



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

ADS Advisory Council

August 2025

Update



Creating
an inclusive
community
together





Australian Government

**Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing**

The Australian Government Department of Health Disability and Ageing wrote this.

We say **DHDA** for short.

When you see the word **we** it means DHDA.



We wrote this in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

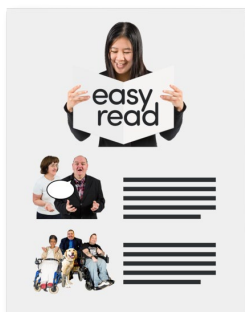
Bold

We have some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

These are important words.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it has the most important ideas.



We can answer any questions by email.

Email us ADSAdvisoryCouncil@health.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this document.

You can ask

- A friend
- Family members
- A support person.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the **Traditional Owners** of the land we live on.



They were the **first people** to live on and use the

- Land
- Waters.

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Australia's Disability Strategy



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Australia's Disability Strategy is a plan to make life better for people with disability.

We call it **ADS**.



ADS is important for Australia to be more **inclusive**.

Inclusive means everyone can take part.



This makes everyone in our community feel welcome.

ADS Advisory Council



The ADS **Advisory Council** gives advice about ADS to

- The Australian Government
- State and territory governments
- Local governments.

We call it **the Council**.



The Council is **not** part of the government.

The Council helps governments understand how to



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- Use ADS
- Share reports about ADS
- Work towards the **goals** of ADS.

Goals are things you want to do.



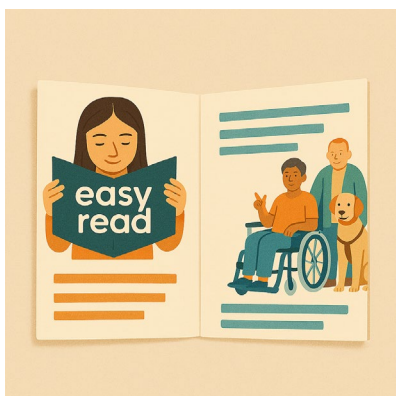
The Council includes people

- With disability
- Who understand **barriers** for people with disability.



A barrier is something that stops you from doing what you

- Want
- Need.



The Council writes information about what they talked about in their meetings.

We share important information with the community.



This information is about the Council meeting on 26 August 2025.

Changes to members



Jane Spring is the Council **Chair**.

The Chair is the person who runs the meeting.

Jane gave updates about members who have finished being on the Council.



Members are on the Council for a certain amount of time.

Some members **represent** different states and territories.

Represent means speak up for the people in their state or territory.



The members finishing on 1 September 2025 are

- Kelly Cox

Kelly is the representative for New South Wales.



- Sarah Skopellos

Sarah is the representative for Northern Territory.



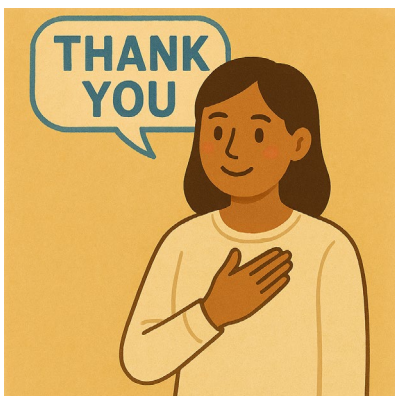
- Sisaleo Philavong

Sisaleo is the representative for South Australia.



- Chris Varney

Chris is the representative for Victoria.



They were thanked for the good work they did while on the Council.



Jane said they would start looking for new state and territory representatives for

- Australian Capital Territory



- Queensland



- Tasmania



- Western Australia

ADS Engagement Plan



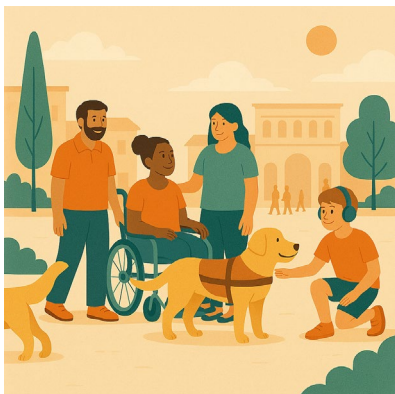
The Council agreed on the advice they would give for the ADS **Engagement** Plan.

