reports based on feedback from DES Providers
- working within DSS on supporting the goals of data sovereignty and inclusive governance of Indigenous data
- working to develop a single authoritative data set for the DES Program.

### 4.3.3 The National Autism Strategy

The National Autism Strategy will be the Australian Government's first ever framework setting out the long-term vision, goal, guiding principles and commitments to improve life outcomes for Autistic people.

A robust Evidence, Evaluation and Reporting Framework that aligns data, research and evaluation is integral to the development, implementation and impact of the Strategy.

The final Strategy is expected to be considered by Government by the end of 2024.



## 4.4 Action plan for Disability Royal Commission data related recommendations

The DRC Final Report was released on 29 September 2023, it highlighted the importance of high-quality data and research to measure the effectiveness of policy and hold government organisations to account. It made 222 recommendations of which 16 were data related and proposed ways to improve the evidence base of disability policy and services including:

- a nationally consistent approach to collecting disability information
- improved data collection about people with disability in closed and segregated settings, with communication support needs, and groups with intersecting and multiple disadvantage.

Governments are committed to working together to progress the implementation of the DRC recommendations.

The DRC Final Report states that

‘.. as part of **Australia’s Disability Strategy Data Improvement Plan**, strategies should be developed to improve data collection about people with disability. We recommend extending the collection of disability data to:

- include groups of people with disability who are particularly at risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. This includes people in closed and segregated settings and those with communication support needs
- improve data on type of impairment
- improve data for intersectional analysis by enhancing data on women with disability; children and young people with disability; and First Nations, CALD, and LGBTIQ+ people with disability.’<sup>2</sup>

The NDIS Review final report also recommends governments invest in more regular and improved data, specifically ‘All Australian governments should agree to jointly invest in actions to improve disability data quality and sharing’ (Action 23.4) and ‘The Australian Government should ensure that all disability reporting mechanisms facilitate the collection, analysis and publication of intersectional indicators’ (Action 23.5).

DRMC agreed, in January 2024 that Australian Government, state and territory officials work together to develop an action plan, with agreed timeframes, to drive data collection and reporting on data related DRC recommendations.

All Australian governments except the Northern Territory (due to being in caretaker at the time) released [formal responses](#) to the Disability Royal Commission’s recommendations. As part of the response, Government agreed for DRMC to report annually to National Cabinet on the implementation of Disability Royal Commission recommendations, with input from other Ministerial Councils on progress made on recommendations within their responsibility.

A key element of DRMC’s annual reporting is the DRC National Monitoring and Reporting Framework. This Monitoring and Reporting Framework sets out arrangements for enabling the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of all reforms in response to the DRC recommendations.

The Framework will respond to Recommendation 12.2 - Implementation of the Final Report recommendations. Consistent with the recommendation, updates on implementation of recommendations will be sought twice a year from responsible entities to inform biannual reports to DRMC. The DRC Action Plan seeks to leverage the Monitoring and Reporting Framework to support ongoing and transparent updates on progress of implementing data related recommendations.

The DRC Action Plan was developed in consultation with state and territory governments and feedback received from the [Australian Government Public Consultation on the DRC's Final Report](#). The intent of the DRC Action Plan is to drive implementation of data related recommendations in the DRC Final Report, noting the Australian, state and territory governments may need to undertake further work to settle timeframes and approaches, in consultation with other Ministerial Councils and relevant stakeholders.

The DRC Action Plan provides a mechanism to outline actions that demonstrate how and what governments are doing to drive improvements in disability data over the life of ADS. Some high-level actions are presented in Table 6.

More detailed actions relating to specific DRC data related recommendations are provided in Attachment A. It is important to note that the timeframes for several actions are still to be determined as governments require time and resources to consider how to implement the recommendations and develop their implementation plans.

**Table 6: High level actions**

| Key actions |  | Timeframe              |
|-------------|--|------------------------|
| 1.          | Review the status of implementation for DRC data-related recommendations and seek further information from stakeholders as required and/or have discussions with stakeholders to support the implementation of relevant data related aspects   | Dec 2024<br>– Sep 2025 |
| 2.          | Provide an assessment of the implementation of data-related DRC recommendations to DRMC<br><br>The assessment will outline the recommendations that are tracking well and provide possible actions for enhancing progress of recommendations that are delayed or haven't been actioned | Oct 2025<br>– Dec 2025 |
| 3.          | Conduct further discussions with jurisdictions and other stakeholder to implement DRC data-related recommendations based on the data implementation assessment   | Jan 2026<br>– May 2026 |
| 4.          | Provide annual DRC data implementation assessment to DRMC  | Jun 2026<br>– Aug 2026 |

## 5. Diversity and intersectionality

ADS recognises the importance of understanding, acknowledging and celebrating the diversity of the disability community. This includes an understanding of intersectionality, meaning the potential for people to experience disadvantage due to the intersection of their sex, age, race, culture, gender identity, sexual orientation, impairment, disability status, socioeconomic status, religion and other dimensions. These dimensions are connected; each informs the other and they have overlapping and compounding effects.

The purpose of the Outcomes Framework is to provide comprehensive and visible data to track the progress of ADS. It is important that this data can be broken down by sociodemographic group and other dimensions. This is also a priority for the DIP.

Measures are typically broken down based on dimensions including age, gender, CALD status, indigenous status, remoteness and disability type (where available data allow). For example the [Employment services](#) measure presents data on age, gender, CALD status, Indigenous status and remoteness, but not disability type.

At present, there are some limitations in the ability to break down data for measures in the Outcomes Framework. This is due to decisions made prior to ADS about what information was to be captured on various groups, and limitations on the scope and sample sizes for survey data. There have been some improvements to the reporting of intersectionality, for example, significant work has been undertaken to improve reporting on Autistic people.

In July 2024, new reporting on data about Autistic people with disability were added to the Outcomes Framework webpages. 25 measures now include data on Autistic people, noting that data are not presented for Autistic people with disability aged 65 or over due to sample size constraints.

Making changes to survey instruments and conducting new surveys provides another important avenue to improve data. This allows for tracking of outcomes and progress of sub-groups within the community of people with disability as well as the community as a whole.

For example, the ADS Survey on community attitudes was the first new data collection to be commissioned to provide data for the Outcomes Framework. The first wave of this study has been completed and this data is available on [the Australian Data Archive, upon request and approval](#). The data from this survey can be broken down and analysed by numerous dimensions, including:

- age
- gender
- sexual orientation
- indigenous status
- CALD
- disability severity
- disability status
- disability type
- carer status
- education level
- employment status
- household composition
- industry of employment
- location.

For more information regarding the ADS Survey see [section 7.2](#).

Other work underway that will allow for better disaggregation of some measures relate to the ongoing efforts around linking different datasets. Some data linkage will be possible through existing resources, such as PLIDA. More data linkages will become possible with new assets such as the NDDA. [Section 7.6](#) provides more details about the NDDA.

