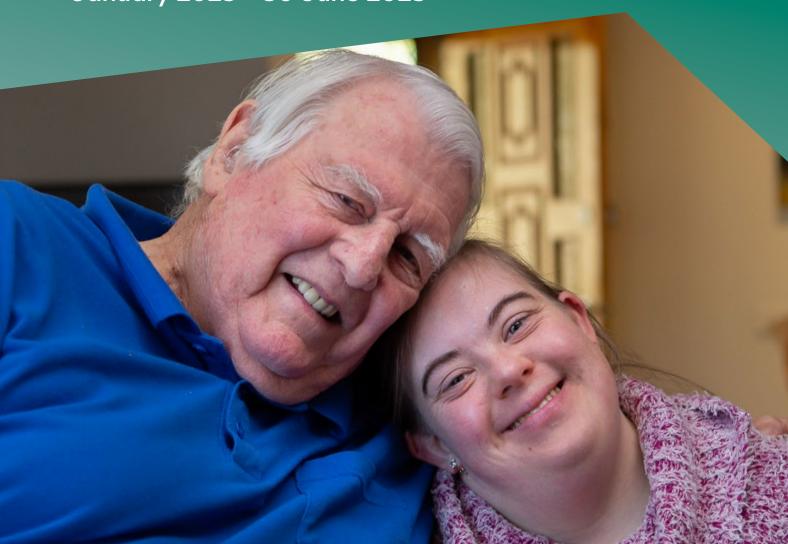
Australia's
Disability
Strategy
2021-2031

Creating an inclusive community together

Targeted Action Plans Progress Report

January 2025 - 30 June 2025



Title: Australia's Disability Strategy Targeted Action Plans Report 2025

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Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.

Acknowledgement of people with disability

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing acknowledges and thanks people with disability, their families, carers, and advocates for their vital contributions to the development and implementation of Australia's Disability Strategy Targeted Action Plans (TAPs). We recognise the lived experience, expertise, and leadership of people with disability as central to driving meaningful change.

Language in this Report

We acknowledge that people use different words to talk about disability and that each person will have a way of talking about disability and about themselves that they like best. Some people like to use 'disabled person' (identity-first language), while some like to use 'person with disability' (person-first language), and some are fine with using either.

We use person-first language to talk about disability. This means we usually use the term 'person with disability' in this Report.

The language used in this Report is not intended to diminish an individual's identity as a person with disability. We recognise that the appropriate use of language varies between individuals and disability communities. We acknowledge the importance of having conversations with individuals about their preferred language.

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Introduction

2nd Targeted Action Plans 2025 -2027

The 2nd set of Targeted Action Plans (TAPs) under Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 (the Strategy) were developed in consultation with all governments and published on the Strategy's Hub in January 2025.

The 3 TAPs are:

- Community Attitudes
- Inclusive Homes and Communities
- · Safety, Rights and Justice

These TAPs cover the issues that people with disability and the disability community said were most important to them during the Strategy's Review in 2024.

National actions

National actions have been included in these TAPs for a consistent nationwide approach to implementing supports and services for people with disability.

While actions will be implemented independently by Commonwealth and state and territory governments, there will be a level of coordination and collaboration led by Department of Health, Disability and Ageing which will include all governments to ensure a consistent approach to how national actions are implemented in each jurisdiction.

During the 2024 Strategy Review, stakeholders emphasized the need for a unified approach to implementing actions across all levels of government. The introduction of national actions is intended to support this goal by promoting greater consistency.

State and territory actions

States and territory governments had the option to include actions under the TAPs, that were specific to their own jurisdiction. This allowed states and territories to develop actions in areas where they considered were most needed and unique to their communities.

Some states and territories did not develop actions under all TAPs.



Purpose and structure of reporting

All levels of government committed to delivering more comprehensive and visible reporting. Reporting obligations under the Strategy aims to ensure accountability and build the evidence base for making informed decisions on areas of future focus. Targeted Action Plan reports are produced on a financial year basis and published on the Strategy's Hub by the end of each year.

Following the release of the 2nd set of TAPs, the Strategy's Advisory Council were consulted on what good reporting looks like and how reports for these TAPs should be structured and what they should cover.

During consultations with the Advisory Council, members noted that TAPs are a way to make effective change and to improve accountability. Overall, members considered good reporting should include:

- better visibility of disability diversity and intersectional experiences
- embedding mechanisms that will support the early identification of delayed and undelivered TAPs actions (such as a 'check-in point' and monitoring)
- a stronger role for the Council in setting the framework for reporting.

The Advisory Council proposed 5 key themes that updates could focus on. These are summarised as:

- Theme 1: Empowering people with disability through TAPs: the voice of community.
- reporting on how people with disability were engaged and participated through the 'lifecycle' of TAPs.
- Theme 2: What to measure and how to measure.
 - commentary around measures and what is effective improvement, what is the connections between measures and outcomes.
- Theme 3: Actions how can the community better understand the actions.
- how and why actions were chosen, what is the theory of changes and the impact.
- Theme 4: Implementation in detail
 - highlight good practice (e.g. case studies, specific example) through the implementation of TAPs
 actions and demonstrate what was learned during implementation of the action (e.g. intersectional
 challenges, workforce issues or barriers to delivery).
- Theme 5: Reporting.
- needs to be meaningful and helpful to people with disability; as well as accessible and easy to understand.

What is in this Report

During the development of the new TAPs, it was agreed with Disability Officials that the first report would include a **Commencement Statement** from each state and territory and a combined **Commencement Statement** for national actions. The statements explain how people with disability and the disability community will be involved in putting the actions into place under each TAP.

This 1st report covers a 5-month period, which is a short amount of time for actions to be progressed and for us to see much improvement. State and territory governments were asked to provide a **Commencement Statement**. They were also given an **option** to include a progress update on how each action is progressing. Contributors to the report were asked to consider the 5 key themes when developing their input.

Future Reports

The 2nd and 3rd reports will have more of a focus on progress of actions using a narrative approach, telling the story of what has been done. The 3rd report will also include end of period indicators which are different from the year-to-year indicators, providing different insights on outcomes. All reports will include an update on the year-to-year indicators.

Overarching commencement statement

These TAPs came into effect in late January 2025 considering feedback from the disability community that there should be a consistent approach to the type of actions and how they are implemented across all governments.

All governments are planning engagement and consultation activities with people with disability to help inform the implementation of national actions under all TAPs. This includes working closely with the Strategy's Advisory Council. Engagement activities include ongoing consultation, co-design processes and working groups, seeking lived experiences and perspectives of people with disability.

Each government is encouraged to plan engagement activities that are relevant, effective and responsive to the needs of people with disability, fostering true partnership and shared ownership of outcomes.

Over the life of the TAPs there will be further opportunity for governments to engage people with disability in discussions around implementing actions. These include:

- The Strategy's National, state and territory forums, next scheduled for 2026 will provide further
 opportunities for engagement with people with disability, with each forum focussing on different
 areas of the Strategy's progression. The Forums are organised by the relevant Commonwealth, state
 or territory jurisdiction hosting.
- First independent evaluation of the Strategy will cover the implementation period from 2021 to late 2025 and will adopt a mixed-methods approach. People with disability will be central to the process, participating in decision-making and support to the independent evaluator. Inclusive practices will be embedded as a requirement, including the Toolkit for engaging people with disability in evaluation which aims to build awareness and confidence among both evaluators and people with disability.





Community Attitudes Targeted Action Plan

Key Outcomes and Objectives

The <u>Community Attitudes TAP</u> is designed to drive progress under the Strategy's Community Attitudes Outcome Area and aims to ensure that community attitudes are improved and enable people with disability to have full equality, inclusion and participation in society.

This TAP has the following objectives:

- Increase representation of people with disability in leadership roles.
- Employers value the contribution people with disability make to the workforce, and recognise the benefits of employing people with disability
- Key professional workforces can confidently and positively respond to people with disability.
- Improve community attitudes to positively impact on Policy Priorities under the Strategy.

Actions will be implemented with an intersectional and diversity lens.

This recognises that a person, or group of people can be affected by multiple forms of discrimination and disadvantage. This can occur due to a person's race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, impairment, class, religion, age, social origin, and other identity markers. This means that activities taken in line with this TAP should incorporate tailored approaches designed to enable and include people and groups who face intersectional barriers.

Actions should also consider how to meet the needs of people with disability in rural and remote locations, First Nations people with disability, people with disability in culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women and girls with disability, people with disability who identify as LGBTIQ+ and young people with disability.

National actions - Community Attitudes

Guided by advice from people with disability, Australian, state and territory governments will work together to implement the TAPs. This collaboration will ensure greater coordination and alignment between governments. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) has oversight of the implementation of TAPs.

Strategy outcome: Community attitudes support equality, inclusion, and participation in society for people with disability.

Commencement statement

The Community Attitudes TAP commits to 6 National actions across 4 objectives.

All governments will work together over the next 3 years of the TAPs to implement the national actions for consistency. To do this, we will work together by sharing, where possible, how each jurisdiction will implement national actions. This may be through workshops initiated by jurisdictions, and/or targeted workshops between a jurisdiction and the relevant Australian agency.

Each jurisdiction will have their own activities around engaging people with disability to implement actions.

Targeted national engagement

A range of engagement activities across national objectives are being planned or are underway. Some examples of engagement activities that will help progress national actions are outlined below.

The Australian Public Service Commission's (APSC) Disability Royal Commission Discovery Project is considering setting disaggregated targets and new employment pathways to support the employment of people with disability across the Australian Public Service (APS). It is also considering the establishment of workplace adjustment principles and a workplace adjustment passport, with the aim of establishing a whole of APS approach.

Engagement activities include consulting with employees with lived experience of disability across the APS through surveys, employee networks and focus groups. The APSC has also established an Interjurisdictional Disability Royal Commission Working Group to share best practice and progress with states and territories. The group will consider an agreed set of principles.

The Australian Government Department of Education is continuing to work with Education Services Australia, to ensure that information on the Student Wellbeing Hub remains user friendly, accessible and reliable. This work includes reviewing resources that promote inclusion.

The Inclusion and Accessibility Fund (IAF) managed by DHDA, provides grants for targeted projects aimed at reducing harm and increasing inclusion and participation by improving everyday interactions with people with disability. Successful grant recipients will deliver projects that:

- have specific leadership roles for people with disability.
- will be developed by and delivered in partnership with people with disability.
- will be accessible and inclusive for all people with disability, including First Nations people with disability, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and (if possible) those living in remote Australia.

Community Attitudes data collection

Australia's Disability Strategy Survey

Some end of period measures in TAPs reporting will be informed by the Strategy's Survey, a longitudinal survey. The Survey captures data from the Australian population, including people living with disability, people with hiring responsibilities and those working in education, health, community support services and law and justice sectors. Reports will be published on **the Strategy's Hub**.

Wave 2 of the Survey includes a series of qualitative studies that were informed by people with disability who were engaged in the design of the studies. They also shared their lived experiences and views on interactions with others in specific sectors and the broader community. The focus groups targeted people with disability from diverse cohorts and/or those not adequately engaged through conventional ways (e.g. population surveys). These took place over the period October 2024 to March 2025, with the First Nations focus groups expected to be completed in the second half of 2025:

Young people aged 16-24

The Young People qualitative study was run by experienced youth and disability researchers, which included people with lived experience of disability or caregiving. Support workers assisted participants with disability throughout the focus groups. Participants also had the opportunity to provide a written response to questions.

People with CALD backgrounds

The development of the CALD qualitative study included a co-design group who provided advice on the focus group sessions, including cultural considerations and accessibility. Participants were given a range of communication options, including Auslan interpreters, written responses and NAATI (National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters) qualified interpreters for the monolingual focus groups.

First Nations peoples with disability

The First Nations peoples with disability qualitative study is led by a researcher who is a Taungurung woman, joined by local Aboriginal co-researchers in each community to co-facilitate the focus groups. The First Peoples Disability Network was consulted on the design of the study and accessibility issues. Participants will be provided with different communication options, if needed, including the use of local interpreters.

