



Creating
an inclusive
community
together



Australia's Disability Strategy Survey 2024

Our report about community attitudes

Easy Read version

How to use this report

When you read the word 'we', it means:



Australian Government

**Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing**

- the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



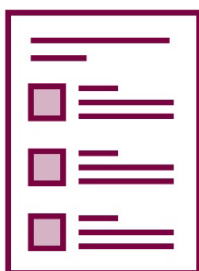
Australian Government

**Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare**

- the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.



These parts of the government worked together to write this report.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page [30](#).



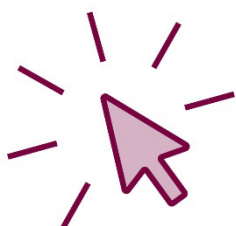
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this report
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of another report.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other report on our website.

[https://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/
data-research](https://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/data-research)

What's in this report?

About this report	5
-------------------	---

About Australia's Disability Strategy Survey	8
--	---

What people shared	10
--------------------	----

1. In the community	11
---------------------	----

2. Attitudes at work	14
----------------------	----

3. Attitudes with services	17
----------------------------	----

More information	29
------------------	----

Word list	30
-----------	----

Contact us	33
------------	----

About this report



This report is about a survey called
Australia's Disability Strategy Survey.



The first survey ran in 2022.

2



This report is about the second survey.

It ran in 2024.



The survey is part of Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031.

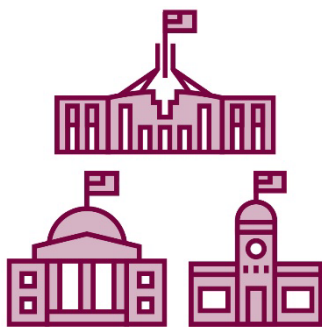
In this report we call it the Strategy.



The Strategy is a plan to support people with disability in all areas of their life.

All levels of government run the Strategy.

This includes:



- the Australian Government
- state and territory governments
- local governments.



All levels of government want the community to be **inclusive**.

When the community is inclusive, everyone can:

- take part in the community
- feel like they belong.



In this report, we explain what we learned from the survey.

About Australia's Disability Strategy Survey



Australia's Disability Strategy Survey is about community **attitudes** towards people with disability.



Your attitude is what you think, feel and believe.

The survey asked people to:



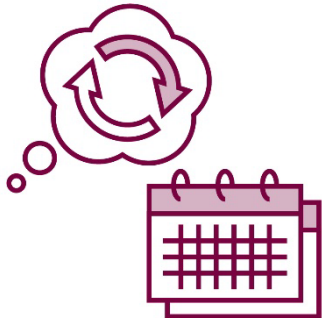
- read some sentences about disability



- share how much they agree with the sentences.



The survey also asked about the experiences of people with disability.



The 2 surveys show how community attitudes have changed between:

- 2022
- and
- 2024.

What people shared



People shared their attitudes and experiences in 3 main areas.



1. In the community

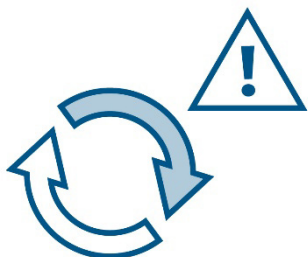


2. At work



3. With services

1. In the community



The survey showed that community attitudes have only changed a little since 2022.

The survey showed that:



- most people with disability have good experiences in the community

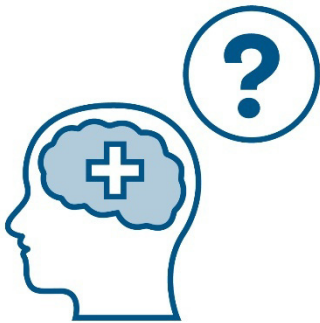


- community attitudes towards people with disability were mostly good.



The survey also showed that people are more likely to understand physical disabilities.

For example, if a person needs a wheelchair.



But people are less likely to understand disabilities that affect someone's **mental health**.



Your mental health is about how you:

- think and feel about yourself
- deal with things in your life
- manage your feelings.



46% of people agreed that some people do better in life because of their disability.



59% of people agreed that having disability can make a person stronger.



61% of people think people with disability are easier to:

- trick
- treat badly.