Additionally, the ongoing data linkage activities are likely to improve the quality of data for several currently reported measures and allow for greater ability to examine the available data based on specific factors relevant to intersectionality. [Section 4](#) provides greater detail of the future and current measures to potentially be improved via data linkages.

## Next steps: Intersectionality reporting

- **Work to continue across the Australian, state and territory governments to disaggregate data by socioeconomic group and other dimensions by enhancing survey instruments, designing new surveys and investing in linkage of datasets via the NDDA to collect, record and analyse diversity and intersectionality data for people with disability over the next 12 months.**

## 6. First Nations people and ADS

Understanding the intersectionality experienced by First Nations people with disability is a priority for ADS. The National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) has been developed to enable First Nations people and governments to work together to overcome the inequality experienced by First Nations people and achieve life outcomes equal to all Australians.

The National Agreement works together with ADS as the key strategic policy frameworks for First Nations people with disability. The Outcomes Framework intends to improve access to data and data capabilities to reflect the priorities, needs and experiences of First Nations people, organisations and communities.

Coupled with prioritising the improvement of access to data, is the measurement of disability and availability of locally relevant data. There are no existing data sources that provide a measure of First Nations disability that's comprehensive, representative of the population (as it lacks relevant locational coverage), frequent and allows certain break downs of data by demographic and cultural characteristics.

Four Priority Reforms are central to the National Agreement and commit governments to transform the way they work with First Nations people and communities. The National Agreement recognises the importance of self-determination and that better outcomes are achieved if First Nations people have a genuine say in matters affecting them.

Priority Reform Four, **'Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level'** in the National Agreement is highly relevant to the data improvement activities under ADS. The desired outcome of Priority Reform Four is that First Nations people have access to, and the capability to use, locally relevant data and information to set priorities and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development.

In January 2024, the Productivity Commission observed Governments are not yet sufficiently enabling First Nations-led data<sup>3</sup> and for First Nations people to be able to use data to achieve their priorities they require more than just 'access' to existing data held by governments. First Nations people also need to be able to determine what data they need and how data about them is collected, accessed and used.<sup>4</sup> The First Action Plan (2023-2027) provides a roadmap for the first 5 year effort towards achieving the vision of the National Plan. A goal of this plan is to support First Nations people's data capability and to foster partnerships between First Nations representatives and government organisations to inform shared decision-making for the benefit of First Nations people.<sup>5</sup>

Governments have worked on presenting data in more accessible formats, such as dashboards, and undertaken activities to make it easier for First Nations people to find out what data governments hold. The Australian Government recently published a [Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data](#), co-designed with First Nations people and other key government and non-government stakeholders, as a step towards the principles of Indigenous Data Sovereignty.



The ABS will also publish an article on First Nations people with disability using the 2022 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) data in December 2024. The article describes the characteristics and outcome of First Nations people with disability.

The Australia and New Zealand School of Government and the Australian National University (ANU) are developing a framework for measuring progress under the Priority Reforms. The work of the project is overseen by an Expert Governing Committee of Indigenous leaders in the fields of data and evaluation (Indigenous led approach), and the final report is expected by the end of 2024.

### **Next steps: Improving data on First Nations people with disability**

- **Partner with First Nations people with disability, DROs, and stakeholders across the Australian, state and territory governments to improve access to and availability of locally relevant data and data reporting capabilities on First Nations people with disability over the next 12 months.**



## 7. Data sources

Generally, Australia's major data sources relating to disability fall under two broad categories: administrative data and population survey data. Administrative data refers to the data collected in the course of running a service or program (such as data collected from DES). Population survey data is data collected from a representative sample of respondents on a given topic (such as the SDAC).

Administrative datasets are not typically designed with statistical production in mind, while survey data is derived with specific research questions and/or objectives in mind that can cover a wide range of topics such as demographics, attitudes, behaviours and experiences. Producing statistics from administrative data requires an alternative approach to processing and quality assurance than those used in survey based statistics. However, administrative datasets are an increasingly valuable source of new data, providing a rich variety of alternative insights into various policy questions.

This section describes the data sources used by ADS, work underway to review and improve the data collection methods and the benefits of linking disparate disability data and the NDDA.

Information relating to the data sources used for each current measure can be found in the [data dictionary](#) on the Outcomes Frameworks webpages.

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### 7.1 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC)

The [SDAC](#) is the most comprehensive source of disability survey data in Australia. The survey is designed to:

- measure the prevalence of disability in Australia
- measure the need for assistance of older people and those with disability
- provide a demographic and socioeconomic profile of people with disability, older people and carers
- provide information about and estimate the number of people who provide unpaid care to people with disability and older people.

The SDAC provides governments with significant data for evidence-based policy making to support better outcomes for people with disability, older Australians and their carers. SDAC is a critical data source for the Outcomes Framework, providing the data for approximately one-third of measures.

Data from SDAC 2022 was released on 4 July 2024. In response to data gaps highlighted through stakeholder consultation and key policy reforms and inquires (including the DRC), for the first time, the 2022 SDAC collected information about experiences of violence for people with disability and older Australians. This includes experiences of physical violence, neglect, and emotional abuse. The new questions were asked of people who met scope requirements (such as being 18 years old or over and living in households) and were voluntary.

The 2022 data were used to update measures in six out of seven (except Community Attitudes) Outcome Areas in the Outcomes Framework in October 2024. Other findings and detailed data are available in the [2022 SDAC publication](#) and in self-service microdata, respectively, which were released on 4 July 2024.

Currently SDAC is funded to run every 6 years. Once launched, the NDDA (see [section 7.6](#)) can support improvements to the measures reported from SDAC, including more frequent reporting and better disaggregation of data.

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## 7.2 Australia's Disability Strategy (ADS) Survey

The ADS Survey collects and provides the data needed for reporting on the Community Attitudes Outcome Area of ADS, seeking to measure changes in attitudes towards people with disability.

DSS has commissioned the ANU to deliver the first 2 waves of the ADS Survey to measure community attitudes towards people with disability.

The first wave of the survey was conducted in the second half of 2022, collecting information from approximately 18,000 people across Australia. This data was used to report against all 7 community attitudes measures on the [Outcomes Framework webpages](#) in October 2023. A report providing additional findings and insights from the Wave 1 data was subsequently released on the [ADS Hub](#).

As part of the first wave of the ADS Survey, ANU and Purple Orange conducted one Nested (qualitative) Study focused on people with intellectual disabilities' experiences with community attitudes in the education, health, justice and legal, personal and community support services, and employment sectors. A report detailing the findings has been released on the [ADS Hub](#).

The data from Wave 1 of the ADS Survey have also been made available through [the Australian Data Archive](#) hosted by ANU in June 2024. This data may be available upon request and access will allow researchers the opportunity to conduct further analysis and research work. As the data provided can be broken down on numerous dimensions, this provides an opportunity to further research into intersectionality, for example, data could be analysed relating to outcomes for older women with disability. Another possible example would be analysing the outcomes for people with disability from CALD backgrounds.