Actions table: National

Objective	Action
Objective 1 Increase representation of people with disability in	1.1 Increase the number of leadership positions within government for people with disability recruited through open, identified and affirmative measures.
leadership roles.	Australian Government Lead: Australian Public Service Commission
	Responsible owners: all governments
Objective 2 Employers value the	2.1 Develop consistent adjustment principles for the Australian Public Service consistent, in principle, with recommendation 7.21 of the DRC.
contribution people with	Australian Government lead: Australian Public Service Commission.
disability make to the workforce and recognise the benefits of employing people with disability.	Responsible owners: all governments
	2.2 Scope feasibility of implementing an Australian Public Service-wide adjustment passport (consistent with recommendation 7.21 of the DRC), to improve the ease with which people with disability can access, maintain and transfer their adjustments when moving within the Australian Public Service.
	Australian Government lead: Australian Public Service Commission.
	Responsible owners: all governments
	** For each action the Commonwealth, State and Territory public sectors will work together to share best practice on improving public sector employment outcomes for people with disability

Objective

Objective 3

Key professionals are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability.

Action

- **3.1** All governments to improve the use of disability awareness learning and development programs among key professionals in particular, educators, health workers, personal and community support workers, and justice and legal workers.
 - Collate and categorise existing disability awareness learning and development resources across key professional workforce sectors.
 - Establish a national collection of culturally competent best practice learning and development resources to support key professionals to positively respond to people with disability.
 - Develop new learning and development materials where gaps in resources are identified.
 - State and territories increase take up of learning and development activities across key professional workforce sectors.

Australian Government lead: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Responsible owners: all governments

- **3.2** The Commonwealth Department of Education, in consultation with Education Services Australia, will review existing resources on the Student Wellbeing Hub that promote inclusion to:
 - Identify where updates or revisions would strengthen the resources
 - Identify if resources (or linked resources) are no longer fit for purpose and should be retired
 - Identify where there may be gaps in resources (e.g. for specific cohorts of students, year levels etc).

On completion of the review, a summary report including any actions for the Australian Government will be provided to Government.

Australian Government lead: Department of Education

Responsible owner: Australian Government

Objective	Action
Objective 4 Improve community attitudes	4.1 All Governments to pursue projects or initiatives that contribute to changing community attitudes towards people with disability.
to positively impact on Policy Priorities under the Strategy.	Australian Government lead: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
	Responsible owners: all governments

State and territory actions – Community Attitudes

State and territory actions have been developed by each relevant government with a focus on actions specific to their jurisdiction in response to the unique needs of local communities.

For this report, where state and territory governments have actions, a commencement statement is provided about how each government will include people with disability and the disability community in the implementation of actions. In some cases, a progress update may be included under actions where implementation has commenced.

New South Wales (NSW) - Community Attitudes

Commencement statement

The New South Wales (NSW) Community Attitudes TAP sets out key actions to improve outcomes for people with disability relating to their inclusion and participation in Australian society. The TAP is based on the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, and reflects the priorities of the disability community.

NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) support NSW agencies to develop, monitor and report action under Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

DCJ has held several stakeholder forums in partnership with the Disability Council NSW, disability employee networks and First Nations communities. These consultations aim to make sure the actions are meaningful and effective in the new NSW Disability Inclusion Plan 2026-2029.

By involving the community at every stage, the plan aims to deliver real improvements in inclusion, respect, and opportunity for people with disability.

Stakeholders will be invited to provide their lived experience when engaging with NSW agencies. Their input will help create training materials to improve how NSW Government employees consult and engage with people with disability.

In April 2025 DCJ hosted the Multicultural Community Engagement Conference. The conference was an opportunity to connect with community leaders, as well as representatives from government and non-government organisations. It focused on finding better ways to engage with multicultural communities.

2025 DCJ Multicultural Community Engagement Conference | Communities and Justice

The NSW Ageing and Disability Commission (ADC) is a partner in a research project with the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health aimed at improving preventative health care for people with intellectual disability. The NSW Council for Intellectual Disability, Down Syndrome Australia and Central and Eastern Primary Health Network are among the partner organisations.

The project sought input from people with disability, their support networks, and health professionals about their experience with health action planning and preventative health care practices. More information can be found at: https://nceidh.org.au/our-work/projects/improving-preventive-healthcare.

Actions table: New South Wales

Objective	Action
Improve community attitudes to positively impact on Policy Priorities under the Strategy	NSW will require all those NSW Government Agencies mandated under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act (2014) to prepare Disability Inclusion Action Plans (DIAPs) - that incorporate a specific focus on Positive Community Attitudes and Engagement.
	This revision of the NSW Disability Inclusion Plan and DIAPs will prioritise effective engagement, codesign and the importance of inclusion of people at all stages of the design and implementation of the significant disability reforms that are underway.
	Engagement will extend across the disability sector to involve people with disability, their carers and advocates, service providers, Disability Employee Networks, advisory groups, forums and community groups.
Policies, processes and programs provide better responses to people with disability.	In partnership with the NSW Disability Council, NSW Government will undertake to hold stakeholder forums and undertake projects to improve skills of NSW Government employees with regards to consultation and engagement of people with disability.

Tasmania (TAS) - Community Attitudes

Commencement statement

On 1 July 2025 new Tasmanian legislation, the <u>Disability Rights</u>, <u>Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024</u> (the Act) commenced. The Act introduces new requirements for consultation, planning and reporting of progress in delivering actions via a whole of government Tasmanian Disability Inclusion Plan and action plans. These are plans are for defined entities including Government Departments and Government Business Enterprises. The first Tasmanian Disability Inclusion Plan will be published in mid-2026. The Plan will be informed by extensive community consultation. In the interim, <u>Tasmania's Disability Strategy 2025-27</u> includes actions across several agencies. These aim to help Tasmanians with disability live in inclusive, accessible, and well-designed homes and communities.

In February 2025, the Tasmanian Department of Health (DoH) released the <u>Disability Health Strategy</u> (the Strategy) and accompanying <u>Action Plan for 2024-2025</u>. These were informed by consultation with people with disability and key stakeholders of DoH. The Strategy provides a roadmap to improving the delivery of high quality, accessible health services for all people with disability in Tasmania. It intends to support people with disability of all ages who access services or are employed within Tasmania's public health system. The Strategy aims to ensure a high standard of healthcare is delivered to people with disability in Tasmania consistently across public healthcare services. The Strategy aims to support engagement with their families and carers, advocates and providers of disability support.

Consultation on the Strategy was undertaken in late 2023 and included online and in-person consultation sessions across Tasmania, written submissions and input via telephone. More than 230 people participated in the consultation. This included people with disability, their carers and families, support groups, service providers and both government and non-government organisations. Participants shared a broad range of experiences and raised some challenges in relation to the services DoH provides.

At a high level, the consultation found that while many services provided by DoH are delivering effective, high-quality healthcare to people with disability, there are some areas where DoH can improve.

Through this consultation, five key themes of the Strategy were confirmed, which form the basis of the Strategy's priority areas and are:

- Quality: Ensuring Tasmania's health services meet the diverse needs of people with disability through best practice approaches.
- Accessibility: Supporting a holistic approach to healthcare delivery and provide reasonable adjustments to address barriers to access.
- Decision Making: Empowering people with disability to make informed decisions about their healthcare.
- Workforce: Ensuring Tasmania's health workforce has the knowledge to provide healthcare that
 meets the diverse needs of people with disability and build a workforce profile which reflects the
 diversity of our population with disability.
- Information Systems: Improving DoH's health data on people with disability and ensure accessibility to information.

The Strategy is being implemented through a series of <u>action plans</u> that outline a range of actions against each of the priority areas. DoH will report against the progress of the action plan each year. The first <u>Action Plan</u>, for the period of 2024 to 2025, includes foundational actions to support the success of the Strategy. It was informed by community consultation on the Strategy, as well as current national reform activities. The first Action Plan will be reported on in early 2026.

DoH is establishing a governance structure to oversee the implementation of the Strategy, and to monitor and report on progress under the Action Plans. This will include community representation from people with disability, their families and carers. This is currently being worked through to ensure processes align with the consultation requirements of the new *Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024*.

Actions table: Tasmania

Policies, processes and
programs provide better
responses to people with
disability.

Objective

Action

People with disability are consulted in developing defined entities' (government agencies') Disability Inclusion Action Plans.

Progress update:

Tasmanian legislation establishes that the first Disability Inclusion Action Plans for Defined Entities must be developed within six months after the publication of the first Tasmanian Disability Inclusion Plan. <u>The Act</u> also prescribes content and consultation requirements.

Key professional workforces are able to confidently and positively respond to people with disability. Implement the Tasmanian Department of Health Disability Health Strategy.

Progress update:

The <u>Disability Health Strategy</u> was released in February 2025 along with an <u>Action Plan</u> for 2024 to 2025. The Action Plan outlines activities being undertaken over this period under key focus areas. These include efforts to ensure the health workforce has the awareness and knowledge to meet the diverse healthcare needs of people with disability.

Under the Action Plan, work is progressing on the development of Extended Scope Dental Assistants (ESDAs). ESDAs will work with priority patient groups, such as people with intellectual disability and their families/carers in providing education and guidance on their oral health needs. Supports provided by ESDAs will include hygiene and brushing support, and the application of fluoride varnish.

To support this action, Oral Health Services Tasmania is setting up a special needs interest group. This group will support members in delivering oral health care to this population and support better consumer consultation.

Queensland (QLD) - Community Attitudes

Commencement statement

Each year, the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS) partners with Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) and Griffith University to deliver the **Voice of Queenslanders with Disability** survey of people with disability, their families and carers, and sector organisations in Queensland. The statewide survey seeks to identify issues for people with disability with feedback to inform strategy, policy and programs and informs the wider community.

The goal of the survey is to understand more about inclusion and how people's experiences across the seven outcome areas of Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 change over time. The research involves a citizen science approach which identifies, trains and supports paid citizen scientists with disability to bring real-world experiences and perspectives to the process. The survey has been delivered and a report published annually since 2023. The 2025 survey was run between 12 March 2025 and 30 April 2025. A report of findings will be released online in the second half of 2025.

The Queensland Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games (DSROPG) delivers funding through various programs to encourage inclusion of people with disability in sport and recreation opportunities. One program is the <u>Active Industry Base Fund</u> (AIBF) which supports state-level organisations. It also provides opportunities for staff, support workers and volunteers to gain the necessary accreditation and skills to run inclusive programs. The AIBF was developed in collaboration with people with disability ensuring relevance, inclusion, and impact. It provides funding to five specific organisations for people with disability, including:

- Australian Deaf Sports Federation Ltd
- Life Stream Services Inc
- · Riding for the Disabled Association of Queensland Inc
- Special Olympics Australia
- Spinal Life Australia Ltd

Accessibility and inclusion for people with disability is a key priority under the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy Strategy. Advancing accessibility and empowering people with disability is one of the Strategy's foundations, with key focus areas and desired outcomes relating to: social inclusion, economic participation and sports participation opportunities for people with disability, application of universal design goals and principles and accessibility best practice and the unique opportunity of the Games to improve community attitudes to disability and inclusion

The Queensland Government's new arts strategy, delivered through Arts Queensland, is planned for release in mid-2025. The new strategy includes actions that will support audiences, artists and arts workers with disability to engage with, develop and deliver new work. Strategy implementation will respond to ongoing consultation with d/Deaf and disabled artists and the arts sector more broadly. Arts Queensland is represented on the national Arts and Disability Intergovernmental Working Group led by the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sports and the Arts.

Actions table: Queensland

Objective	Action
Improve community attitudes by promoting a culture and shared values that removes barriers and supports inclusion of people with disability.	Prepare, publish and promote an annual "Voice of Queenslanders with Disability" report identifying issues for people with disability to inform strategy, policy and programs, and to inform the wider community.
Key professional workforces are able to confidently and positively respond to people with disability.	Review the effectiveness of existing strategies directed to providing and ensuring the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in criminal justice settings.
People with disability are able to fully participate in social, recreational, sporting, religious, and cultural life.	Encourage inclusion of people with disability in sport and recreation opportunities. Develop and implement a Queensland Arts and Disability strategy.

