

# Targeted Action Plans Report 2025 – Safety, Rights and Justice Summary

Targeted Action Plans (TAPs) are part of *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031* (the Strategy). They are plans made by all governments to improve the lives of people with disability. The second set of TAPs started in January 2025.

## The Three TAPs are:

- **Community Attitudes** – Changing how people behave and think about disability.
- **Inclusive Homes and Communities** – Making homes and public places easier to access and more welcoming.
- **Safety, Rights and Justice** – Making sure people with disability are safe and treated fairly.

## What's in the TAPs?

- **National Actions:** All governments will do some things the same way across Australia.
- **State and Territory Actions:** Each state or territory added extra actions based on local needs.

## Reporting Progress:

All governments made a commitment to publish reports on how they are implementing actions. These reports will:

- explain how people with disability and the disability community will be involved
- show how governments are going

The first report only covers five months from February 2025 to July 2025, so it shares only important updates. Future reports will give more details and will tell a story about how actions are going and what the results are.

## What Makes a Good Report?

The Strategy's Advisory Council says good reports should:

- Include voices of people with disability.
- Explain what is being measured and why.
- Help people understand the actions.
- Share examples and lessons learned.
- Be clear, easy to read, and useful.

## Involving People with Disability:

Governments will work with people with disability through:

- Conversations
- Co-design (planning together)
- Working groups
- Sharing lived experiences

These activities should be relevant, effective and responsive to needs.

## More Ways to Get Involved:

Some other ways people can be involved and have a say in how actions are implemented are through:

- The Strategy's Forum in 2026 will offer more chances for people with disability to get involved, with each forum focusing on a different part of the Strategy's progress.

- The 2025–26 Independent Evaluation will include consultations so people with disability, their families, carers, and the community can share their views on the Strategy. People with disability will help choose the evaluator and will have key roles on the Steering Committee that guides the evaluation.

## **Safety, Rights and Justice – Targeted Action Plan**

This Targeted Action Plan (TAP) is part of Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021-2031 (the Strategy). It aims to make sure that people with disability:

- Feel safe
- Their rights are promoted, upheld and protected
- Treated fairly under the law.

### **What this TAP wants to achieve**

- The justice system understands and responds to the needs of people with disability.
- Policies and programs help stop violence, especially against women and children with disability.
- People with disability who have experienced trauma get better support.

### **Thinking About Everyone’s Experiences**

This TAP will look at how different parts of a person’s identity can affect their experience. This is called an intersectional approach. Some people face more than one kind of unfair treatment.

- People with disability in rural and remote areas
- First Nations people with disability
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Women and girls with disability
- People with disability who are LGBTIQ+
- Young people with disability.

## National Actions – Safety, Rights and Justice

People with disability help guide this work. The Australian Government, along with state and territory governments, will work together to make sure the actions are done in a clear and coordinated way. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing will help to put the TAPs into action.

**Goal:** People with disability feel safe, have their rights protected, and are treated equally under the law.

### What's in the Plan?

The Safety, Rights and Justice TAP includes 4 national actions under 3 main goals.

All governments will work together over the next 3 years to carry out these actions in a consistent way. To do this, government will work together by:

- sharing plans and ideas
- workshops between state/territory and the Australian Government
- working with people with disability.

### National engagement activities – working together across Australia

Different activities are being planned or already happening to support national goals. These activities help move national actions forward.

### Improving Support in Court

In December 2024, new laws came into effect to better support vulnerable people in Commonwealth criminal proceedings. They allow:

- A vulnerable person to give pre-recorded evidence
- A vulnerable person does not need to give evidence more than once, unless a court orders it is necessary
- Courts to provide interpreters for people with difficulties communicating or understanding the English language.

This helps people with disability take part in court proceedings fairly and safely. Over 200 government and non-government stakeholders were consulted to help shape this law, including victim and survivor advocacy groups, legal services providers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal organisations, government departments, courts, and prosecution and law enforcement agencies.

### Supporting Women and Children with Disability

The Department of Social Services created a special guide called the Disability Lens on the First Action Plan (DL1AP). This will help women and children with disability understand how the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children supports them

Between January and June 2025, the department spoke with:

- Women with disability
- Disability organisations
- Family violence service providers
- Government officials.

## State and Territory Actions – Safety, Rights and Justice

Each state and territory government has created its own actions to meet the needs of local communities. In this report each government explains how they will include people with disability and the disability community when putting these actions into place.