Data collection for Wave 2 of the ADS Survey has commenced, with data expected to be reported on the Outcomes Framework webpages in the second half of 2025. As part of the Wave 2 ADS Survey, additional survey questions will be included to collect and report on several future measures in the Outcomes Framework with further details presented in [section 4](#).

Wave 2 will also include 3 nested studies:

- young people aged 16–24
- First Nations people living in community
- people with CALD backgrounds.

While the ADS Survey provides a rich data source that allows for analysis of how different groups of people with disability are faring, there are areas and groups that would benefit from additional data. For example, collecting more data from people in non-metropolitan areas would provide additional insights into outcomes of people with disability in these locations who may have different experiences than people in more populated areas.

Two more waves of the ADS Survey will be conducted over the life of ADS with Waves 3 and 4 scheduled to be conducted in 2027–28 and 2030–31, respectively.

## 7.3 Other survey data

Currently there are four other sources of survey data used to report against the Outcomes Framework. These surveys are all conducted by ABS, and as such, they have all been assessed under the [ABS Data Quality Framework](#). Likewise the below surveys all use the [short disability module](#) to determine disability or long term health condition.

The additional surveys used to report against the Outcomes Framework include:

- the [National Health Survey](#) – a 3–4 yearly survey which presents key findings for health statistics including long-term health conditions; mental wellbeing; and health risk factors
- the [Personal Safety Survey](#) – a 4–5 yearly survey which collects information from people aged 18 years and over in private dwellings across Australia (excluding very remote areas) about the nature and extent of violence experienced since the age of 15
- the [Survey of Income and Housing](#) – a 2 yearly survey which collects information on sources of income, amounts received, household net worth, housing, household characteristics and personal characteristics
- the [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey](#) – a 6–8 yearly survey which collects information about long-term health conditions; mental wellbeing; and health risk factors for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of all ages in non-remote and remote areas of Australia.

Data improvement work is currently underway by the ABS to review the data collection methods for determining disability status in population surveys. The disability community, research experts as well as relevant Australian Government agencies and jurisdictions will be consulted throughout this process to determine the best practice making recommendations for improvements to be considered. The overall aim of this work is to provide a proposed short standard set of questions for the collection and dissemination of data on disability status in population surveys, resulting in a nationally consistent approach to measuring disability. The potential benefits of this work for reporting against the Outcomes Framework are that we may be able to report on additional outcomes for people with disability and/or be able to draw on additional data collections for reporting more frequently.

Further details can be found on the [Outcomes Framework webpages](#).

## 7.4 Administrative data collections

A range of administrative data collections are used to report against the Outcomes Framework. Sources of administrative data include:

- disability service providers
- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)
- NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission)
- Disability Employment Services (DES).

There is currently a heavy reliance on NDIA administrative data which provides data for 9 current measures in the Outcomes Framework.

It should be noted that the methodology used by ADS to measure the change over time for these measures differs to the methodology used by the NDIA. The NDIA examine year-on-year change and adjust for changes in their population, while the Outcomes Framework draws comparison back to an agreed baseline for a measure associated with the commencement of ADS in December 2021. Therefore, the progress status reported by the Outcomes Framework may differ from the progress status reported by the NDIA for similar measures.

In addition to the above sources which are currently used, there are several potential sources which may be used to report on measures in the future, including:

- the [Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority \(ACARA\)](#)
- the [Australian Early Development Census \(AEDC\)](#)
- the Disability Support Pension
- client data shared between the NDIA and state and territory agencies
- state and territory government collections on health, education and other subjects
- Australian Government collections on employment, education and other subjects.

Further details can be found on the [Outcomes Framework webpages](#).

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## 7.5 Data linkage

Currently, disability data are largely fragmented. This means data linkage will be essential to improve data and better measure the progress of ADS. Data linkage is concerned with identifying the connections between multiple different sources of data about individuals, which can be used to provide insights about the characteristics and experiences of populations of interest.

There are a variety of governance, ICT security and confidentiality requirements in place to enable safe data linkage. Where data linkage methods observe the 'separation principle' (which is that personal identifiers – such as name, biological sex or gender identification, date of birth, and residential address details – are kept separate and apart from other 'attribute' variables during the entire linkage process), it is not possible for people linking data to view personal identifiers (such as name, address, date of birth) alongside records of service provision (i.e. length of incarceration, diagnosis, test results). Data analysts accessing deidentified linked data are also not able to view any personally identifiable information and they can only output cohort-level/aggregated data. This often means that views containing data about fewer than five people are hidden.

The [Australian Government Data Sharing Principles](#) are based on the [Five Safes Framework](#). These principles outline a number of data safeguarding principles in relation to the [Data Availability and Transparency Code 2022](#). This includes information relating to how to safely share data, privacy principles and compliance information.

Additionally, linked data are checked to ensure it follows the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs), which govern how personal information is collected and used. To maintain privacy and confidentiality the data shared through these data linkages is de-identified, meaning the user cannot tell specific details about an individual. Furthermore, observance of the 'safe output' requirement in the ABS 'Five Safes' framework routinely limits the possibility of output data being used to reidentify/secondarily identify unique individuals.



The two current approaches for making use of linked data are to either create one-off, custom linked datasets for a specific project and with a limited lifespan, or to create enduring linked data assets which are regularly updated and used for multiple projects.

Several enduring linked data assets are already available in Australia. For example:

- the [Person Level Integrated Data Asset \(PLIDA\)](#), formerly the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP) – a secure enduring data asset combining information on health, education, government payments, income and taxation, employment, and population demographics (including the Census) over time
- [National Health Data Hub \(NHDDH\)](#), formerly the National Integrated Health Services Information Analysis Asset (NIHSI AA) – an enduring linked data asset that brings together de-identified information on hospital care, deaths, residential aged care services, prescription medication and services under the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

There are also new linkage projects underway, including:

- the [NDDA](#)
- the [Child Wellbeing Data Asset](#)
- the [Life Course Data Asset](#).

Further details on the NDDA are provided in sections [7.6](#) and [8](#).

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## 7.6 National Disability Data Asset (NDDA)

The [NDDA](#) is being designed as a long-term national asset containing linked, de-identified Australian, state and territory government data on all Australians.

The purpose of the NDDA is to address the problem of fragmented and poor-quality data on disability. The NDDA will provide information about all users of the service system, which will enable comparisons between people with disability and the general population. This will help better understand how people with disability are supported and will provide a person-centred view of the pathways people with disability take through service systems.

The development of the NDDA through a Pilot phase has been supported by Disability Reform Ministers since 2019 and has included significant consultation with the disability community.