South Australia (SA) - Community Attitudes

Commencement statement

The South Australian Government is committed to improving awareness and inclusion of disability, and improving community attitudes towards disability. This work is being led by the South Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS), the Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment (OCPSE), and the Office for Autism, in partnership with community organisations.

Under this TAP, DHS has committed to raising awareness of the role of guide dogs and assistance animals. It also aims to improve understanding of legal responsibilities under the *Disability Discrimination Act* 1992 (Cwth) and foster greater inclusion South Australians who use assistance animals. This campaign was initiated by South Australia's Disability Minister's Advisory Committee (DMAC), South Australia's lived experience advisory group, as a recommendation for Government action.

Over the course of the TAP, DHS will continue to engage with DMAC and other lived experience groups to co-design campaign messaging and delivery. This will include targeted outreach to people who use assistance animals, including Aboriginal and culturally diverse communities, through South Australian community partner organisations. The campaign will also align with work occurring to develop National Principles for assistance animals.

OCPSE will lead a review of public sector employment resources, including the Disability Employment Toolkit, to promote inclusive recruitment practices across the South Australian Public Sector. Previous engagement with sector and lived experience organisations including JFA Purple Orange, With You With Me, and the Office for Autism informed the development of this recommendation.

Throughout the implementation of this TAP, feedback will be sought from the South Australian Public Sector's Disability, Diversity and Inclusion Community of Practice, Human Resource leads across agencies, and internal lived experience employee networks. OCPSE will also engage external stakeholders, such as disability employment organisations and DMAC to ensure the review reflects the perspectives of those outside of Government.

South Australia's <u>Inklings Pilot Program</u>, led by the <u>Office for Autism</u>, is currently being implemented across metropolitan and regional South Australia. Community engagement has been central to the program's rollout, with public forums involving representatives from disability, autism, and Autistic communities. The program promotes early inclusion and aims to shift community attitudes by supporting families to understand and celebrate neurodiversity from infancy.

The <u>Autism Inclusion in Secondary Schools (AISS) pilot</u> has recently commenced, building on the strength of the Autism Inclusion Teachers initiative and reflecting feedback from the Autistic and autism communities detailed in the <u>South Australian Autism Strategy</u> which encouraged the state to identify ways to improve transition pathways between educational settings.

Actions table: South Australia

Objective

Action

Increase knowledge, understanding and awareness of Guide Dogs and Assistance Animals in South Australia. Undertake a targeted community awareness campaign to:

- Promote improved knowledge and community awareness of the role of guide dogs and assistance animals.
- Improve understanding of and adherence to the legislative responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act as it relates to guide dogs and assistance animals.
- Promote improved community inclusion and acceptance for the blind community and those who use an assistance animal.

Policies, processes and programs provide better responses to people with disability.

Review South Australian public sector employment resources including; Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment's (OCPSE) Disability Employment Toolkit and promote the Australian Human Rights Commission's IncludeAbility resources when designing jobs and recruiting.

Increase knowledge, understanding and access to programs about neurodivergence in the early years to support South Australian families Pilot the Inklings Program in South Australia for families with infants aged between 6-18 months who show early signs of developmental delay.

Progress update:

The <u>Inklings Program</u>, developed by the Kids Research Institute in Western Australia, commenced in South Australia on April 2025. It aims to build stronger, more inclusive communities by promoting early inclusion and understanding of neurodiversity in family settings.

Inklings supports caregivers to understand and respond to the different ways babies aged 6-18 months might communicate, through a 10-session program delivered by a trained Inklings practitioner.

In South Australia, the program is being delivered in homes and at several children's centres across metropolitan Adelaide and regional SA.

As at July 2025, 29 practitioners from the departments of Health and Wellbeing, Human Services, and Child Protection have been trained. A total of 47 families are currently taking part in the program, and eight families have already completed it.

Objective

Action

Autistic students are better supported with transition from primary to secondary school. Test three models of professional learning to enhance secondary teachers' capabilities to implement neurodiversity-affirming strategies and to apply effective transition practices for autistic students transitioning from mainstream primary schools in 2025.

Progress update:

The South Australian Department for Education is delivering the <u>Autism Inclusion in Secondary Schools (AISS)</u> pilot across nine high schools, commenced in 2024 and will continue to December 2025. This builds on the success of the <u>Autism Inclusion Teachers (AITs)</u> initiative, who are now working in every public primary school across South Australia.

Both project teams are helping teachers plan smoother transitions for Autistic students moving from primary to high school.

The autism inclusion in secondary schools initiative reflects feedback from the autistic and autism communities detailed in the South Australian Autism Strategy. This encouraged the state to identify ways to improve transition pathways between educational settings.

The AISS team are creating training for high school teachers on the neuroscience of learning, teaching styles, and teaching adjustments to accommodate the neurobiology of autism.

As at July 2025, more than 800 South Australian teachers have already taken part in this training.

The AISS team are continuing to work with schools to create learning plans that support neurodiverse students. These efforts are helping to build more welcoming, safe and supportive South Australian school communities.

Western Australia (WA) - Community Attitudes

Commencement statement

The importance of increasing the visibility, voice and representation of people with disability in leadership roles is recognised in 'A Western Australia for Everyone: State Disability Strategy 2020-30' as a key element to drive change and shift community attitudes.

<u>Leadership WA</u>, supported by the Western Australian (WA) Government, delivered two LeadAbility courses per year providing leadership development for people with disability and/or people working in the disability sector. LeadAbility courses are regularly revised and refreshed based on participant's direct feedback, received through the LeadAbility Reference Group and Community of Practice. The Community of Practice provides all graduates with a peer support network for continued learning, connection and collaboration.

Funded by the WA Government, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA (CCIWA) delivered the Ability Link pilot project, based on findings outlined in the CCIWA <u>Tapping the talent pool of people with</u> <u>disabilities</u> (2024) report. The pilot project's purpose and deliverables were informed by the results of a CCIWA survey on the state of diversity and inclusion in WA workplaces focusing on four underrepresented groups of people with disability: women, LGBTQIA+ community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The WA Government has funded three Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) to deliver projects increasing employment of people with disability in regional areas. The projects work directly with people with disability to explore their employment goals and improve job readiness in the open employment market. They also upskill employers to increase their disability awareness and confidence in employing people with disability.

In developing the <u>Workforce Diversification and Inclusion Strategy 2020-2025</u> and <u>Action Plans</u>, the WA Public Sector Commission consulted extensively with key stakeholders. This included consultation with disability peak bodies, disability employment service providers, and the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability.

The WA Department of Finance (Finance) developed the 'WA Australian Disability Enterprises (WADE) Workplan 2024-25' in collaboration with WA's ADEs, to determine activities Finance will undertake to support government procurement with WA ADEs. Finance and WADEs meet quarterly to discuss the workplan's progress and the experiences of people with disability when they are working on a WADE contract with government.

The WA Department of Education is expanding the Complex Behaviour Support Coordinator trial to 64 full-time equivalents in 192 public schools in 2025. Coordinators work with school staff to develop whole-of-school approaches that embed connected and tiered models of intervention to address the diverse needs of their students, including those with disability. Coordinators will work with their school leaders to consult with relevant stakeholders to identify and implement strategies relevant to their school context. These will vary from school to school.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs) are well-established in WA public authorities through the Disability Services Act 1993. All DAIPs are legislatively required to be developed and reviewed with input from people with disability and key disability stakeholders. Public authorities report annually on their DAIP achievements and in 2024-25, public authorities will report on initiatives that positively impact community attitudes in their communities.

Actions table: Western Australia

Objective	Action
Increase representation of people with disability in leadership roles.	1.1 Deliver LeadAbility courses to develop leadership skills of people with disability and ambassadors working in the disability sector, and provide scholarships to support course participation.
Employers value the contribution people with disability make to the workforce and recognise the benefits of employing people with disability.	 2.1 Commissioned projects to increase employment of people with disability in WA to be delivered by Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA and WA Australian Disability Enterprises. 2.2 Implement the Public Sector Commission's People with Disability: Action Plan to Improve WA Public Sector Employment Outcomes 2020–2025.
	2.3 Government Procurement with WA Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) – development of a new WA ADE Work plan using direct engagement exception under the WA Procurement Rules and Social Procurement Framework.
Key professionals are disability confident and respond positively to people with disability.	 3.1 Deliver disability awareness training to Youth and Adult Custodial Officers, Transit Officers, Community Corrections Officers, WA Police Officers, Police Auxiliary Officers and Countering Violent Extremism Unit Officers. 3.2 Introduction of 64 full time equivalent (FTE) complex behaviour
Improve community attitudes to positively impact on Policy	support coordinators in WA public schools. 4.1 Public authorities, required to implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans under the Disability Services Act 1993 (WA), deliver
Priorities under the Strategy.	initiatives to positively impact community attitudes.

Northern Territory (NT) - Community Attitudes

Commencement statement

The Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) will ensure key professional workforces are equipped to confidently and positively respond to people with disability. A significant step in this direction will be the establishment of a whole-of-government list of suppliers. This list will include suppliers for accessibility services, streamlining and improving access to essential supports such as Auslan interpreting, live captioning, assistive technologies, and accessible communications.

This initiative supports both the NTPS <u>EmployAbility Strategy 2024–2027</u> and the <u>NT Disability Strategy 2022–2032</u>. It does this by increasing workplace accessibility and promoting the consistent delivery of reasonable adjustments for employees with disability across agencies. Additionally, it will enable Northern Territory Government professionals to engage more confidently and inclusively with people with disability.

The Northern Territory Government has commenced work to scope the feasibility of a workplace adjustment passport within NTPS. The passport is intended to enable employees with disability a consistent process to inform managers of reasonable adjustments they require to perform at their best in the workplace. The passport is intended to follow the employee if they move to new workplaces and/or have a change in management.

This work complements broader initiatives under the NTPS EmployAbility Strategy 2024–2027, including:

- Enhancing access to assistive technologies and inclusive workplace solutions
- Delivering a specialised OneNTG leadership development mentoring program
- Supporting the Disability Employment Program (DEP), graduate and traineeship programs led by DCDD.
- Measuring progress through the People Matter Survey 2025.

Actions table: Northern Territory

Objective	Action
Key professionals' workforces are able to	Establish an across government panel contract for accessibility services.
confidently and positively respond to people with disability.	Scope the feasibility of implementing a workplace adjustment passport within the NTPS.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT) - Community Attitudes

Commencement statement

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government is committed to partnering with people with disability to drive reform across policies, systems, and settings. This commitment is embedded in the <u>Disability Inclusion Act 2024</u> (the Act), which provides a legislative foundation for strategic reform. The Act mandates the establishment of the Disability Advisory Council, which will advise the Minister on issues affecting people with disability and promote collaboration across government, community, and advocacy sectors.

The Act requires all ACT Government directorates and public sector bodies to develop Disability Inclusion Plans (DIPs). These plans must be informed by consultation with people with disability, their families and carers, Disabled People's Organisations, and advocacy groups. These measures ensure that people with disability are central to shaping the policies and services that affect their lives.

Under this TAP, the ACT Government reaffirms its commitment to fostering inclusive attitudes and reducing stigma and discrimination experienced by people with disability. Central to this is the ACT Government's ongoing commitment to promoting inclusion through the <u>Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards</u>. The awards are held every year to celebrate people with disability who are leaders in the community. They also recognise individuals, organisations, and businesses that support inclusion by working alongside people with disability.

The awards include 6 categories including awards recognising:

- Individuals, businesses and organisations who excel in consultation and co-design through the creation of strong, equal partnerships with people with disability; and
- people with disability who have made a significant leadership contribution to creating change that promotes the full and equal participation of all people in the ACT.

The ACT Government will continue to fund <u>Disability Inclusion Grants</u> (DIGs). This program aims to support innovative projects that increase opportunities for people with disability to participate in mainstream community or social groups. DIGS provide up to \$20,000 in funding for local clubs, groups, community organisations and small business to promote social inclusion for people with disability. The judging panel includes people with disability. In 2025, a total of \$159,000 (GST exclusive) was provided to 13 grant recipients.