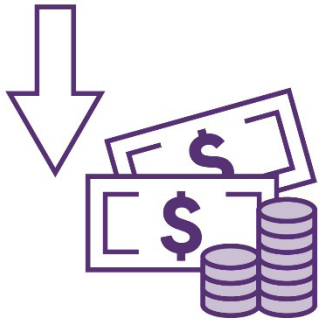


50% of people are happy with how people with disability are included in the community.



But only **20%** of people think there are enough people with disability working as leaders.

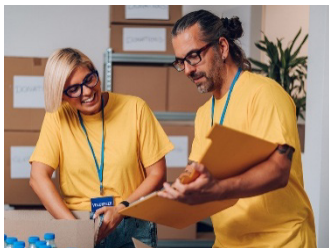
2. Attitudes at work



The survey showed that people with disability are less likely to earn money at work than people without disability.



But people with disability **volunteer** as much as people without disability.



When you volunteer, you:

- work but you don't get paid
- do work that helps the community.



The survey showed that bad attitudes towards disability still affect people at work.

The survey also showed that people are more likely to be treated badly if:



- they have a disability you can see



- they need a lot of support for their disability



- they have **intellectual disability**.



Intellectual disability can affect how you:

- learn new things
- communicate
- do things on your own.



86% of people agreed that having the right support makes it easier for people with disability to do their job.



58% of people agreed that hiring people with disability makes a business look good.



16% of people agreed that people with disability work slower than people without disability.



4% of people agreed that people with disability:

- don't want to work
- don't look for jobs.

3. Attitudes with services

We heard about attitudes and experiences in

4 main services:



- health



- education



- personal and community support



- the **justice system**.



The justice system makes sure people are treated fairly and follow the law.



The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
- police.

Health



The survey showed that **95%** of people with disability agreed they were treated with respect by health care workers.



92% agreed that things were clearly explained to them.



85% didn't think they would have been treated better if they didn't have disability.



89% were happy with the support they got from **allied health services**.

Allied health services help people:



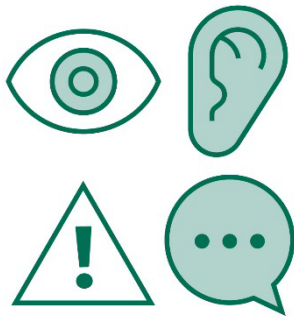
- move their body
- talk
- eat
- feel better.



The survey showed that health workers felt they knew how to support people with disability.



But they were less sure about how to support people with intellectual disability.



Health workers were also less sure about how to support people with disability that affects how they:

- see
- hear
- communicate.



96% of health workers agreed that people with physical disability should be able to decide what health care they want.



And **81%** agreed that people with intellectual disability should be able to decide what health care they want.

Education



The survey showed that **24%** of people with disability used an education service in the last year.



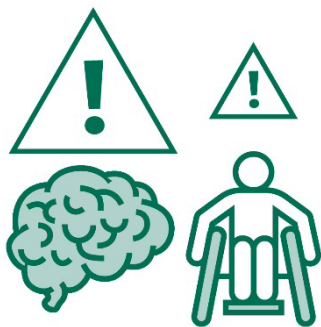
95% agreed that the service treated them with respect.



87% agreed things were explained clearly.



24% thought they would be treated better if they didn't have disability.



People with intellectual disability faced more issues than people with physical disability.



The survey showed that 34% of education workers often work with people with disability.



89% felt they treat people with disability well.



About 50% felt that they knew how to support people with disability.



Education workers felt they could support people with disability better if they:

- often worked with people with disability
- had disability.

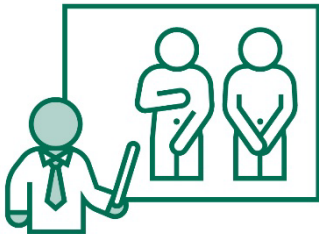


Most education workers think people with disability should be included in school activities.

For example:



- basketball



- sex education classes.

Personal and community support



The survey asked about attitudes and experiences with personal and community support services.