All Australian governments have signed an in-principle agreement in the NDDA project, and this agreement has been supported by bilateral agreements between the Australian Government and each state and territory government. This agreement includes commitments about the types of data each government will initially supply, as well as the funding that will support implementation across jurisdictions.

Pending the finalisation of data sharing agreements, the NDDA will provide a unique opportunity to link and analyse data to report on outcomes experienced by people with disability. The NDDA will play a pivotal role in providing the data needed to report against the Outcomes Framework.

DSS is responsible for delivering the NDDA in partnership with the ABS, the AIHW and state and territory government agencies. The NDDA is co-governed with state and territory governments and the disability community.

Several future measures in the Outcomes Framework will use data from the NDDA for reporting. The first set of linked data from the NDDA that will support measurement of ADS outcomes is expected in 2025. The NDDA will also be used to improve reporting on some of the current measures. For further information, see [section 4.2](#).

Some current measures will be progressed through PLIDA as a preliminary data source and then transition to using the NDDA once data are available in this asset (see [Table 5](#)).

### Next steps: Improving data collection and reporting

- **Deliver the first set of linked data from the NDDA that will support measurement of ADS outcomes by early 2025.**
- **Report for the first time on an additional 8 future measures using data collected from Wave 2 of the ADS Survey in the second half of 2025.**



## 8. Disability indicators

Many sources of data exist on people with disability. These sources have varying degrees of accessibility, quality and usefulness. Two of the key challenges with existing data sources include inconsistent definition of disability across data sources and poor adoption or absence of a disability flag to identify people with disability across mainstream data sources.<sup>6</sup>

For example, Inclusion Australia have raised the issue of inconsistent and multiple definitions of intellectual disability. In their submission to the Disability Royal Commission in 2020, they noted numerous definitions of intellectual disability have been used for data collection and research in Australia, including those based on clinical diagnosis of intellectual disability, support needs, and functioning. This highlights a need for agreement on definitions of intellectual disability to inform consistent data collection at Australian Government, state and territory levels to enable comparison and accurate reporting to inform the provision of relevant supports and services including advocacy.

The DRC noted in their final report (Volume 12) that data about people with disability are dispersed across various datasets, using at least nine different definitions of disability. The DRC recommends that the DRMC should develop a nationally consistent approach to collecting disability information and support the wider adoption of a disability flag in data collections to identify people with disability.<sup>7</sup> Further details on the data related DRC recommendations are provided in Attachment A.

The independent review into the [NDIS](#) also makes recommendations to improve disability data quality and sharing and ensure that all disability reporting mechanisms facilitate the collection, analysis and publication of intersectional indicators'.<sup>8</sup>

A key piece of work under the NDDA is the development of disability indicators. The proposed first iteration of these indicators includes people assessed as eligible for or who received a Centrelink Disability Support Pension (DSP), Centrelink Mobility Allowance, Centrelink Youth Disability Supplement, a one-off Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT) scheme payment and/or were carers (people receiving care from a person (or people) who due to this caring were eligible for Centrelink Carer Allowance or Carer Payment) and/or were participants in the NDIS.

There are some limitations with the proposed method of identifying people with disability in the NDDA. Eligibility requirements for accessing disability-related supports influence who is represented in this population. For example, older people and people participating in work may be initially under-represented in the disability population captured in the NDDA. Over time, the group of people with disability captured in the NDDA will be expanded and improved, in consultation with people with disability.

### Next steps: Improving data

- **Deliver a report with recommendations on how the collection and dissemination of data on disability status can be improved in the first half of 2025.**



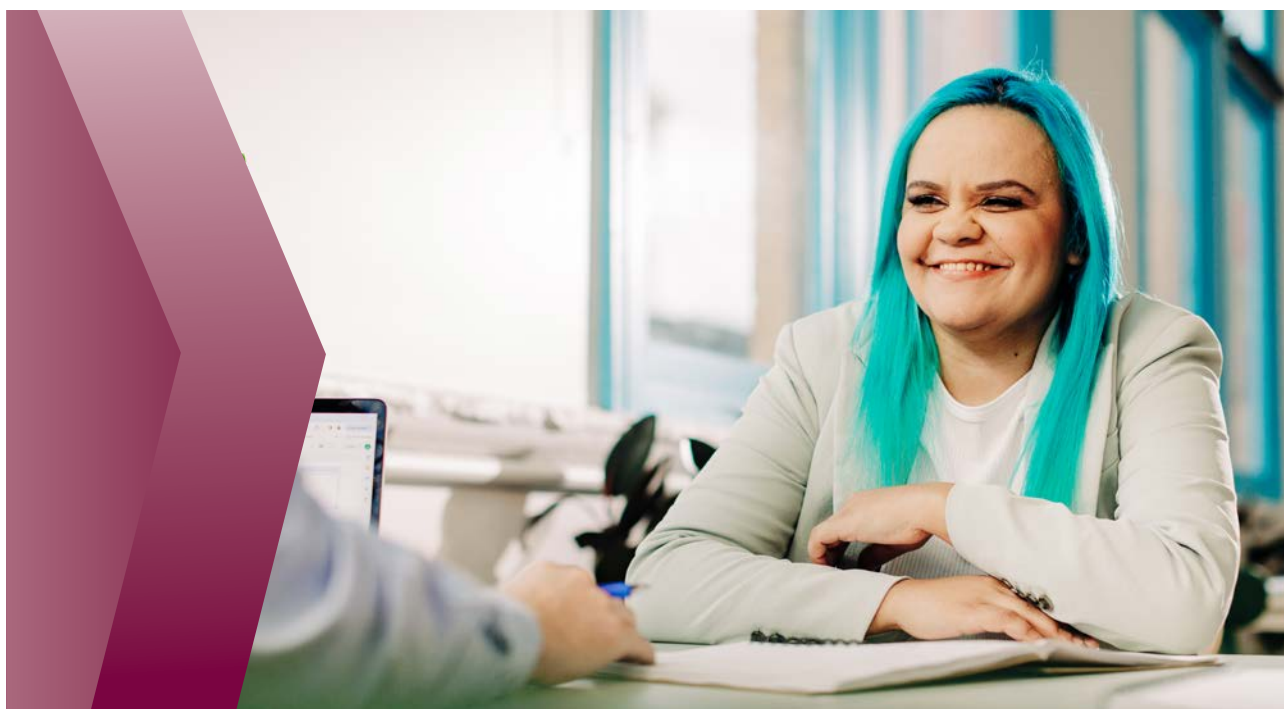
## 9. Data governance and engagement

Data governance is the process of managing the availability, usability, integrity and security of the data in systems, based on data standards and policies. Effective data governance ensures that data are high quality, accessible, consistent, trustworthy, securely stored and not misused.

To ensure the data for measures reported in the Outcomes Framework are of high quality, data should be assessed against an appropriate data quality framework, for example the [ABS Data Quality Framework](#). A [data dictionary](#) and technical notes in the [Outcomes Framework annual reports](#) provide additional information about the quality of the data in the Outcomes Framework.