Actions table: Australian Capital Territory

Objective	Action
Improve community attitudes	Implement the ACT Disability Strategy 2024-2033, the ACT Disability
to positively impact on Policy	Health Strategy 2023-2033, the ACT Inclusive Education Strategy
Priorities under the Strategy.	2024-2034, the ACT Disability Justice Strategy 2019-2029, and the
	Disability Inclusion Act 2024 to deliver improved outcomes with and
	for people with disability in the ACT.



Inclusive Homes and Communities Targeted Action Plan

Key Outcomes and Objectives

The <u>Inclusive Homes and Communities TAP</u> is designed to drive progress under the Strategy's Inclusive Homes and Communities Outcome Area and recognises the importance of housing, infrastructure and inclusive communities in supporting people with disability take part in their communities. In practical terms, this Outcome Area encourages actions that support the participation of people with disability in their communities through accessible housing, transport and the built environment.

This TAP has the following objectives:

- People with disability are able to fully participate in social, recreational, sporting, religious and cultural life.
- The built and natural environment is accessible.
- Housing is accessible and people with disability have choice and control about where they live, who
 they live with, and who comes into their home.
- Transport systems are accessible for the whole community.

Actions will be implemented with an intersectional and diversity lens.

This recognises that a person, or group of people can be affected by multiple forms of discrimination and disadvantage. This can occur due to a person's race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, impairment, class, religion, age, social origin, and other identity markers. This means that activities taken in line with this TAP should incorporate tailored approaches designed to enable and include people and groups who face intersectional barriers.

Actions should also consider how to meet the needs of people with disability in rural and remote locations, First Nations people with disability, people with disability in culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women and girls with disability, people with disability who identify as LGBTIQ+ and young people with disability.

National actions – Inclusive Homes and Communities

Guided by advice from people with disability, Australian, state and territory governments will work together to implement these actions. This collaboration will ensure greater coordination and alignment between governments. DHDA has oversight of the implementation of TAPs

Strategy outcome: People with disability live in inclusive, accessible and well-designed homes and communities.

Commencement statement

The Inclusive Homes and Communities TAP commits to 10 National actions across 4 objectives.

All governments are working together over the next 3 years of the TAPs to implement the national actions for consistency. To do this, we will work together by sharing, where possible, the steps each jurisdiction will take to implement national actions. This may be through workshops initiated by jurisdictions, and/or targeted workshops between a jurisdiction and the relevant Australian agency.

Each jurisdiction will have their own activities around engaging people with disability to implement actions.

Targeted national engagement

A range of engagement activities across national objectives are being planned or are underway. Some examples of engagement activities that will help progress national actions are outlined below.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) will support local governments by updating the **Disability Inclusion Planning – A Guide for Local Government**. ALGA will also establish a Disability Network and Community of Practice for councils and develop and publish a booklet showcasing council-led disability initiatives.

ALGA will deliver webinars and a workshop for local governments that will inform the development of the Guide and the booklet. People with disability will be at the forefront of this work.

As a signatory to the National Closing the Gap Agreement, ALGA will draw on its networks with First Nations councils, advocacy work, and insights from the Joint Council on the Agreement. These resources will help inform how ALGA considers the intersection between people with disability and First Nations people.

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has commenced initial engagement activities with the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA). The engagement has focused on the potential implementation of expanded filtering features on real estate websites. These features would allow users to search for properties based on specific accessibility needs.

REIA will continue to be engaged on possibilities around accessible filtering feature on all real estate websites. Engagement with people with disability will occur once agreement on this action has progress. This will include engaging a supplier to undertake user testing of possible accessible filtering options with people with disability.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCSA) is working collaboratively with people with disability, public transport operators and providers, and state and territory governments to reform the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Transport Standards). Where a legislative change has been agreed, the Transport Standards are being amended to reflect new requirements that public transport operators and providers will be required to meet. The Department is also convening several working groups, including those focused on reporting and point-to-point transport, which are expected to conclude by the end of 2025. Recommendations from the working groups will inform future work and updated guidance documents.

The Australian Government's 2024 Aviation White Paper included initiatives aimed at improving the accessibility of air travel for people with disability. This included the creation of new aviation-specific disability standards as a schedule to the Transport Standards. This work will focus on strengthening air travel accessibility by requiring airlines and airports to coordinate support for passengers with disability and enabling communication of accessibility needs through passenger assistance profiles. The Aviation White Paper also committed to reviewing limits on assisted passengers, publishing user guides that outline airlines' and airports' legal obligations under the DDA and new standards, and consulting on better remedies for damage to mobility devices.

At the state level, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is undertaking accessible infrastructure projects in consultation with the Accessible Transport Advisory Committee (ATAC) and through broader community engagement. These initiatives aim to deliver a safe, equitable, and integrated transport system by improving accessibility across infrastructure, information, and services.

In Victoria, the Transport Accessibility Strategic Framework was publicly released in October 2024. Developed through a co-design process, the Framework reflects the priorities of people with disability across all transport modes. It was tested at each stage to ensure alignment with participant feedback. The Department of Transport and Planning's Accessibility Action Plan 2025–2029 – Towards Equitable Journeys and Communities sets out clear actions and goals. It focuses on improving accessibility and inclusion across the transport and planning services.

On 14 November 2024, the Australian Government released <u>Equity: the Arts and Disability Associated Plan</u> (the Plan). The Plan is a four-year roadmap of activities to build the foundations for equity for artists, arts workers and audiences with disability across Australia, with an \$8.1 million investment in actions to drive change. The Plan was developed and is being delivered in partnership with Creative Australia, in consultation with Screen Australia. It is an initiative under Australia's Cultural Policy, Revive, and an Associated Plan under Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts has also convened an Arts and Disability Intergovernmental Working Group to discuss arts and disability policy matters, including consulting on progress of actions under **Equity: the Arts and Disability Associated Plan**, arts policy development, state and territory disability strategies and funding initiatives.

Actions table: National

Objective

Action

Objective 1

People with disability are able to participate in social, recreational, sporting, religious and cultural life as equal members in the community.

1.1 All governments to embed accessibility standards for public funding of large-scale community events.

Australian Government lead: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.

Responsible owners: all governments

1.2 All governments ensure large-scale community events have disability inclusion and access plan in place to utilise public land/facilities and/or receive funding.

Responsible owners: all governments

1.3 Expand the application and availability of accessible infrastructure, including portable infrastructure, at large-scale community and public events.

Responsible owners: all governments

Objective 2

The built and natural environment is accessible.

2.1 All Local Governments to embed good disability inclusive practice including, where relevant, completion of disability inclusion action plans that meets the needs of First Nations people and their constituents with disability. The Australian Local Government Association provides some guidance in **Disability Inclusion Planning**

- A Guide for Local Government.

Responsible owner: Australian Local Government Association

2.2 All Local Governments to commit to incorporating universal design in the design of all new and upgraded public spaces. The Australian Local Government Association has provided guidance in Disability Inclusion Planning – A Guide for Local Government.

Responsible owner: Australian Local Government Association

Progress update:

An updated Guide will be released in 2026 and will contain more relevant and up-to-date information.

Objective

Action

Objective 3

Housing is accessible and people with disability have choice about where they live, who they live with, and who comes into their home.

3.1 State and territory governments to increase the availability and supply of accessible and adaptive housing for people with disability through the National Construction Code consistent, in principle, with recommendation 7.35 of the DRC.

Responsible owners: state and territory governments

3.2 State and territory governments to develop and implement accessible and inclusive processes for allocating and modifying social housing for people with disability consistent, in principle, with recommendation 7.36 of the DRC.

Responsible owners: state and territory governments

3.3 Australian Government seek to engage with the Real Estate Institute of Australia and national real estate websites and platforms to scope the options available to better filter listings based on accessibility features and standards.

Australian Government lead and owner: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Objective 4

Transport systems are accessible for the whole community.

4.1 States and territories to commit to improving accessibility of transport infrastructure.

Responsible owners: state and territory governments

- **4.2** The Commonwealth, states and territories will work together with people with disability to progress the remaining Transport Standards reform areas:
 - Reporting
 - Rideshare
 - Hearing augmentation
 - Braille
 - Removable gangways ferries.

Australian Government lead: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.

Responsible owners: all governments

State and territory actions – Inclusive Homes and Communities

As part of the development of new TAPs, the Australian government has worked collaboratively with state and territory governments to develop joint streamlined actions for implementation. As part of this collaboration, some state and territory governments chose to add actions specific to their jurisdiction to consider the unique needs of local communities. In some cases, a progress update may be included under actions where implementation has commenced.

New South Wales (NSW) – Inclusive Homes and Communities

Commencement statement

Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) will undertake a number of accessible infrastructure projects in consultation with the Accessible Transport Advisory Committee (ATAC) and through community engagement. These will deliver a safe, equitable and integrated transport system across NSW, by improving the accessibility of the public transport network (infrastructure, information and services).

Homes NSW will increase the supply of social housing that meets Silver Accessible Standards or above. This will ensure access to social housing for people with disability, through allocations and investment in modifications.

The Department of Customer Service NSW and Department of Communities and Justice will work with industry bodies to host an emerging technologies forum to promote accessible and emerging technologies. The forum will explore the potential opportunities becoming available to assist people with disability to access government services and community opportunities safely through use of technology, artificial intelligence, and telecommunications. This forum will involve people with lived experience and link with the NSW Digital Inclusion Strategy.

Actions table: New South Wales

Objective	Action
Transport systems are accessible for the whole community.	Transport for NSW (TfNSW) will deliver a safe, equitable and integrated transport system across NSW, by improving the accessibility of the public transport network (infrastructure, information and services). Transport for NSW will ensure that people with disability are actively engaged in the design and delivery of products, infrastructure and services via the Accessible Transport Advisory Committee (ATAC) and through community engagement.

Objective	Action
Housing is accessible and people with disability have choice and control about where they live, who they live with, and who comes into their home.	Increase the supply of social housing that meets Silver Accessible Standards or above. Ensure access to social housing for people with disability, through allocations and investment in modifications.
People with disability are able to fully participate in social, recreational, sporting, religious, and cultural life.	NSW will conduct an Emerging Technologies Forum in 2025 to explore the potential opportunities becoming available to assist people with disability to access government services and community opportunities safely through use of technology, artificial intelligence, and telecommunications. The forum will involve government, business, academia, and people with lived experience of disability to examine the potential safeguards
	and systems to mitigate risk and maximise benefits. The work will link with the NSW Digital Inclusion Strategy.

Victoria (VIC) - Inclusive Homes and Communities

Commencement statement

The Victorian Government's initiatives in transport and housing are committed to improving accessibility and inclusion.

The Transport Accessibility Strategic Framework was publicly released in October 2024 as HTML first content on the <u>Victorian Government's website</u>.

The Framework was developed through a co-design process that identified the priorities of people with disability across all modes of transport. Multiple workshops, focus groups and interviews were held with:

- People with disability, including people with low vision or blindness, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, people with reduced mobility, people with cognitive disability, people with complex communication needs, people with non-visible disabilities.
- People with disability who have intersectional experiences, such as First Nations Peoples, and/or people who are culturally and racially marginalised.
- Members of various disability advisory committees.
- Carers
- Older Victorians.

At each stage of the Strategic Framework's development, the elements were tested to confirm that they aligned with discussions and reflected the thinking of participants.

Building on the Framework, the DTP's Accessibility Action Plan 2025-2029 – Towards Equitable Journeys and Communities, outlines specific actions to improve accessibility and inclusion across the transport and planning portfolios. The action plan is expected to be published on the DTPs website by the end of 2025.

The Action Plan is based on priorities identified by people with disability and focuses on four areas:

- Assets, with actions to improve accessibility on our rolling stock, at stations and stops, and in collaboration with public transport operators.
- **Journeys**, now also inclusive of systems and services to reflect the planning portfolio, with actions to address transport connections, disruption management, livable housing, and digital platforms that support journeys.
- Organisation and Public Behaviour, with actions to facilitate more co-design with people with disability, user experience research, and training.
- Information and Innovation, with actions to uplift signage and wayfinding, provide inclusive communications, and integrate accessibility into project design, prioritisation and policy development.