### New South Wales (NSW)

#### Commencement statement

The NSW Government is working to help community workers and frontline staff better understand and respond to coercive control (a form of abuse) against people with disability and older people.

The NSW Government Department of Ageing and Disability Commission (ADC) is creating resources to help workers feel more confident in preventing and responding to abuse. In March 2025, ADC ran a webinar for over 300 NSW Health staff. The session helped staff learn more about ADC's role and how they work together to respond to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older people and adults with disability.

In 2025, the NSW Government is working with the Centre for Community Welfare Training (CCWT) to run free online webinars called Effective Interventions and Coercive Control. These are for staff working in domestic and family violence services.

On 19 November 2024, NSW Parliament created the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Ageing and Disability. This committee:

- Reviews the work of the ADC
- Looks at reports and trends
- Helps raise awareness of issues affecting people with disability and older people in NSW.

### Victoria (VIC)

#### Commencement Statement

In February 2024, the Victorian Government said it would make some changes to how disability services are managed. They plan to:

- Move the work of two organisations (the Victorian Disability Worker Commission and the Disability Services Commissioner) to a new organisation called the Social Services Regulator.
- Create a new way for people to make complaints through the Regulator.

The Government is talking with people and organisations to make sure these changes do not reduce safety or rights for people with disability.

The Regulator is registering service providers in stages. The last group to register includes disability services funded by the Transport Accident Commission and WorkSafe. This process has now started. The Regulator has set up ways to talk with different groups to help run the new system. This includes:

- A Consultative Committee with important social service organisations and other groups.
- Three Reference Groups to help with the new system. These groups include social service providers, First Nations peoples and people who use social services.

These groups will make sure many voices from the community are heard and included.

The Victorian Disability Worker Commission and the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria are still running the Disability Worker Regulation Scheme. This scheme helps make sure disability workers are safe and do good quality work. Right now, there are about 155,000 disability workers in Victoria who must follow the rules of the scheme. About 1,000 workers are officially registered.

## **Tasmania (TAS)**

### **Commencement Statement**

On 1 July 2025, a new law started in Tasmania. It is called the Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024. This law brings new rules to help people with disability. It requires the Tasmanian Government and other organisations to:

- Make plans to include people with disability
- Talk with people with disability when making decisions
- Report on how they are improving things.

These plans are part of a bigger Tasmanian Disability Inclusion Plan. The new planning rules will help:

- Include people with disability in everyday life
- Remove barriers that stop people with disability from using services
- Help people with disability get and keep jobs
- Change unfair attitudes and actions
- Make sure services work well together, including those funded by the NDIS.

It will help Tasmania do better for people with disability and reach important goals. The law also says that the Government must talk with people with disability when making or changing policies, programs or services that affect the public. These talks must be fair and flexible, so people with disability have the same chance to share their ideas as everyone else.

People with disability helped shape this law. They were part of many consultations, including community meetings and talks with groups like the Premier's Disability Advisory Council, Minister's Disability Consultative Group, Disability Voices Tasmania, and advocacy organisations like Speak Out Tasmania, Advocacy Tasmania, and the Association for Children with Disability Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Government is now making a Disability Inclusion Consultation Guideline. This will help organisations follow the new law and support the Disability Strategy.

## **Queensland (QLD)**

### **Commencement Statement**

The Queensland Government is looking at ways to improve rules about how disability services use restrictive practices. These are actions that limit a person's freedom, and they are only used to keep people safe. The Government wants to:

- Make sure people with disability are safe
- Make decisions more quickly
- Make things easier for service providers.

The Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support (DYJVS) have developed a new plan to help young people with disability in the youth justice system. This plan is called the neurodevelopmental framework. To create the plan, they worked with First Nations people, Elders, around 300 people from across Queensland and DYJVS staff.

A special Disability Practice Team has been set up to help put this plan into action.

The Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS) worked with experts to create resources on coercive control that are easy to understand and respectful of people's experiences. These resources are part of the Coercive Control Communication Framework 2024–27. People with disability, carers, service providers, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people helped design these resources. They will be shared by the end of 2025.

The Queensland First Nations Justice Office and the Department of Justice are wanting to make sure the criminal justice system is culturally safe for First Nations people with disability. They are working with QDN and Mob 4 Mob and other First Nations people with disability who have lived experience of the criminal justice system.

Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) wants to improve supports and services for First Nations clients with disability. They have:

- Created a list of services to help people find support
- Trained staff to give better legal help
- Reopened a special phone line for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including those with disability
- Started a project to make legal services more trauma-informed and supportive.