High-quality data governance will improve decision-making and enable collaboration across Australian, state and territory governments and other data users, including researchers. It will help governments measure the impact of the services they deliver for people with disability.

Data used in the Outcomes Framework come from a variety of collections. The custodians of these collections are generally Australian, state and territory government agencies. These data custodians operate under strict legislation which ensures data is protected and confidential with their processes being routinely reviewed. All data custodians are responsible for ensuring that the data supplied for Outcomes Framework measures comply with legislative privacy obligation, and data storage and security policies and relevant quality dimensions. AIHW are administrators of the Outcomes Framework, and work with data custodians to ensure the data and methodologies used for reporting on Outcome Framework measures are appropriate and follow sound statistical practices and observe relevant privacy and security requirements.



With the introduction of linked data (see sections [7.5](#) and [7.6](#)) for reporting against Outcomes Framework measures, it is important that the use of the data is consistent with community and user expectations. This refers to both how disability and disability groups are identified and how the reported measures are derived from available data. Relevant data governance arrangements include the NDDA Indicators Panel that will guide the development of disability indicators (see [section 8](#)).

People with disability are central to ADS and their insights are critical to informing data improvement activities. This involves ongoing engagement with people with disability and groups such as First Nations people with disability, people with disability from CALD backgrounds, women with disability and young people with disability.

Throughout the development of the DIP, we have consulted with [DROs](#), ADS Advisory Council and other ADS governance groups seeking their insights and feedback on disability data. Drop-in sessions were held with ADS Advisory Council to enable council members to meet with the team and provide their feedback in person. We will further engage with these groups in the lead up to the first major evaluation to ensure that the voices of people with disability and their representative organisations are heard.

DSS also works and consults on the data improvement work with Australia's Disability Strategy Senior Officials Group (ADS SOG) and Commonwealth Agencies Working Group (CAWG). The DRMC is responsible for endorsing key data improvement activities.



Attachment A

# DRC Action Plan

The DRC Action Plan presents all of the DRC data related recommendations and joint responses where applicable as well as any stakeholder views collected and collated as part of the Australian Government [Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report](#). It also presents some specific actions for each DRC data related recommendation to support jurisdictions in considering how they will progress the implementation of these recommendations.

Final implementation of these recommendations is at the discretion of Australian, state and territory governments, noting that further work and consultation is required to settle timeframes and approaches.

Each DRC recommendation relates specifically to a volume of the DRC Final Report. This action plan follows the same structure with each of the recommendations grouped under the relevant volume heading.

DRC Recommendation 12.2 and the associated government response sets out the implementation reporting timeframe activities which form the basis for this action plan.

## Volume 12: Beyond the Royal Commission

Volume 12, *Beyond the Royal Commission*, recommended key steps for implementing and monitoring the recommendations of the DRC. There are 5 DRC data related recommendations which are the responsibility of the Australian Government and state and territory governments.

### Implementation of the Disability Royal Commission’s recommendations

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Recommendation: 12.2 Implementation of the <i>Final Report</i> recommendations  |   |
| The Disability Reform Ministerial Council should oversee the implementation of the Royal Commission’s recommendations across the Australian Government and state and territory governments.<br><br>The Australian Government and each state and territory government should report to the Disability Reform Ministerial Council every six months. Their reports should detail the implementation status of each recommendation and raise any issues and risks.<br><br>In its 2024 report to National Cabinet, the Disability Reform Ministerial Council should identify the implementation of the Royal Commission’s recommendations as one of its priorities and include it in its workplan. |   |
| Lead:   | Department of Social Services (DSS)   |
| Responsible:  | Australian, state and territory governments   |
| Joint Response:   | Accept in principle<br><br>NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government |

Attachment A

Response to Recommendation 12.2

The Australian Government and state and territory governments support the Disability Reform Ministerial Council (DRMC) having responsibility for monitoring and overseeing the implementation of Disability Royal Commission recommendations.

Disability Ministers have identified the development of responses to the Disability Royal Commission as a priority focus and have agreed to include consideration of reform in response to the Disability Royal Commission as a standing agenda item for all DRMC meetings in 2024.

The issues raised in the Disability Royal Commission’s final report, and change required, traverse the responsibilities of several portfolios and Ministerial Councils, and require a significant and sustained national effort from all governments and all parts of our community.

DRMC will report annually to National Cabinet on the implementation of Disability Royal Commission recommendations, with input from other Ministerial Councils on progress made on recommendations within their responsibility.

Disability Ministers have also agreed to a reporting and monitoring framework to support ongoing and transparent updates on progress of implementation of recommendations.

Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action  | Timeframe         |
|---|-------------------|
| Develop a Monitoring and Reporting Framework.         | Commenced in 2024 |
| Implement Annual Reporting Cycle to National Cabinet. |                   |

## Data improvements (Recommendations 12.5–12.7) National Disability Data Asset (Recommendation 12.8)

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Recommendations:</b> | <b>12.5 A nationally consistent approach to data collection</b><br><b>12.6 Disability flags in data collection for mainstream services</b><br><b>12.7 Improving disability data collection</b><br><b>12.8 Long-term support for the National Disability Data Asset</b> |
| <b>Leads:</b>           | Department of Social Services (DSS)  |
| <b>Responsible:</b>     | Australian, state and territory governments  |
| <b>Joint Response:</b>  | Accept in principle<br><br>NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government  |

### Response to Recommendations 12.5–12.7

Australian Government and state and territory governments acknowledge the importance of data collection and publication and its role in safeguarding against violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation and informing an evidence-based approach to ongoing reform to support better outcomes for people with disability.

In January 2024, Disability Ministers agreed Australian Government, state and territory officials focus and accelerate work to resolve data gaps in relation to the reporting requirements under *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 Outcomes Framework* by the end of 2024. All governments are also working together to develop an action plan, with agreed timeframes, to drive data collection (including gender disaggregated data) and reporting on data related Disability Royal Commission recommendations. The action plan is expected to be published in 2024.

All governments have also committed to deliver the enduring National Disability Data Asset and contribute to ongoing costs through the National Disability Data Asset Memorandum of Understanding, signed by Disability Ministers in mid-2023. Ongoing work to deliver the National Disability Data Asset will also support implementation of these recommendations over time.

### Response to Recommendation 12.8

The Australian Government and state and territory governments have committed to deliver the enduring National Disability Data Asset and contribute to ongoing costs through the National Disability Data Asset Memorandum of Understanding, signed by Disability Ministers in mid-2023. The National Disability Data Asset will be in operation in 2024–25. All governments are working together to determine costs and funding arrangements beyond 2025.

Attachment A

Stakeholder feedback from the Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report

Overall feedback:

Many stakeholders called for greater evaluation and accountability to ensure recommendations are effective and lead to improved outcomes in the lives of people with disability.