The Department of Transport and Planning's (DTP) Chief Accessibility Advocate and Accessible Transport Advisory Committee were involved in each stage of developing this Action Plan. They reviewed and provided feedback on the draft actions and identified areas for improvement. They also ensured that consultation with people with disability is embedded throughout all the actions.

DTP also worked with major public transport operators, key transport and planning partners and major infrastructure delivery authorities to ensure alignment of existing and future accessibility work and objectives. Public transport operator accessibility references groups were also briefed.

DTP will continue to work with people with disability, their Chief Accessibility Advocate, the Accessible Transport Advisory Committee (ATAC), public transport operator accessibility reference groups and external accessibility stakeholders to implement actions in this Plan.

Housing efforts are progressing to ensure that a proportion of newly built social housing is designed to be accessible. These homes are being developed in alignment with <u>Australian Standard 1428.1</u>. It sets out requirements for access and mobility, helping to create inclusive living environments for people with disability. This standard was developed by Standards Australia's Committee ME-064. The committee collaborated with disability organisations including Blind Citizens Australia, Deafness Forum of Australia, Disabled Persons Assembly New Zealand, and Physical Disability Australia.

This commencement statement highlights the Victorian government's commitment to accessibility and inclusion in both transport and housing, while acknowledging the specific initiatives and standards guiding each area.

Actions table: Victoria

Objective

Transport systems are accessible for the whole community, applied to all forms of transport, ensuring persons with disability have a strong voice in a formal capacity for future infrastructure.

Action

Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) Transport Accessibility Strategy Framework.

The objectives of the Transport Accessibility Strategic Framework are to provide a transport system that inspires confidence, values all users and is easy to use. These objectives were developed after listening to people with disability and what they valued in a transport network.

The Strategic Framework sets out five principles that inform our activities on how DTP and other transport agencies will work to ensure we provide an accessible transport system.

They are:

- A user-centered and outcome-focused
- · Accessibility should be built in, not bolted on
- Focus on the whole journey
- Work across organisational boundaries, and
- Embrace new ways of doing things.

The Strategic Framework includes four strategic directions to address the needs of users and key areas where improvements can be made. These areas include:

- Assets inaccessible infrastructure, trains, trams, and buses can be absolute barriers to access. Missing features such as connecting footpaths, shelters, seating, accessible toilets, announcements, and hearing loops can make journeys prohibitive.
- Journeys looks to explore a range of opportunities to make it easier for people with disability to use transport e.g., improving the coordination and aligning services will give greater flexibility to travel when and where they wish.
- Information and innovation making information available so that people with disability can plan their journeys more easily, before and during their journeys and travel more confidently, and
- Culture and awareness deliver improvements through staff training, employing people with disability as frontline staff, sharing stories, and running campaigns that demonstrate equitable access for people with disability using the public transport network.

Objective

Action

Housing is accessible and people with disability have choice and control about where they live, who they live with, and who comes into their home Ensuring five per cent of the social housing constructed by Homes Victoria under the Big Housing Build have a high level of physical accessibility to meet the needs of Victorians with significant disability.

Drop-off areas, paths, lifts, and car parking will be included to make all homes easily accessible. Inside the home, kitchens, bathrooms, and storage will also be accessible.

Tasmania (TAS) - Inclusive Homes and Communities

Commencement statement

On 1 July 2025 new Tasmanian legislation, the <u>Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024</u> (the Act) commenced. The Act introduces new requirements for consultation, planning, and reporting of progress in delivering actions. These actions will be delivered through a whole-of-government Tasmanian Disability Inclusion Plan and action plans for defined entities, including Government Departments and Government Business Enterprises.

The first Tasmanian Disability Inclusion Plan will be published in mid-2026. The Plan will be informed by an extensive community consultation. In the interim, <u>Tasmania's Disability Strategy 2025–27</u> includes actions across several agencies. These actions aim to ensure that Tasmanians with disability live in inclusive, accessible, and well-designed homes and communities.

The Tasmanian Department of State Growth has an active disability access and inclusion agenda under its internal **Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-25** (the DAIP).

The DAIP was informed by a targeted consultation process involving State Growth employees, people with disability, carers, community members, who provided comments on the development of the plan. The consultation process was undertaken by the Australian Disability Network, which is a nationally recognised expert consultant in the field of disability access and inclusion.

People were invited to participate in the consultation for the DAIP in a variety of ways, including through a survey, interviews and focus groups.

Actions table: Tasmania

Objective

Action

Housing is accessible and affordable and people with disability have choice and control about where they live, who they live with, and who comes into their home.

Develop a plan for the future of Homes Tasmania specialist disability accommodation portfolio for people with extreme functional impairment or very high needs.

Progress update:

The <u>Homes Tasmania Board</u> has approved a plan to explore options that will enable its specialist disability accommodation (SDA) portfolio to be eligible for NDIS funding.

A consultant has been engaged and is currently working with Homes Tasmania to support the process.

Under the Tasmanian Housing Strategy's 2023–2027 Action Plan, Homes Tasmania has consulted with disability service and housing providers. It is now exploring options to make its Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) portfolio eligible for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding.

People with disability live in inclusive and accessible communities. Implement the Tasmanian Department of Health Disability Health Strategy. The Disability Health Strategy is finalised and released before end of 2024. Progress update: The Tasmanian Department of Health's Disability Health Strategy was released in February 2025 along with an Action Plan for 2024 to 2025. The plan outlines activities to be undertaken across the key focus areas of Quality, Accessibility, Decision Making, Workforce and Information Systems. The Tasmanian Department of Health will report on progress made through the Action Plan for 2024 – 2025 by early 2026.

Queensland (QLD) - Inclusive Homes and Communities

Commencement statement

The Expert Disability Housing Advisory Panel (EDHAP) was established by the Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) to provide advice on the interagency housing action plan and national and state disability reform agenda from a housing and homelessness perspective. It is chaired and fully led by people with lived experience of disability, including First Nations peoples with disability. Secretariat functions for the EDHAP are provided by the Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN).

DPHW also engaged QDN to deliver a sector-led home modifications communications strategy for people with disability in private rental homes. It aims to increase awareness of their rights, responsibilities, and options in installing minor home modifications for health and safety reasons. The project will deliver best practice guidance and educational material for people with disability, landlords and body corporates about their rights and responsibilities. A working group of key stakeholders was established and a co-design workshop held in July 2025.

DHPW partnered with QDN to deliver the My Housing Options Toolkit (the Toolkit) to empower people with disability and assist housing and disability providers to navigate housing options. The Toolkit will be delivered in the final quarter of 2025. It will support people with disability and their networks (both formal and informal) to have more meaningful housing-related conversations, underpinned by a person's rights, choice, control and inclusion in their community. The Toolkit is being co-designed with people who have lived experience of disability, private rental, home ownership, and social and community housing, and housing, disability and community service providers. It will include a range of resources, and feature real case studies, to support people with disability to consider their housing and living options, make housing choices and plan for their housing future.

Queensland Government's Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) works with people with disability and disability advocates to make public transport more accessible and inclusive. TMR has established accessibility reference groups with community members with disability to provide insights and advice on transport projects across rail, bus, ferry and taxi services. Examples include:

- The statewide Smart Ticketing project included an accessibility reference group that helped ensure Translink's public transport ticketing solution was accessible. This included introducing new debit and credit card payment options to give customers more choice in how they pay.
- The TMR Accessibility Reference Group brings together people with disability, disability advocates, QDN, and the Queensland Disability Advisory Council (QDAC). It also includes TMR project owners, local government, and industry partners to discuss accessibility issues across Queensland's transport network.
- The Co-design Steering Group for the new TMR Disability Action Plan, ensuring genuine co-design and meaningful community input. The group met in February and May 2025 and provided key advice on consultation activities.

Actions table: Queensland

Objective	Action
People with disability live in inclusive and accessible communities.	Establish an Expert Disability Housing Advisory Panel, chaired and fully led by people with lived experience of disability, including First Nations peoples with disability.
Housing is accessible and affordable and people with disability have choice and control about where they live, who they live with, and who comes into their home.	Deliver a sector-led home modifications communication strategy for people with disability about their rights, responsibilities and options in installing home modifications in their private rental home. Partner with Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) to redesign 'My Housing Options' toolkit and co-design more housing resources with QDN housing champions. The toolkit will support people with disability to consider their housing and living options, make housing choices and plan for their housing future.
	Implement Partnering for Inclusive Housing with Queenslanders with disability 2024-2027.
Transport systems are accessible for the whole community, applied to all forms of transport, ensuring persons with disability have a strong voice in a formal capacity for future infrastructure.	Continue to consult with persons with disability on transport accessibility issues across all forms of transport through new and established consultative groups.

South Australia (SA) - Inclusive Homes and Communities

Commencement statement

The South Australian Government is committed to advancing inclusive housing outcomes in partnership with people with disability. The South Australian Housing Trust (the Trust) is leading two key actions under this TAP, with strong emphasis on co-design and lived experience engagement.

The Trust is undertaking a comprehensive review and recommissioning of the Disability Housing Program to replace legacy housing stock with fit-for-purpose, contemporary housing. This process is being co-designed with community housing providers and people with lived experience of disability. Throughout the co-design process, lived experience engagement has informed new principles which prioritise choice, control, independence, and community connection for DHP residents. Future consultation will include direct engagement with tenants to ensure new arrangements reflect the aspirations of each resident.

The lived experience consultants were engaged through the Trust's Review of Housing Services for People Living with Disability. Their role has continued through the lifetime of the project, to ensuring lived experience voices shape housing models, tenancy supports, and redevelopment priorities. An Invitation to Supply for the DHP will commence soon, with an aim to select providers who demonstrate capacity to deliver inclusive, sustainable housing outcomes.

The Trust has also commenced work to improve the accessibility and usability of its websites. These changes were informed by extensive consultation with people who have lived experience of disability. The consultation involved 65 participants from diverse disability cohorts, including intellectual, physical, and psychosocial disability, as well as First Nations people with disability.

Engagement formats included one-on-one interviews, group forums, deep-dive housing journey interviews, and case studies facilitated by Aboriginal Housing Specialist Support Coordinators.

Key improvements include clearer navigation, consistent design, structured headings, alt text, and Easy Read guides for key topics. Posters have also been developed for regional offices to support access. These changes directly respond to feedback from people with disability and aim to improve digital inclusion and access to **housing information**. Consultation has actively included young people, First Nations people, and people with complex support needs.

Partnerships with organisations such as JFA Purple Orange, SACID, Physical Disability Australia, and the SA Health Lived Experience Advisory Group informed this project. Engagement methods were tailored to meet communication needs, including use of interpreters, Easy Read formats, and culturally safe practices.

Actions table: South Australia

Objective

Action

Provide fit-for-purpose and contemporary housing outcomes for people living with disability within the community housing sector.

Review and recommissioning of the SA Housing Trust's Disability Housing Program to support the redevelopment of legacy disability housing program stock into fit-for-purpose and contemporary housing outcomes for people living with disability within the community housing sector.

Progress update:

The Trust review and recommissioning of the Disability Housing Program is being delivered through a co-design process with community housing providers and lived experience representatives.

Six sessions have been held with providers including Unity, Access 2 Place, YourPlace, Minda Housing, Inhousing, and Kirinari.

Two lived experience representatives have been engaged across the lifetime of the project to assist in shaping key design principles, such as tenant choice, independence, community connection, and specialised tenancy support requirements.

An Invitation to Supply is expected to be released soon to select delivery partners, alongside further engagement with tenants to inform new service arrangements.

To ensure accessible communication and information is available for public documents relating to housing services.

To actively improve SA Housing Trust (SAHT) websites to meet WCAG 2.2 accessibility standards or above, modernise digital and written communications to support people with disability to have better access to information relating to housing services.