This includes services for:



- older people when they can't live in their home anymore



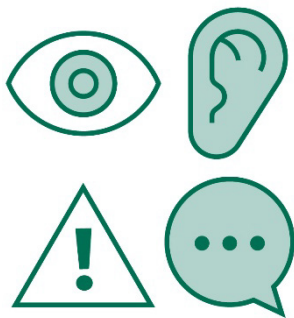
- people with disability and their families.



About 30% of people with disability agreed that support workers would treat them better if they didn't have disability.

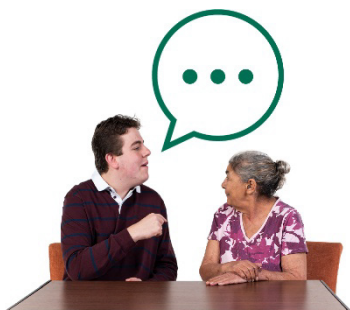


82% of support workers felt they knew how to support people with physical disability.



68% felt they knew how to support people with disability that affects how they:

- see
- hear
- communicate.



Most support workers agreed that people with disability should be able to communicate with their support services themselves.

Justice system



The survey showed that **90%** of justice system workers felt they treat people with disability well.



Around **50%** of justice system workers felt they knew how to support people with disability.

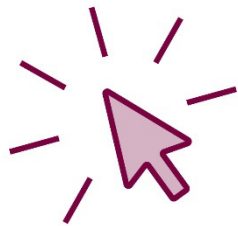


24% of people with disability had contact with the police in the last year.



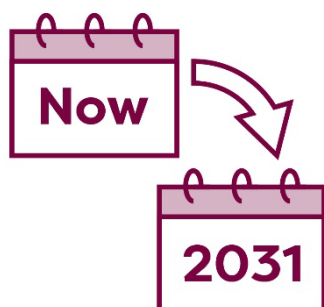
But **30%** of them felt they did not get the support they needed to talk to the police.

More information



You can find more information about the Strategy on our website.

www.aihw.gov.au/australias-disability-strategy

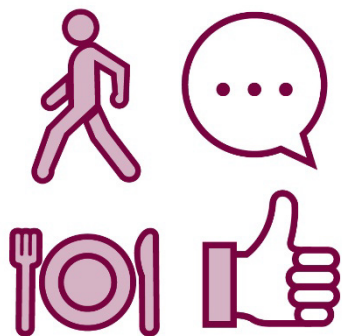


We will run more surveys between
now and 2031.

Word list

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

Allied health services



Allied health services help people:

- move their body
- talk
- eat
- feel better.



Attitude

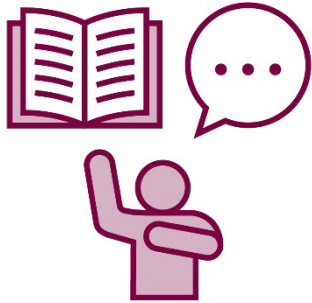
Your attitude is what you think, feel and believe.

Inclusive



When the community is inclusive, everyone can:

- take part in the community
- feel like they belong.



Intellectual disability

Intellectual disability can affect how you:

- learn new things
- communicate
- do things on your own.



Justice system

The justice system makes sure everyone is treated fairly and follows the law.

The justice system includes:

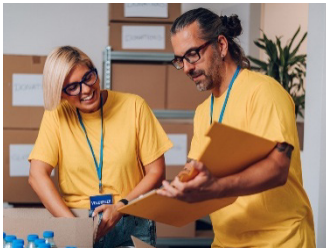
- prisons
- courts
- police.



Mental health

Your mental health is about how you:

- think and feel about yourself
- deal with things in your life
- manage your feelings.



Volunteer

When you volunteer, you:

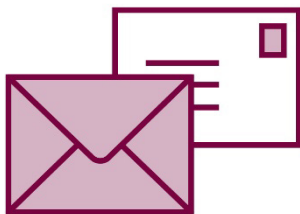
- work but you don't get paid
- do work that helps the community.

Contact us



You can send us an email.

ADSDDataReporting@health.gov.au



You can write to us.

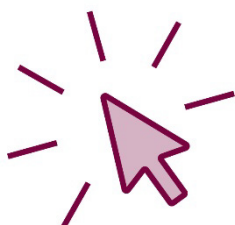
Australia's Disability Strategy Branch

Data and reporting

Australian Government Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

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You can visit our website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/data-research



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