Recommendations: 12.5–12.8 National Disability Data Asset and improved data collection

A number of stakeholders supported a more systematic approach to data collection, highlighted the importance of accurate data for policy development and evaluation. They support the National Disability Data Asset.

Some underlined that improvements to data collection should be undertaken in consultation with people with disability and their representative organisations.

Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action  | Timeframe          |
|---|--------------------|
| Conduct a stocktake of currently used disability question sets including Disability Identification and Severity of Disability in the SDAC and the ABS Short Disability module.  | August 2024        |
| Consult with the disability community, research experts, and relevant Australian Government agencies and jurisdictions on contemporary best practice for collecting disability information.                                   | November 2024      |
| Develop a proposed short standard set of questions for the collection and dissemination of data on disability status in population surveys and any recommendations for improvements and better alignment across data sources. | May 2025           |
| Develop an implementation plan outlining how the core set of disability questions can be integrated into data collections such as population surveys and priority mainstream administrative data.                             | December 2025      |
| Deliver first set of data enabled measures in NDDA.   | First half of 2025 |

## Volume 6: Enabling Autonomy and Access

Volume 6: Enabling Autonomy and Access, covers access to information and communication, guardianship and supported decision-making, advocacy, health, restrictive practices, and involuntary sterilisation. There are 4 DRC data related recommendations in this DRC volume.

### Support and representation data (Recommendation 6.19)

| Recommendation: 6.19 Data collection on support and representation arrangements |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Leads:</b>   | Department of Social Services<br>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare   |
| <b>Responsible:</b>   | Australian, state and territory governments   |
| <b>Joint Response:</b>  | Accept in principle<br><br>NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government |

### Response to Recommendation 6.19

The Australian Government and state and territory governments recognise the benefits of a nationally consistent approach to data collection and reporting on support and representation arrangements to support an evidence-based approach to reform in this area.

In January 2024, Disability Ministers agreed Australian Government, state and territory officials focus and accelerate work to resolve data gaps in relation to the reporting requirements under Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 Outcomes Framework by the end of 2024. All governments are also working together to develop an action plan, with agreed timeframes, to drive data collection (including gender disaggregated data) and reporting on data related Disability Royal Commission recommendations. The action plan is expected to be published in 2024.

### Stakeholder feedback from the Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report

#### Overall feedback:

Stakeholders welcome a new supported decision-making framework as a key shift away from substitute decision-making. However, stakeholders observed challenges in implementation.

#### Recommendations: 6.4–6.19 Supported decision-making

Stakeholders, including disability representative organisations, peak bodies, and service providers, welcomed the recommendations on supported decision-making. Some suggested the initial focus should be on addressing state and territory legislative frameworks with the objective of national alignment. Others highlighted that appointed guardians and administration should be an absolute last resort.

Attachment A

One disability representative organisation emphasised that reform should be developed in consultation with people with intellectual disability, their families, and supporters, with additional investment in supports for people with complex communication needs who face the biggest barriers to supported decision-making and are more likely to lack informal safeguards. Others called for compliance with the principles and standards of the CRPD (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).

Questionnaire respondents supported clear and consistent national guidelines for supported decision-making, based on human rights principles, co-design and ongoing consultation with people with disability: Everyone has the right to make decisions that affect their future – some people may just need a little help to do so.

Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action   | Timeframe |
|--|-----------|
| Undertake scoping work to determine how data collection and reporting on support and representation arrangements can support an evidence-based approach.                           | End 2025  |
| Develop implementation plans detailing actions required to establish a nationally consistent approach to data collection and reporting on support and representation arrangements. | End 2026  |



## Attachment A

## Advocacy (Recommendation 6.22)

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Recommendation:</b> | <b>6.22 Improved data collection and reporting on met and unmet demand for disability advocacy</b>                    |
| <b>Lead:</b>           | Department of Social Services   |
| <b>Responsible:</b>    | Australian, state and territory governments   |
| <b>Joint Response</b>  | Accept in principle<br><br>NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government |

### Response to Recommendation 6.22

The Australian Government and the state and territory governments recognise the importance of advocacy in supporting people with disability to defend and protect their rights.

On 21 April 2023, Disability Ministers endorsed the National Disability Advocacy Framework 2023-2025 (NDAF) and associated Disability Advocacy Work Plan. The NDAF commits all governments to work together to improve national consistency and access to advocacy services for people with disability across Australia. Its purpose is to ensure people with disability have access to effective disability advocacy that promotes, protects and ensures their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights, enabling community participation and inclusion.

All governments support prioritising work on increasing culturally appropriate and accessible advocacy services for First Nations people with disability, people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and LGBTIQ+ people with disability.

### Stakeholder feedback from the Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report

Overall feedback relating to recommendations 6.21–6.23:

A broad range of disability representative organisations, advocacy organisations and peak bodies supported the recommendations on advocacy but called for increased funding. A number argue that implementation must ensure improved mechanisms for data collection designed in partnership with independent advocacy organisations, including disability representative organisations, to develop funding arrangements that reflect true community need.

### Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action  | Timeframe       |
|---|-----------------|
| Review the Work Plan relating to the <i>National Disability Advocacy Framework 2023-2025</i> to support the development of a renewed framework. | Commencing 2026 |
| Undertake scoping work to improve data collection and reporting on met and unmet demand for disability advocacy within their jurisdiction.      | TBD             |

## Attachment A

## Restrictive practices (Recommendation 6.39)

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Recommendation:</b> | <b>6.39 Improving collection and reporting of restrictive practices data</b>  |
| <b>Lead:</b>           | Department of Social Services   |
| <b>Responsible:</b>    | Australian, state and territory governments   |
| <b>Joint response:</b> | Accept in principle<br><br>NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government |

## Response to Recommendation 6.39

The Australian Government and state and territory governments are committed to working together to improve the collection and reporting of restrictive practices data and to considering sector-specific targets and performance indicators to drive the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices across all settings.

As a first step, and consistent with Action 18.1 of the NDIS Review, the Disability Reform Ministerial Council will prioritise action to establish consistent targets and performance indicators to drive the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices in the NDIS and will task officials to develop a Joint Action Plan to reduce and eliminate restrictive practices in the NDIS.

Given the complexity and variation of data collection processes across jurisdictions, consultation with all sectors and flexibility on the timeframe for implementing these recommendations may be required.

**Stakeholder feedback from the Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report**

*Recommendations: 6.35–6.40 Restrictive practices*

Stakeholders hold contested views on the approach to restrictive practices. Advocacy groups and disability representative organisations are largely disappointed Commissioners did not call for outright elimination of all restrictive practices. Unions, service providers and professional peak bodies support reduction and elimination but are concerned about health and safety and duty of care.

## Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action  | Timeframe |
|---|-----------|
| Prioritise Action to establish consistent targets and performance indicators to drive the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices in the NDIS (as per NDIS Action 18.1). | TBD       |
| Develop a Joint Action Plan to reduce and eliminate restrictive practices in the NDIS.  |           |

## Non-therapeutic sterilisation (Recommendation 6.41)

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Recommendation:</b> | <b>6.41 Legislative prohibition of non-therapeutic sterilisation</b>                       |
| <b>Responsible:</b>    | Australian, state and territory governments  |
| <b>Joint response:</b> | ACT and WA: Accept in principle  |
|                        | Commonwealth, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC: Subject to further consideration                 |
|                        | NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government |

### Response to Recommendation 6.41

The Australian Government and state and territory governments are committed to protecting the human rights of people with disability and will work to strengthen protections in relation to non-therapeutic procedures resulting in permanent sterilisation of people with disability.

The need to protect the privacy of individuals is relevant in considering approaches to expanding data collection and reporting.

The Commonwealth, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS and VIC governments will further consider issues raised by this recommendation noting differences between jurisdictions' legislative frameworks and current reform processes underway in some jurisdictions.

### Stakeholder feedback from the Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report

*Recommendations: 6.41 Legislative prohibition of non-therapeutic sterilisation*

Questionnaire respondents overwhelmingly supported eliminating involuntary sterilisation.

Disability rights organisations largely supported this recommendation, with some proposing its language must be compliant with the CRPD.

### Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action  | Timeframe |
|---|-----------|
| Further consider issues raised by this recommendation noting differences between jurisdictions' legislative frameworks and current reform processes underway in some jurisdictions. | TBD       |

Attachment A

Volume 7: Inclusive education, employment and housing

Volume 7: Inclusive education, employment, and housing, addresses the need for reform to mainstream and disability-specific settings to improve outcomes for people with disability in education, employment, and housing. There are 2 DRC data related recommendations in this volume.

Education data, evidence and building best practice  
(Recommendation 7.9)

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation: | 7.9 Data, evidence and building best practice  |
| Lead:           | Department of Education  |
| Responsible:    | Australian, state and territory governments  |
| Joint Response: | Accept in principle  |
|                 | NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government |

Response to Recommendation 7.9

The Australian Government and state and territory governments support a vision for improved data and evidence on the experience and outcomes of students with disability, building best practice for inclusive education and improving funding for students with disability.

Implementing these recommendations requires further consideration by governments, including further work to consider data collection categories and reporting. In addition, implementing components of these recommendations will require consideration of impacts on workload for schools and data management systems.

State and territory governments will consider how to deliver the intent of these recommendations within their jurisdictions.

Stakeholder feedback from the Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report

Other

Volume 7 received the highest level of engagement across the questionnaire and submissions. Stakeholders have divergent perspectives on the nature and role of settings exclusively for people with disability, including special/segregated schools.

Attachment A

The meaning of inclusive education is contested. Many disability rights advocates argue that special/ segregated schools violate the rights of students with disability, pointing to the UNCRPD (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).

Other stakeholders, particularly parents of students with disability attending these schools, point to positive outcomes for their children, and emphasise the importance of choice. The Royal Commission’s own research paper also highlighted evidence of improved outcomes for people with disability attending specialist schools.<sup>9</sup>

Part A – Inclusive education had the highest level of engagement of any section in the questionnaire. A number of stakeholders expressed broad support for embedding inclusive education (7.7–7.13).

Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action  | Timeframe |
|---|-----------|
| Undertake scoping work to consider issues raised by this recommendation including alignment with data collection processes currently used across all jurisdictions. | End 2025  |

Attachment A

Increase the availability and supply of accessible and adaptive housing for people with disability through the National Construction Code (Recommendation 7.35)

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Recommendation: | 7.35 Increase the availability and supply of accessible and adaptive housing for people with disability through the National Construction Code  |
| Responsible:    | State and territory governments   |
| Response:       | ACT, QLD, TAS, VIC – Accept in Principle<br>NSW, SA – Subject to further consideration<br>WA – Accept in Part<br>NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government |

There is no joint response to Recommendation 7.35

State and territory governments responded individually to recommendations that fall within their area of responsibility. Links to these responses are available from the [Department of Social Services webpage](#) under Individual Government Responses heading.

Stakeholder feedback from the [Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report](#)

Overall, questionnaire respondents broadly supported the recommendations on inclusive housing.

*Recommendations: 7.35–7.37 Housing accessibility and tenancy and occupancy protections*

Stakeholders generally supported improving housing accessibility (7.35–7.37). Disability advocacy organisations supported recommendations to increase the availability and supply of accessible and adaptive housing and ensure better protection for tenancy and occupancy.

Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action  | Timeframe |
|---|-----------|
| Discuss the development and collection of data on accessible housing.     | Ongoing   |
| Endorse approach to collect, share and report data on accessible housing. | TBD       |

# Volume 8: Criminal Justice and People with Disability

Volume 8: Criminal justice and people with disability, addresses the right to humane treatment in criminal justice settings, including for children with disability in youth detention, the rights of people found unfit to be tried and indefinite detention, and the NDIS interface with criminal justice. It also looks at police responses, diversion programs and domestic and family violence. There is one DRC data related recommendation in this volume.

## Data about people detained in forensic systems (Recommendation 8.13)

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation: | 8.13 Data about people detained in forensic systems.                                       |
| Responsible:    | Australian, state and territory governments  |
| Joint response: | Accept in principle  |
|                 | NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government |

### Response to Recommendation 8.13

The Australian Government and state and territory governments support improving data collection relating to people found unfit to plead or not guilty by reason of cognitive or mental health impairment. Implementation is subject to relevant scoping work to assess existing frameworks and system capability, and personal privacy protections. This work will bolster the ability of governments to evaluate policy settings relating to people with cognitive or mental health impairments in the criminal justice system.

### Stakeholder feedback from the Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report

#### Other

Questionnaire respondents pointed to the over-representation of adults and children with disability, particularly First Nations people with disability, in custodial settings as a critical issue requiring attention from government:

*Disabled adults and children are incarcerated at shocking numbers-it's a blatant symptom of the failing of other support systems*

*Recommendations: 8.9–8.13 The rights of people found unfit to be tried and indefinite detention.*

Disability representative organisations generally supported these recommendations, emphasising the need for a consistent, coordinated approach across states and territories to providing information about adjustments to courts and legal practitioners.

### Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action  | Timeframe |
|---|-----------|
| Scoping work to assess existing frameworks and system capability, and personal privacy protections. | TBD       |

Attachment A

# Volume 11: Independent Oversight and Complaint Mechanisms

Volume 11: Independent oversight and complaint mechanisms, outlines ways to address gaps and barriers to reporting violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation through adult safeguarding, complaint handling and Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) compliance. It also looks at community visitor schemes, disability death review schemes and reportable conduct schemes. When seeking feedback on this volume there was general support for the recommendations, but overall limited engagement. There are 4 DRC data related recommendations in this volume.