Queensland Police worked with First Nations consultants to create a Cultural Safety Framework—the first of its kind in Australian policing. It looks at how culture, disability, race, and gender affect safety and inclusion. People with lived experience helped shape it, and it's set to be finished by September 2025.

## **South Australia (SA)**

### **Commencement Statement**

The South Australian Government is working to make sure people with disability are safe and treated fairly, especially in the criminal justice system. This work is part of the Safety, Rights and Justice Targeted Action Plan (TAP) and is led by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department for Correctional Services (DCS).

One big change is the expansion of the Community Visitor Scheme (CVS). This means CVS will now visit non-government disability services and private homes.

This change follows advice from the Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS Review. The South Australian Government is helping lead a national project to make sure CVS works the same way across Australia. People with disability have helped shape this work through:

- A working group with disability organisations
- Interviews to hear people's views on safety and rights
- Two public surveys to get feedback from the community.

More people will be asked to share their views, including those living in supported accommodation or private homes, such as:

- Aboriginal communities
- Culturally diverse groups
- People with psychosocial disability.

DHS Youth Justice is creating a new Enhanced Support Model (ESM) to help young people with complex needs and disability in custody. This model will be tested in a special 12-bed unit with sensory rooms and spaces for therapy. Planning for consultation is underway, and young people from Kurlana Tapa, staff, and service partners will be involved. DHS Youth Justice is also working on a new Youth Justice Practice Framework.

## Western Australia (WA)

### Commencement Statement

In July 2024, the Western Australian Government shared its response to the Disability Royal Commission. This was the first step towards making important changes to improve the lives of people with disability.

The next step is the WA Implementation Roadmap. This plan will guide how changes are made. To help design and deliver these changes the WA Government will work closely with:

- People with disability
- Families
- Carers
- Supporters

Since July 2022, the State Disability Advocacy Program (SDAP) has provided \$5 million each year to support advocacy services across WA. These services help people with disability speak up and get support, including in the justice system. Some organisations working together to help people with disability in the justice system include:

- Midland Information Debt and Legal Advocacy Service
- People With Disabilities WA
- Sussex Street Community Law Service
- Great Southern Community Legal Services

In February 2025, a revised Casework Practice Manual called 'The Guide' was released for child protection workers with a section called Disability Practice Guidance. This helps workers understand how to support children and families with disability, especially those involved in the child protection system. Many organisations helped create this guide.

## Northern Territory (NT)

### Commencement Statement

The Northern Territory Department of Corrections (DoC) is using a model based on South Australia's way of helping people with disability in prison. South Australia helped the Northern Territory team get started by helping hire staff in late 2024 and supporting planning and meetings with important groups. The team is now:

- Improving how things are done
- Looking for ways to work with community organisations
- Making sure they support people respectfully, especially First Nations people, women, young people and LGBTQIA+ individuals.

People in correctional facilities who have disability may also have complex health and emotional needs, and these must be considered in their care. By June 2025, the team had received over 130 referrals. 64 people in custody were already on the NDIS and others are now being assessed by psychologists or occupational therapists.

All assessment team members take part in cultural and clinical supervision to make sure their work is respectful, culturally safe, and meets each person's needs.

The DoC team works with many organisations, including:

- Anti-Discrimination Commission
- Department of Health
- Primary Health
- Forensic Mental Health and Disability Units
- Office of Disability
- Youth Justice
- Public Guardian's Office



- NDIS Providers
- Legal Services
- Charles Darwin University
- RMIT (for national research interviews with NDIS participants in 2025).

## **Australian Capital Territory (ACT)**

### **Commencement statement**

The ACT Government is working with people with disability to improve policies, systems, and services that affect their lives. This work is supported by the Disability Inclusion Act 2024, which sets out clear rules for making things better. The Act requires:

- For a Disability Advisory Council to be set up to give advice to the Minister about issues that affect people with disability.
- All ACT Government organisations must make Disability Inclusion Plans. These plans must be made by engaging with people with disability, their families, carers, and disability organisations.

The ACT Government wants people with disability to help lead changes in safety, rights, and justice.

Some important ACT actions include:

- Engaging with the community to help improve guardianship and decision-making laws and processes.
- Creating a new role at ACT Courts to better support people with disability.
- Working with a community group to make training for disability workers. This training will help workers understand trauma, violence, and neglect. People with disability who have lived through these experiences will help design the training.