



AUSTRALIA'S DISABILITY STRATEGY 2021-2031

ADVISORY COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Advisory Council for Australia's Disability Strategy (ADS) met face-to-face for their second meeting on 17-18 June 2025 at Rydges World Square, Sydney NSW.

Over the course of the two-day meeting, the Advisory Council:

- Approved Actions and Outcomes from 13 March 2025 Advisory Council meeting.
- Discussed key machinery of government changes (enacted through Administrative Arrangements Orders). These changes included the transfer of all disability functions (excluding Disability Employment) from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, as well as the transfer of the Housing Portfolio from the Department of Social Services to the Treasury.
- In line with Council's 2025 workplan as approved by Disability Reform Ministerial Council, discussed future topics for discussion at the two remaining 2025 Council meetings, as well as topics for future discussion at the remaining Council workshops for 2025.
- Endorsed, and provided additional input into, the Council's informal advice to the Department of Social Services on the development of a First Nations Disability Forum.
- Received information on ADS Outcomes and Accountability, covering accountability, outcomes, and improvement mechanisms under ADS Outcomes Framework, the Data Improvement Plan, and ADS reporting processes, including the National Disability Data Asset and the National Disability Research Partnership.
- Had a discussion with the co-chairs of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Reform Advisory Committee, El Gibbs and Dougie Herd, on intersections between the work of the Committee and ADS Advisory Council.
- Received information on the Accessible Information and Communications Associated Plan (Recommendation 6.1 in the final report from the Disability Royal Commission), including the roles of the Disability Communications Working Group, Accessible

Communications Technical Advisory Group and Commonwealth Agencies in implementing the Associated Plan.

- Received a presentation regarding the key priorities of the Australian Human Rights Council's Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Ms Rosemary Kayess, and discussed potential areas of collaboration.
- Provided input into the draft *Toolkit for Engaging with People with Disability in Evaluation* and were given an update on the implementation of the first independent ADS evaluation.
- Were given a presentation by, and provided input to, officials from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts on accessible air travel, the Aviation White Paper, and the development of new aviation-specific disability standards.

Following the first day of the meeting, the Council also met with Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for the NDIS. Minister McAllister expressed her interest in the Council's work and sought their advice on government priorities in relation to people with disability. Council members noted the following in their discussion with Minister McAllister:

- Challenges for Torres Strait Islander people with disability in accessing NDIS-supported services and language barriers in communities.
- A key priority for the government should be accessible housing and ensuring a commitment to universal design standards.
- There is need for the government to provide more information on what is available to people with disability outside of the NDIS, such as for migrants and refugees. There are also barriers in the government's approach to these communities.

The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for August 2025.