Engagement means the community can share their ideas with the government.



They said there needed to be

- Good ways of communicating



- Ways to work that are right for the community



- The government being accountable

Being accountable is taking responsibility for your actions.



- Being able to give **feedback**

Feedback says what you think about something.

It will help

- Find problems
- Make it better in the future.

Attorney Generals presentation



The Council talked about the presentation from the Attorney Generals Department.

The presentation was about the **Disability Discrimination Act Review**.

We call it **DDA Review** for short.



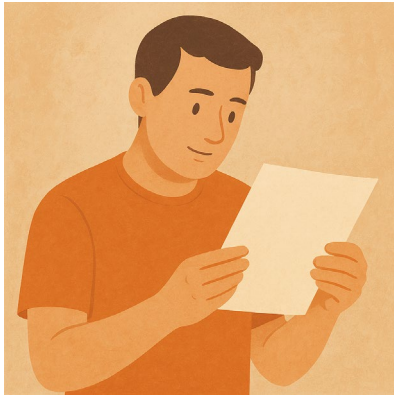
Discrimination means treating someone unfairly because of something about them they can **not** change.

Like they have a disability.



An Act is a **law**.

Laws are **rules** for how we live.



A review is when you check what

- Works
- Needs to change.



The Council shared ideas to help with

- Ways to stop discrimination



- A better way to explain **unjustifiable hardship**

Unjustifiable hardship means organisations **not** needing to change something because it would

- Cost too much
- Be too hard to do.



- For it to be **culturally safe**

Culturally safe means respecting peoples

- **Rights**
- Cultures
- Traditions.

This helps people feel safe to be themselves.

It can also be called cultural safety.



Rights are **rules** about treating everyone

- Fair
- Equal.



- For making **complaints**

Complaints are when you tell someone they have **not** done a good job.

Everyone has the right to make a complaint.



The Council said the DDA needs people with disability to

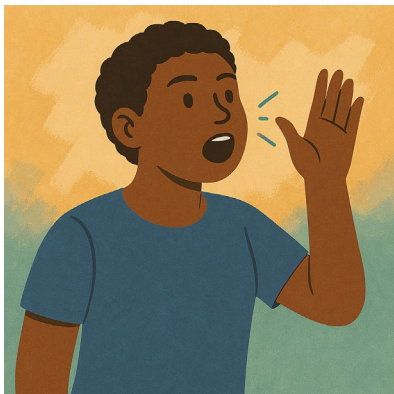
- Speak up about problems
- Help fix problems

With businesses and organisations.



Rather than the business or organisation being **responsible**.

Responsible means the things you need to do.



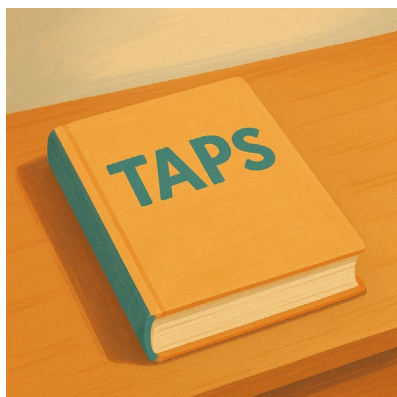
The Council will keep speaking up for changes to the DDA.



The Council agreed to write a **formal submission**.

A formal submission is a document with ideas to do things better.

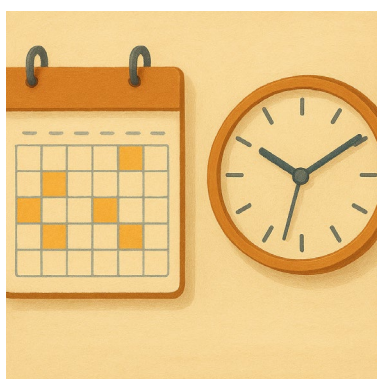
Updates



There were updates for

1. Advice the Council gave about the **Targeted Action Plans**

We call them **TAPs** for short.



TAPs will be ready to put on the website by the end of 2025.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/strategy



2. The **Disability Royal Commission** progress report

We call it **DRC** for short.