Progress update:

The Trust has improved the accessibility of both of its websites, based on lived experience consultation delivered in 2024. Key Improvements include:

- Grouping service information into easy-to-understand categories
- Applying a consistent layout and design across all pages to ensure a uniform user experience
- Using structured heading styles and increased white space to improve readability
- Adding alt. text for all hyperlinks and images to support screen readers
- Clearly outlining on the website how customers can access assistance if they require an Interpreter or have Communication difficulties (National relay services)

Easy Read guides are now being developed for various website sections such as Feedback, Enquiries, Public Housing, Maintenance, and other customer key topics.

Ongoing updates will continue to reflect user needs and feedback.

Western Australia (WA) - Inclusive Homes and Communities

Commencement statement

In Western Australia (WA), more than 500,000 people with disability rely on mainstream services being adaptable and responsive to their needs. Targeted action is underway to ensure WA has strong, accessible and connected systems and services.

WA's Transport and Major Infrastructure Portfolio has undertaken extensive engagement in the planning and delivery of various transport projects, including:

- Infrastructure design such as train stations, fishing platforms, recreational boating facilities, associated carparks and public facilities. For example, the METRONET Access and Inclusion Reference Group (AIRG) provided valuable input throughout the design and delivery of the **METRONET program**, the expansion of Perth's passenger rail system, including the Morley-Ellenbrook Line and Thornlie-Cockburn Link projects. Members of the AIRG, which includes people with lived experience, have now joined a new group that will give advice to the Public Transport Authority on relevant matters.
- Development and transition to a smartcard-based Passenger Transport Subsidy Scheme. For example, stakeholder engagement resulted in tactile enhancements to the smartcard and creation of Easy Read and video information materials.
- Design and delivery of tailored community education programs and engagement strategies for diverse and vulnerable public transport users. For example, train station familiarisation tours, stakeholder forums and free online train-the-trainer sessions for support workers.

Lotterywest funds projects across WA that benefit the community, including people with disability, through grants for projects that align with the <u>Lotterywest Community Investment Framework</u>. Organisations must describe how beneficiaries are engaged and consulted. If the project benefits people with disability, applicants must explain how they were involved in creating the initiative and how they will stay involved during its rollout, delivery, and review.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction's (DBCA) Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) app gives children greater access to WA's national parks by providing family-friendly information and resources about enjoying WA national parks with children. During EKIP's development, Nature PlayWA undertook conversational interviews and conducted a comprehensive community survey. This involved 153 people who either have a disability or are a parent/guardian or carer of a person with disability. The survey findings identified the barriers and motivators families face accessing and using national parks. The DBCA maintains relationships with the disability sector services to assist with the codesign of resources and ongoing consultation on the EKIP app.

The WA Government is creating more accessible Social Housing by ensuring all new Public Housing is built to a minimum of silver-level liveable housing standards, where practicable. The Department of Housing and Works seeks input from the community housing sector and disability support peak bodies to support its activities as required.

Actions table: Western Australia

Objective	Action
People with disability are able to participate in social, recreational, sporting, religious and cultural life as equal members in the community.	Fund projects that build an inclusive thriving community for people with disability.
The built and natural environment is accessible.	Every Kid in a Park – develop and launch a Play Anywhere Trail on the Play trails App to give children of all abilities greater access to WA's National Parks.
	Contribute to a well-connected network of 'Changin Places' facilities across WA.
Housing is accessible and people with disability have choice and control about where they live, who they live with, and who comes into their home.	All new social housing in WA will be built to a minimum of silver liveable under the National Liveable Design Standards where practical. (up to a third of social housing tenants are people with disability). Continue to deliver affordable housing that meets silver liveable design standards, under the Targeted Affordable Rental Housing Policy.
their nome.	Facilitate the delivery of more SDA designed for identified clients by registered Community Housing Providers through the sale of government owned land at a discounted rate.
	Continue to encourage registered Community Housing Providers to submit proposals for accessible social housing through the Calls for Submissions for Community Housing Providers.
	Continue to provide the Access Home Loan through Keystart for people with a permanent disability and people who care for a dependent with a permanent disability.
	Develop the first Disability Asset Management Plan (DAMP) for social housing, government regional officer housing, Aboriginal housing, as well as disability services and child protection assets.
	The framework will articulate the housing needs of people with disability, identify the existing pathways to accessible housing and identify the areas for improvement in providing greater housing choice.
Transport systems are accessible for the whole community.	Transport systems, services and processes delivered by the Transport Portfolio are developed or updated so they are inclusive and accessible to people with disability.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT) – Inclusive Homes and Communities

Commencement statement

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government is committed to partnering with people with disability to drive reform across policies, systems, and settings. This commitment is embedded in the <u>Disability Inclusion Act 2024</u> (the Act), which provides a legislative foundation for strategic reform. The Act mandates the establishment of the Disability Advisory Council. This Council will advise the Minister on issues affecting people with disability and promote collaboration across government, community, and advocacy sectors.

The Act also requires all ACT Government directorates and public sector bodies to develop Disability Inclusion Plans (DIPs). The DIPs will be informed by consultation with people with disability, their families and carers, Disabled People's Organisations, and advocacy groups. These measures ensure that people with disability are central to shaping the policies and services that affect their lives.

The ACT Government continues to actively engage with key disability reference groups to support the design and implementation of initiatives aligned with its commitments under the TAP. Reference groups such as the Transport Canberra and City Services Accessibility Reference Group, the Disability Education Reference Group, and the Disability Health Reference Group continue to play an important role in policy development. Their input helps ensure that service delivery supports meaningful inclusion and accessibility.

Actions table: Australian Capital Territory

Objective	Action
People with disability live in	Implement the ACT Disability Strategy 2024-2033, the ACT Disability
accessible and inclusive	Health Strategy 2023-2033, the ACT Inclusive Education Strategy
communities	2024-2034, the ACT Disability Justice Strategy 2019-2029, and the
	Disability Inclusion Act 2024 to deliver improved outcomes with and
	for people with disability in the ACT.



Safety, Rights and Justice Targeted Action Plan

Key Outcomes and Objectives

The <u>Safety</u>, <u>Rights and Justice TAP</u> is designed to drive progress under the Strategy's Safety, Rights and Justice Outcome Area and aims to ensure the rights of people with disability are promoted, upheld and protected, and people with disability feel safe and enjoy equality before the law.

This TAP has the following objectives:

- The criminal justice system responds effectively to the complex needs and vulnerabilities of people with disability.
- Policies, processes and programs for people with disability promote gender equality and prevent violence against groups of heightened risk, including women and children.
- Policies, processes and programs provide better responses to people with disability who have experienced trauma.

Actions will be implemented with an intersectional and diversity lens.

This recognises that a person, or group of people can be affected by multiple forms of discrimination and disadvantage. This can occur due to a person's race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, impairment, class, religion, age, social origin, and other identity markers. This means that activities taken in line with this TAP should incorporate tailored approaches designed to enable and include people and groups who face intersectional barriers.

Actions should also consider how to meet the needs of people with disability in rural and remote locations, First Nations people with disability, people with disability in culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women and girls with disability, people with disability who identify as LGBTIQ+ and young people with disability.

National actions - Safety, Rights and Justice

Guided by advice from people with disability, Australian, state and territory governments will work together to implement these actions. This collaboration will ensure greater coordination and alignment between governments. DHDA has oversight of the implementation of TAPs.

Strategy outcome: The rights of people with disability are promoted, upheld and protected, and people with disability feel safe and enjoy equality before the law.

Commencement statement

The Safety, Rights and Justice TAP commits to 4 National actions across 3 objectives.

All governments are working together over the next 3 years of the TAPs to implement the national actions for consistency. To do this we will work together by sharing, where possible, the steps each jurisdiction will take to implement national actions. This may be through workshops initiated by jurisdictions, and/or targeted workshops between a jurisdiction and the relevant Australian agency.

Each jurisdiction will have their own activities around engaging people with disability to implement actions.

Targeted national engagement

A range of engagement activities across national objectives are being planned or are underway. Some examples of engagement activities that will help progress actions are outlined below.

Part IAD of the *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth) provides protections for vulnerable persons in Commonwealth criminal proceedings. In December 2024, these protections were strengthened through amendments made by the *Crimes Amendment (Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence) Act 2024* (Cth). These amendments include requiring a vulnerable person's evidence to be pre-recorded, reducing the number of times they need to give evidence, as well as requiring the court to arrange an interpreter for a vulnerable person if they are unable to understand, or have a disability that would prevent them from exercising reasonable fluency in, the English language. These amendments will enable people with disability to participate in proceedings and access justice on an equal basis.

Consultations for the development of these amendments, included targeted confidential consultations with more than 200 government and non-government stakeholders. These include; victim and survivor advocacy groups, state and territory government departments, state and territory courts, prosecution and law enforcement agencies, Bar Associations, Community Legal Centres, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, non-government organisations, Legal Aid organisations, legal services providers and the Law Council of Australia.

The Department of Social Services developed a draft Disability Lens on the First Action Plan (DL1AP) in response to Disability Royal Commission joint recommendation 8.23. The DL1AP sits under the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032 (National Plan) and associated action plans including the First Action Plan 2023-2027 (First Action Plan). The Disability Lens builds on the National Plan and First Action Plan to ensure that policies and actions recognise and respond to the experiences of women and children with disability. The DL1AP aims to be a tool to guide action across government, organisations and the community.

Engagement activities between 1 January 2025 and 1 June 2025, included ongoing targeted consultations with a range of internal and external stakeholders to inform the development of the DL1AP. This included women with disability, disability representative organisations, disability and Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence (FDSV) service providers, and state and territory government officials.

The National Disability Insurance Agency will be rolling out trauma informed training to all of its staff that support National Disability Insurance Scheme participants in contact with the justice system. The training will commence being rolled out from September 2025. The sessions are interactive and will provide foundational knowledge in Trauma Informed Practice, its impact and practical ways to apply trauma informed principles. The training was designed to support staff with an understanding of inclusive and trauma aware practises, de-escalation strategies, awareness and management of vicarious trauma and techniques to build rapport with participants affected by trauma. The training will be implemented virtually due to the geographic nature of the team and will be a virtual trainer – lead facilitation. Staff will also receive access to digital materials and optional follow up resources.

Actions table: National

Objective

Action

Objective 1

The criminal justice system responds effectively to the complex needs and vulnerabilities of people with disability

1.1 State and territories to improve and standardise processes and policies for screening, assessing, and identifying disability in custody consistent, in principle, with recommendations 8.14 - 8.16 of the DRC. Screening, assessing and identifying disability will allow states and territories to respond effectively to the complex needs and vulnerabilities of people with disability.

Consideration should be given to the data so it can be made suitable for linkage to the National Disability Data Asset.

Responsible owners: state and territory governments

1.2 State and territory governments to examine ways to improve support systems to address the complex needs, vulnerabilities and experiences of people with disability interacting with the justice system.

Establish consistent mechanisms to record and track the data of people who have interacted with the justice system.

Further consideration of the potential implications around data sharing, including screening data, particularly in smaller communities where the data may be inherently identifiable.

Data collected will adhere to the 'Framework for governance on Indigenous Data'.

Enhance supports for frontline workers within justice systems to enable them to better respond to disability.

Increase availability of supports that facilitate effective communication between people with disability and police, workers in the court system, and workers in prison and other correctional facilities.

Responsible owners: state and territory governments

experienced trauma.

Objective **Action** Objective 2 **2.1** All governments to improve the awareness, resources, availability, and provision of interconnected supports for people with disability who Policies, processes and are victim-survivors of violence, abuse, or neglect. This should include programs for people with mapping current systems of support for jurisdictions and the disability promote gender Commonwealth around FDSV. equality and prevent violence against groups at Australian Government Lead: Department of Social Services heightened risk, including **Responsible owners:** state and territory governments women and children. **Objective 3** 3.1 State and territory governments to provide appropriate initial and ongoing training and support in best practice, First Nations informed and Policies, processes and culturally competent trauma-informed approaches for existing disability programs provide better support services within civil and criminal justice systems, police services, responses to people with and other emergency services. disability who have

Responsible owners: state and territory governments

State and territory actions – Safety, Rights and Justice

As part of the development of new TAPs, the Australian government has worked collaboratively with state and territory governments to develop joint streamlined actions for implementation. As part of this collaboration, some state and territory governments chose to add actions specific to their jurisdiction to consider the unique needs of local communities. In some cases, a progress update may be included under actions where implementation has commenced.