## Adult safeguarding (Recommendation 11.1)

| Recommendation: | 11.1 Nationally consistent adult safeguarding function                                     |
|-----------------|--|
| Lead:           | Department of Social Services  |
| Responsible:    | Australian, state and territory governments  |
| Joint response: | Subject to further consideration   |
|                 | NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government |

## Response to Recommendations 11.1 and 11.2

The Australian Government and state and territory governments support a strong, connected safeguarding system to reduce the risk of harm to people with disability and will work together through the Disability Reform Ministerial Council to consider reform options to develop a nationally consistent and a unified approach.

As a first step, the Commonwealth will work with states and territories to develop a framework that sets out the standards and culture of how the disability ecosystem will work to strengthen safeguarding for people with disability.

### Stakeholder feedback from the Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report

*Recommendations: 11.1–11.2 National consistency in adult safeguarding.*

A disability representative organisation supported these recommendations.

## Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action   | Timeframe |
|--|-----------|
| Consideration of reform options to develop a nationally consistent unified approach to a connected safeguarding system.        | TBD       |
| Develop a safeguarding framework of that sets out standards and culture to strengthen safeguarding for people with disability. |           |



## 'One-stop shop' complaint reporting, referral and support (Recommendation 11.3)

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Recommendation:</b> | <b>11.3 'One-stop shop' complaint reporting, referral and support</b>  |
| <b>Responsible:</b>    | State and territory governments  |
| <b>Responses:</b>      | <p>ACT: Accepts</p> <p>NSW, QLD, TAS, VIC, WA: Accept in Principle</p> <p>SA: Subject to further consideration</p> <p>NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government</p> |

### There is no joint response to Recommendation 11.3

State and territory governments responded individually to recommendations that fall within their area of responsibility. Links to these responses are available from the [Department of Social Services webpage](#) under Individual Government Responses heading.

### Stakeholder feedback from the [Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report](#)

*Recommendations: 11.3–11.5 Independent complaint reporting, referral and support and complaint handling*

A range of disability representative organisations, advocacy organisations and unions support a 'one-stop shop' for complaint reporting, referral and support (11.3).

### Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action  | Timeframe |
|---|-----------|
| Consider approaches to maintain an independent 'one-stop shop' complaint reporting, referral and support mechanism to receive reports of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability. | TBD       |

Attachment A

Improved consistency and coordination on OPCAT  
(Recommendation 11.10)

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation: | 11.10 Improved consistency and coordination of data about monitoring places of detention |
| Responsible:    | Australian Government  |
| Response:       | Accept in principle  |

Australian Government response to Recommendation 11.10

The Australian Government is committed to the full implementation of Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) and ensuring National Preventive Mechanisms have the capability to discharge their functions.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman, as an independent statutory authority, has the function of National Preventive Mechanism Coordinator, to coordinate (but not direct) the Commonwealth, state and territory oversight bodies nominated by their governments as National Preventive Mechanisms.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman established the civil society OPCAT Advisory Group to provide the Ombudsman with expert advice and guidance about the implementation of OPCAT.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman invites each of the members of the OPCAT Advisory Group for their respective experience and expertise. The OPCAT Advisory Group includes representation from people with expertise in disability. The Commonwealth Ombudsman is actively considering whether additional mechanisms are required to effectively engage with civil society in its role as National Preventive Mechanism.

Stakeholder feedback from the Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report

*Recommendations: 11.6 – 11.11 Achieving OPCAT compliance*

Disability representative organisations and advocacy organisations strongly support recommendations to achieve compliance with the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)*, calling for a clear and achievable timeline for full implementation as a priority.

Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action   | Timeframe |
|--|-----------|
| Review the National Preventive Mechanism to ensure it has the capability to discharge their functions and the requirement for additional mechanisms. | TBD       |
| Undertake scoping work to improved consistency and coordination of data about monitoring places of detention.  |           |

## Disability inclusive approach to implementing OPCAT (Recommendation 11.11)

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Recommendation:</b> | <b>11.11 Disability inclusive approach to implementing OPCAT</b>   |
| <b>Responsible:</b>    | Australian, state and territory governments  |
| <b>Responses:</b>      | Commonwealth, ACT, NT, TAS: Accept in principle<br><br>NSW, QLD, SA, VIC, WA: Subject to further consideration<br><br>NT: No response released to date due to caretaker mode and subsequent change in government |

### Response to Recommendation 11.11

*The following response is provided by the Commonwealth, ACT, NT, SA, TAS and WA:*

The Australian Government and state and territory governments will continue to work together collaboratively to ensure National Preventive Mechanisms are appropriately supported and funded to implement their functions in a disability-inclusive way.

National Preventive Mechanisms have been nominated in the Commonwealth, the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia. The Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanisms 2024 the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (OPCAT) symposium, open to all people including nominated National Preventive Mechanisms, comprehensively considered a disability inclusive approach to implementing OPCAT.

*The following response is provided by NSW, QLD and VIC:*

All governments continue to cooperatively and progressively work towards implementation of OPCAT, subject to the resolution of sufficient and ongoing funding from the Commonwealth and the resolution of implementation issues, including the Commonwealth leading work in consultation with States and Territories to reach agreement on the definition and scope of places of detention.

### **Stakeholder feedback from the Australian Government Public consultation on Disability Royal Commission - Summary Report**

*Recommendations: 11.6–11.11 Achieving OPCAT compliance*

Disability representative organisations and advocacy organisations strongly support recommendations to achieve compliance with the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (OPCAT), calling for a clear and achievable timeline for full implementation as a priority.

### Specific action(s), responsibility and timeframe

| Action  | Timeframe |
|---|-----------|
| Develop and implement National Preventive Mechanisms to discharge their functions in a disability inclusive manner. | TBD       |



# Endnote

- 1 S Avery, Culture is Inclusion: A Narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Disability, First People's Disability Network, Sydney, 2018.
- 2 Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, Final Report - Executive Summary, page 185.
- 3 Productivity Commission (PC), Factsheets - Study Report - Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap 2024, accessed 17 July 2024.
- 4 PC, Closing the Gap review (Volume 1), Australian Government 2024, accessed 15 July 2024.
- 5 National Agreement on Closing the Gap 2020, accessed 17 July 2024.
- 6 AIHW, People with disability in Australia. Existing data sources and challenges, Australian Government 2024, accessed 3 June 2024.
- 7 DRC, Final Report - Volume 12, Beyond the Royal Commission | Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, Australian Government 2023, accessed 3 June 2024.
- 8 NDIS, Working together to deliver the NDIS. NDIS Review: Final Report, Australian Government 2023, accessed 3 June 2024.
- 9 McVilly, K., Ainsworth, S., Graham, L., Harrison, M., Sojo, V., Spivakovsky, C., Gale, L., Genat, A., Zirnsak, T. (2022). Outcomes associated with 'inclusive', 'segregated' and 'integrated' settings: Accommodation and community living, employment and education. A research report commissioned by the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. University of Melbourne, Australia.

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