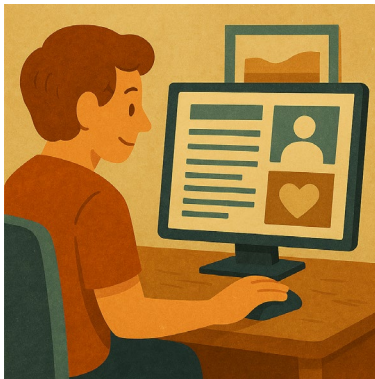
The progress report will be put on the website in 2025.



The DRC looked at how people with disability are treated.

It made **recommendations**.

Recommendations are ideas to do things better.



The Council liked the ideas for the way the

- Website would look for the new reports



- Ways to show what parts are being worked on



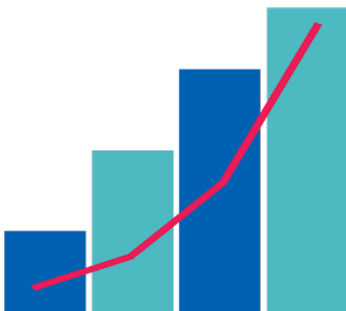
The Council want to see who the leaders are for DRC implementation.

Implementation means doing what you promised you would.



3. Information on the **ADS Disability Data Measure** project

We call it **DDM** for short.



Data is

- Facts
- Information
- Records.



The Council said they were worried about how disability would be measured.



They think it would be better to

- Look at barriers.

Rather than someones medical condition



- Involve people with disability to share their experiences



- Have community **consultation**

Consultation is the governments way of working with the disability community.

It makes sure that the government is listening to communities.



- Learning from **research** that has been done

Research means

- Finding out what people think about things
- Using the information to **help others**.



4. States and territories shared updates



5. Jane shared about

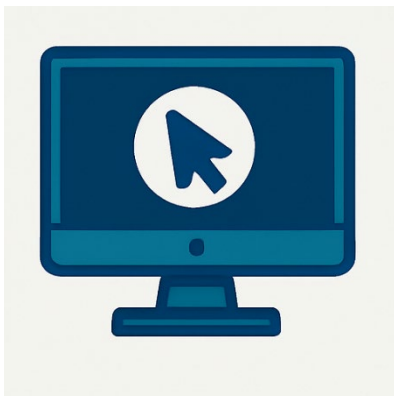
- Taking part in the **Conference of State Parties**

We call it **COSP** for short.



COSP is a meeting between different countries about the **rights of people with disability**.

COSP happens every year.



You can go to our website to read more about it.

www.dss.gov.au/news/australians-disability-take-part-18th-session-conference-states-parties-cosp18

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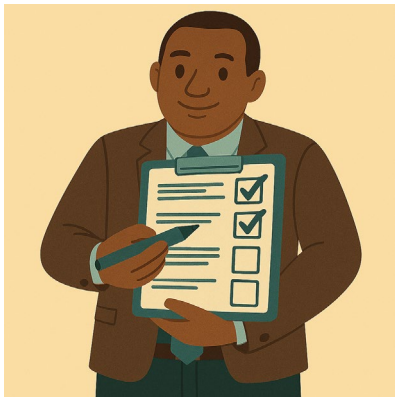


- The National Disability Research Partnership event

It is called **mobilising** disability research and **evidence** for **policy** impact.



Mobilising means collecting information to make change.



Evidence is proof that something is true.



Policies are plans for how to do things.



- The aes25 Conference on inclusive **evaluation**

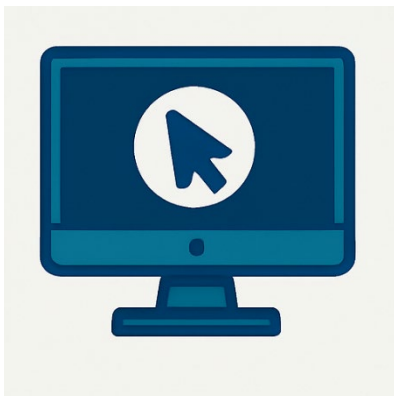
Evaluation means you look at what

- Went well
- Could be done better.



You can do an evaluation of a

- Service
- Program
- Plan.



You can go to the website to read more.

www.aes25.aes.asn.au/

It is **not** in Easy Read.

The next meeting



The next Council meeting will be on 28 November 2025.



You can go to the Council website if you need more information.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/advisory-council



You can email us.

ADSAdvisoryCouncil@health.gov.au

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