New South Wales (NSW) - Safety, Rights and Justice

Commencement statement

The New South Wales (NSW) Ageing and Disability Commission (ADC) is developing information and resources to build awareness confidence and capability of community and frontline workers to better prevent, identify and respond to coercive control of adults with disability and older people.

The NSW Government is partnering with the Centre for Community Welfare Training (CCWT) to run a series of free online webinars in 2025 on 'Effective Interventions and Coercive Control'. The webinars are available to NGO staff and other frontline workers in the domestic and family violence sector.

In March 2025, the ADC delivered an information webinar for over 300 NSW Health staff. This session was a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of the ADC's role. It also highlighted the important collaborative work between the ADC and NSW Health. Their partnership focuses on addressing abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older people and adults with disability.

On 19 November 2024, NSW Parliament established the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Ageing and Disability under the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019.

The Committee's functions include monitoring, reviewing, and reporting to the NSW Parliament on how the ADC exercises its responsibilities. It also examines annual and other reports, and reports on trends and changes in services and issues affecting adults with disability and older people. It also provides an opportunity to strengthen awareness and consideration of issues affecting adults with disability and older people in NSW.

Actions table: New South Wales

Objective

Action

People with disability feel and are safe and free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The NSW Ageing and Disability Commission (ADC) will produce information and resources to build the awareness, confidence and capability of the community, frontline workers and service providers to better prevent, identify and respond to coercive control of adults with disability and older people.

Resources will include an online training module and webinar targeting frontline workers and service providers to:

- better understand how coercive control presents for adults with disability and older people in their family, home and community
- understand safeguarding and other measures that can assist in response to coercive control
- understand how they can better prevent, detect and respond to coercive control of adults with disability and older people.

Other resources, such as flyers, will be produced including in Easy Read and in community language formats to promote awareness of risk factors and signs of coercive control of adults with disability and older people and how to seek support.

In handling reports about abuse, neglect and exploitation, the ADC will work with NSW government and non-government agencies, community, and other stakeholders to enable better recognition of risk factors and signs of coercive control of adults with disability and older people and support early action.

Objective

The criminal justice system responds effectively to the complex needs and vulnerabilities of people with disability.

Specifically:

Young people with disability who are involved with Youth Justice NSW (YJNSW) are provided timely, targeted, youth-centric and culturally appropriate interventions and supports.

Action

YJNSW will develop the next Youth Justice Disability Action Plan (YJNSW) in partnership with Aboriginal communities.

The new Disability Action Plan will explore opportunities to partner with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) with the aim of co-designing culturally safe and inclusive services supporting First Nations young people with disability.

To develop the plan, YJNSW will engage with young people with disability and First Nations young people with disability, to identify and develop best practice initiatives which are youth-centric, culturally appropriate, and meet the accessibility needs of young people with disability/low literacy.

The plan may include:

- Improved access to diagnostic assessment and targeted disability support for young people involved in Early Intervention and Diversion programs.
- Exploring systemic barriers for all young people at risk and identify opportunities to improve timely and consistent outcomes for young people with disability.
- Improving data collection requirements for young people with disability.
- Exploring opportunities to work with Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Community Services and Homes NSW to strengthen service provision to shared clients.

Victoria (VIC) - Safety, Rights and Justice

Commencement statement

In February 2024, the Victorian Government announced it would transfer the functions of the Victorian Disability Worker Commission and the Disability Services Commissioner to the Social Services Regulator. It also committed to establishing a new complaints function within the Regulator.

The department undertook a number of targeted consultation sessions on the proposed reforms with key stakeholders including disability advocates, providers and peak bodies to inform the design of the scheme. A key focus of the consultations was how to enhance disability specialization in a broad-based Regulator.

The <u>Social Services Regulator</u> undertook a staged approach to registration for existing providers. The registration period for the last group of existing service providers, which are disability services funded or delivered by the department, and providers with Transport Accident Commission and WorkSafe, clients, is now complete.

The Regulator has established formal consultation mechanisms to engage with various groups to support the operation of the scheme. This includes a Consultative Committee comprising peak bodies for social services and other stakeholders.

The Social Services Regulator has established three reference groups to support the implementation and operation of the new scheme:

- Social service providers
- First Nations peoples
- Social services users (to be established in 2025-26).

These groups are designed to ensure diverse community voices help support the implementation and operation of the regulatory scheme.

The Victorian Disability Worker Commission and the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria continue to operate the Victorian Disability Worker Regulation Scheme to improve safety and quality in the disability workforce. There are currently around 155,000 disability workers in Victoria who are subject to the disability worker prohibition scheme and around 1,000 registered disability workers in Victoria.

Actions table: Victoria

Objective	Action
People with disability feel and are safe and free from violence,	Establish a consolidated complaint resolution function in Victoria for regulated social services within the Social Services Regulator under the Social Services Regulation Act 2021 (Vic).
abuse, neglect and exploitation.	Continue to operationalise the social services regulatory framework under the Social Services Regulator to improve and support the safe delivery of social services, including disability services.
	The Victorian Disability Worker Regulation Scheme continues to provide effective oversight of the disability workforce, ensures disability workers deliver high quality care, and helps people with disability to feel safe and supported.

Tasmania (TAS) - Safety, Rights and Justice

Commencement statement

On 1 July 2025, Tasmania's Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024 (the Act) commenced. The Act introduces new requirements for consultation, planning, and reporting through a whole-of-government Disability Inclusion Plan and action plans for defined entities such as Government Departments and Business Enterprises.

The new inclusion planning framework aims to:

- Promote inclusion and participation of people with disability
- Remove barriers to accessing services and employment
- Drive change in discriminatory attitudes and practices
- Integrate universal services with NDIS-funded supports

The Act supports Tasmania's commitment to *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031*. It enhances Tasmania's ability to deliver measurable outcomes for people with disability. It sets a benchmark for future consultation on the Strategy's TAP activities.

It also mandates inclusive consultation when developing or reviewing policies, programs, or services with significant public impact. Consultations must be equitable, flexible, and ensure people with disability have equal input. They must also consider accessibility, universal design, and intersectional barriers to inclusion.

People with disability were extensively consulted in the development of the Act and are continuing to participate in its implementation. This has included the Premier's Disability Advisory Council, the Minister's Disability Consultative Group, Disability Voices Tasmania and advocacy organisations including Speak Out Tasmania, Advocacy Tasmania and the Association for Children with Disability Tasmania. Future consultation will also include the Disability Inclusion Advisory Council which is established by the Act.

The Tasmanian Government is currently preparing a Disability Inclusion Consultation Guideline to support the Act. This guideline will assist agencies and other defined entities responsible for progressing actions in Australia's Disability Strategy TAPs. The guideline is built upon the knowledge and experiences shared at Australia's Disability Strategy State Forum held in August 2024. This guideline itself will be subject to consultation with Tasmanians with disability.

Actions table: Tasmania

Objective

Action

People with disability feel and are safe and free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Recruiting a new Disability Commissioner/Opening the Office of the Disability Commissioner or transitioning from the Interim Disability Commissioner to the Disability Commissioner.

Progress update:

Tasmania's first Disability Commissioner commenced on 12 May 2025, transitioning from the Interim Disability Commissioner.

The role of the Commissioner, a key measure under the Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024 will have a broad range of duties, including to:

- provide leadership, foster inclusion and promote accessibility across government and universal services;
- establish and monitor safeguarding mechanisms that address violence against, and the abuse, neglect and exploitation of, people with disability;
- take action, where appropriate, in response to allegations of violence, abuse, neglect, or exploitation of people with disability. This applies whether the matter is reported to the Commissioner or initiated by the Commissioner directly. Actions may include referring matters to appropriate persons or bodies and conducting investigations.

People with disability feel and are safe and free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Implementing the Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024.

Progress update:

The <u>Disability Rights</u>, <u>Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024</u> (the Act) commenced on 1 July 2025. The Act will advance and safeguard the human rights of all people with disability and will advance the inclusion of all people with disability.

The <u>Disability Rights</u>, <u>Inclusion and Safeguarding Regulations 2025</u> (the Regulations) also commenced on 1 July 2025. The Regulations:

- create the link between Tasmania's legislation and the National Standards for Disability Services;
- outline practices which are prohibited.

The Act's inaugural Senior Practitioner commenced on 12 May 2025.

From 1 July 2025 a new model for the authorisation of restrictive practices commenced. Resources are continuing to be continuing to be developed to inform and support providers with their obligations and accessible information for people with disability is also being published. These resources are available on the Office of the Senior Practitioner's **webpage**.

Queensland (QLD) - Safety, Rights and Justice

Commencement statement

The Queensland Government continues to consider reforms to Queensland's disability services restrictive practices authorisation framework. These reforms aim to maximise the safety and security of people with disability, streamline decision-making processes, and minimise administrative impacts on service providers. The Queensland Government will work with people with disability, their families and carers, advocates, disability support providers, behaviour support practitioners and other stakeholders on the next steps for this reform.

The Queensland Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support (DYJVS) engaged with First Nations people, community elders, and DYJVS staff. They also consulted approximately 300 people across the Queensland community, including family members with lived experience, to develop the neurodevelopmental framework. This engagement aimed to appropriately address the needs and vulnerabilities of young people with disability within the youth justice system. A Disability Practice Team has also been permanently established in DYJVS to enable multi-agency responses to implement the neurodevelopmental disability framework. This will include focusing on screening and assessment, enhanced disability supports throughout the youth justice system and staff training to enhance capability in supporting young people with disability.

The Queensland Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS) engaged a specialist agency to conduct a trauma-informed and accessible co-design program. This was to ensure that any resources developed to support the implementation of the **Coercive control communication**framework 2024-27 were appropriate for the audience. People with disability, carers, disability services and workers, and people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds were engaged as part of this co-design process. The resources will be released by the end of 2025 on the **Queensland Government**website.

The Queensland First Nations Justice Office and the Department of Justice (DoJ) are reviewing how effective current strategies are in ensuring cultural safety for First Nations people with disability in criminal justice settings. This work is being done in partnership with key Queensland government agencies. This work will be informed by engagement with stakeholders including First Nations people with disability with lived experience of the criminal justice system, through co-design engagement planning underway with QDN and Mob 4 Mob.

Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) conducted internal training from September 2024 to June 2025 to support a referral directory that has been established to improve pathways to appropriate services. They also relaunched the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal information line to provide First Nations people, including those with a disability, dedicated access to legal information and grants of aid enquiries. LAQ undertook a Trauma Informed Practice project to improve legal advice services for all clients, including First Nations clients and those identifying with a disability.

In October 2024, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) engaged Supply Nation-certified First Nations consultants to develop a pioneering Cultural Safety Framework. The framework uses an intersectional approach to address how culture, disability, race, and gender influence the safety and inclusion of all individuals. This framework is a first for Australian policing and aims to drive substantial, transformational change and create a culturally safe environment for First Nations peoples and all Queenslanders. The project is expected to be delivered by September 2025.

Actions table: Queensland

Objective	Action
Reduction and elimination of the use of restrictive practices.	Reform Queensland's restrictive practices authorisation framework – subject to passage of the Disability Services (Restrictive Practices) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.
The criminal justice system responds effectively to the complex needs and vulnerabilities of people with disability.	Develop and implement a youth justice neurodevelopment practice framework and practice standards to appropriately address the needs of young people with disability within the youth justice system.
People with disability feel and are safe and free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.	In implementing the Coercive control communication framework 2024-27, the Queensland Government will market test and develop tailored, accessible resources, co-designed with representatives of key audience cohorts, including people with disability. (QLD Government response to Recommendation 8 of Hear Her Voice, Report One).
The rights of First Nations people with disability are promoted, upheld and protected, so they are safe and enjoy equality before the law.	Review the effectiveness of existing strategies directed to providing and ensuring the cultural safety of First Nations people with disability in criminal justice settings.

South Australia (SA) - Safety, Rights and Justice

Commencement statement

South Australian Government actions under this TAP reflects our commitment to safeguarding South Australians with disability. It also aims to ensures the South Australian criminal justice system effectively responds to the complex needs and vulnerabilities of people with a disability. This work is being led by the South Australian Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department for Correctional Services (DCS).

The South Australian Government has committed to expand the Community Visitor Scheme (CVS) to include non-government disability support services and private homes. This is in response to recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS Review. To inform this work, the South Australian Government has taken a co-leadership role in a national project to develop a consistent CVS model across jurisdictions. Lived experience engagement has been central to this work, including:

- A subject matter expert working group with representation from Disability Representative Organisations embedded within project governance.
- Qualitative interviews with people with disability to understand their views on safety, oversight, and rights.
- Two public surveys to gather broader community feedback.

Further engagement will be undertaken with people with disability living in supported accommodation and private homes. This will include targeted outreach to Aboriginal communities, culturally diverse groups, and people with psychosocial disability. Their input will inform the scope, operational design, and monitoring mechanisms of an expanded CVS in South Australia.

DHS Youth Justice is developing an Enhanced Support Model (ESM) to provide intensive, individualised care to young people with complex and disability-related needs in custody. The model will be piloted in a purpose-built 12-bed unit featuring sensory rooms and therapeutic spaces. Consultation planning for the model is underway, with an aim to include young people from Kurlyna Tapa, key staff and stakeholders, and co-located service partners.

DHS Youth Justice has also commenced development of the Youth Justice Practice Framework. This work will be informed by evidence and findings from various internal projects and reviews that engaged directly with young people, including young people with lived experience of disability. This includes the findings of the Kurlana Tapa Sensory and Environmental Framework Project. The project focused on promoting a custodial environment that supports young people with sensory-related disability needs. The project aimed to identify, understand, and proactively respond to these needs within the custodial setting.

This project used an innovative 'photovoice' approach to capture young people's perspectives of different spaces in Kurlana Tapa through a photo-storytelling technique. Young people were also engaged through focus groups and interviews to inform a review Youth Justice's case management model led by the University of Adelaide. The views and experiences of young people has confirmed the importance of strengthening and further embedding trauma and disability-informed practice, which will be reflected in the Practice Framework.

DCS has established a dedicated NDIS team to support adults in custody with disability. The team provides assessments, facilitates access to the NDIS, and liaises with NDIA when an individual is admitted into custody, alongside providing a variety of resources in different formats including Easy Read. DCS has also developed a Lived Experience Policy that recognises the value of insights from people who have had contact with the correctional system. Their unique knowledge and skills will help improve system design and service delivery. Continued service and operational design improvements will align with this framework to engage people with lived experience.

Actions table: South Australia

Objective	Action
Promote people with disability's wellbeing, dignity, safety, and rights in disability services.	Expand the current Community Visitor Scheme (CVS) to visit people supported by non-government disability support services (including private homes).
The criminal justice system responds effectively to the complex needs and vulnerabilities of people with disability.	Develop and implement an Enhanced Support Model of care in Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre. The new model of care will be piloted in a newly built 12-bed accommodation unit with design features that better support young people with complex and disability-related needs, such as access to sensory rooms.
Policies, processes and programs provide better responses to people with disability who have experienced trauma.	Develop and implement a Youth Justice Practice Framework to support consistent and holistic practice across youth justice services, with a key focus on assessment and interventions that recognise and respond to disability and trauma related needs.

Objective

Identify people with disability in the criminal justice system who may be eligible for assistance through the NDIS to support their safe release into the community by enhancing protective factors and reduce reoffending.

Action

Invest in an internal program that connects people with disability in the criminal justice system to access NDIS funding and supports upon release into the community, where appropriate.

Progress update:

The DCS NDIS Team is now operational. This dedicated team has been established to support people with disability in custody.

This team supports referrals and re-engagement with NDIS supports when an individual is admitted into custody. The team are also able to provide occupational therapy and psychological assessments to facilitate NDIS Access Requests.

Easy-Read materials are being developed to explain what it means to be a NDIS participant and how to access the scheme in custody and will be available via the prisoner communication system (KEX).

People with disability and/or mental health who are not eligible for the NDIS, or whose complex needs require a more tailored approach are also supported through multi-disciplinary support teams.

Western Australia (WA) - Safety, Rights and Justice

Commencement statement

Western Australian Government (WA) response to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (Disability Royal Commission) was released in July 2024. The response represented the first step by the WA Government towards actioning the vital reforms. The focus is now on delivering the next stage of the response through the **WA Implementation Roadmap**. The WA Government is committed to consulting and designing these important reforms with people with disability, their families, carers and supporters.

The <u>WA State Disability Advocacy Program</u> (SDAP) has provided \$5 million per annum since July 2022 for individual and systemic disability advocacy across WA. As part of the SDAP, Midland Information Debt and Legal Advocacy Service and People With disabilities WA, in consortium with Sussex Street Community Law Service and Great Southern Community Legal Services provide specialist individual advocacy services, to people with disability facing justice-related issues.

Launched in February 2025, a revised Casework Practice Manual, 'The Guide' for child protection practitioners, contains a Disability Practice Guidance section. The Disability Practice Guidance equips child protection workers with foundational knowledge for working effectively with children and families with disability who are at risk of, or currently involved in, the child protection system. The development of the Disability Practice Guidance was informed by extensive contributions from a broad range of stakeholders. This included, Developmental Disability WA, and the Child and Family Alliance WA Disability Working Group whose membership includes: Anglicare WA, Yorganop, Uniting WA, MercyCare, Life Without Barriers, National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders, Noongar Family Safety and Wellbeing Council, Salvation Army WA, Create, Key Assets, and Outcare.

As part of the Review of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990, the Law Reform Commission WA has sought public submissions and undertaken targeted consultation with health and disability services, peak bodies and people with disability. Engagement targeted at people with experience of the Guardianship and Administration Act included:

- Focus groups with people with developmental disability and disability advocates.
- Regional engagement via WA Country Health Services consumers and staff.
- Feedback from the Alzheimer's Association of WA, Carers WA, Ministerial Advisory Council on
 Disability and Disability Expert Reference Group members including Equal Opportunity Commission,
 Health and Disability Services Complaints Office, Department of Health Inclusion Group, People with
 disabilities WA, Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre and Australian Independent Retirees.

Actions table: Western Australia

Objective	Action
The criminal justice system responds effectively to the complex needs and vulnerabilities of people with disability.	1.1 Implement reforms provided by the Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023, specifically the provision for communication partners and modified special hearing process.
	1.2 Fund individual advocacy support services to enable people with disability to exercise their rights.
Policies, processes and programs for people with disability promote gender equality and prevent violence against groups at heightened risk, including women and children.	2.1 Review of the Guardianship Administration Act and potential legislative reform.
Policies, processes and programs provide better responses to people with disability who have experienced trauma.	3.1 Review and update WA Child Protection practice guidance, 'The Guide', in relation to children, young people and parents/carers with disability involved with, or at risk of interfacing with the WA child protection system.

Northern Territory (NT) - Safety, Rights and Justice

Commencement statement

The Northern Territory Government actions under the Safety, Rights and Justice Targeted Action Plan (TAP) acknowledges that people in correctional facilities living with disability have complex needs and their social and emotional well-being needs should be considered in care, with many having complex co-morbid health issues affecting quality of life.

The Northern Territory Government Department of Corrections (DoC) NDIS model is based on South Australia's South Australian Department for Corrections Services (SADCS) NDIS Pilot Program. The South Australian Government supported the initial on-boarding of the Northern Territory team, recruiting staff in late 2024 who commenced in early 2025. The South Australian Government also supported governance, recruitment and conducted the initial key stakeholder engagement during 2024.

From 1 January to 30 June 2025, the Northern Territory Government DoC key priorities have been the on-boarding of the assessment team, purchasing of evidence-based assessment tools and resources.

The DoC team is clarifying processes and identifying opportunities to work with key community organisations. It is considering how to work flexibly to address issues around intersectionality with respect to First Nations people, women, young people and those who identify as LGBTQIA+ individuals.

As at late June 2025, the DoC team has managed over 130 referrals, (64 in custody were already on NDIS), the others have been allocated and the team is in the process of assessing (psychology and / or occupational therapy).

All assessment team members are participating in external clinical supervision. This ensures their work is safe, responsive, and respectful of each individual's needs during the assessment process.

Given the high representation of First Nations people in correctional facilities, ensuring all processes are respectful of the individual's needs is important to the team.

Stakeholder engagement has occurred during and to inform the establishment of the team and included:

- Anti-Discrimination Commission
- Department of Health
- Primary Health
- Forensic Mental Health/Forensic Disability Unit
- Department of People, Sport and Culture, Office of Disability
- Department of Corrections, Youth Justice
- NT Public Guardians Office and Trustee
- NDIS service providers
- Legal Services
- Charles Darwin University
- RMIT around National Benchmarking Research to occur in 2025, (interviews of 5 NDIS Participants).

NDIS support services regularly visit youth detention centres to provide assessments and intervention. All First Nations young people with approved NDIS plans can access these supports. Others without plans receive general support from within the centre or from community-based services. An NDIS Justice Liaison Officer attends fortnightly to assist with access requests, planning, and related concerns.

For young people unable to access NDIS supports post-release, support is available from:

- Department of Children and Families if in care
- Community youth justice officers as per court order supervision
- NAAJA throughcare services if leaving detention in Darwin and Alice Springs
- Australian Childhood foundation.
- Youth services like Mission Australia, Brother to Another
- Alcohol and Other Drugs services such as CAAPS, Catholic care
- Remote supports such as shire councils with youth support workers.
- Legal centre social workers NAAJA and Legal Aid.

Actions table: Northern Territory

Objective	Action
The criminal justice system	Develop an internal program that connects people with disability in the
responds effectively to the	criminal justice system to access NDIS funding and supports upon
complex needs and	release into the community, where appropriate.
vulnerabilities of people with	
disability.	

Australian Capital Territory (ACT) - Safety, Rights and Justice

Commencement statement

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government is committed to partnering with people with disability to drive reform across policies, systems, and settings. This commitment is embedded in the <u>Disability Inclusion Act 2024</u> (the Act), which provides a legislative foundation for strategic reform. The Act mandates the establishment of the Disability Advisory Council, which will advise the Minister on issues affecting people with disability and promote collaboration across government, community, and advocacy sectors.

The Act requires all ACT Government directorates and public sector bodies to develop Disability Inclusion Plans (DIPs). These plans must be informed by consultation with people with disability, their families and carers, Disabled People's Organisations, and advocacy groups. These measures ensure that people with disability are central to shaping the policies and services that affect their lives.

The ACT Government continues to prioritise placing the voices of people with disability at the centre of the implementation of initiatives under this TAP. This commitment is reflected in a range of targeted actions designed to strengthen safety, rights, and access to justice for people with disability. Key initiatives include:

- Facilitating community consultations to inform future reforms to guardianship legislation and supported decision-making processes (<u>Disability Justice Strategy Second Action Plan 2024-2028</u>);
- Establishing a government-funded advocate role at the ACT Courts to engage with and support
 vulnerable court users, and to better understand the issues they face (<u>Disability Justice Strategy</u>
 <u>Second Action Plan 2024-2028</u>); and
- Partnering with a community organisation to co-design and deliver training for the disability sector on identifying trauma, violence, exploitation, and neglect. This training will be developed in collaboration with people with disability who have experienced domestic, family, and sexual violence (<u>ACT</u> <u>Disability Strategy First Action Plan 2024-2026</u>).

These initiatives show the ACT Government's ongoing commitment to including lived experience in disability policy, systems, and service reform. They also aim to create safer and more equitable outcomes with and for people with disability.

Actions table: Australian Capital Territory

Objective	Action
People with disability feel	Implement the ACT Disability Strategy 2024-2033, the ACT Disability
and are safe and free from	Health Strategy 2023-2033, the ACT Inclusive Education Strategy
violence, abuse, neglect and	2024-2034, the ACT Disability Justice Strategy 2019-2029, and the
exploitation	Disability Inclusion Act 2024 to deliver improved outcomes with and
	for people with disability in the ACT.



