

## Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 Advisory Council Communiqué

The Australia's Disability Strategy (ADS) Advisory Council met online on 17 March 2026.

The Chair, Ms Jane Spring AM, welcomed members and noted that it was the first meeting for seven new members. These included:

- Core members Ebe Gannon and Sara Shams
- Special advisor Dr Nick Hartland PSM
- State and territory representatives Kelly Brown (ACT), Rachael Watson (QLD), Chris Symonds (TAS), and Ellie Moir (WA)

The Advisory Council discussed:

- The Targeted Action Plans Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. Members suggested ways to make the report more accessible and stressed the importance of tracking real outcomes and next steps.
- Updates on the new Aviation Disability Standards from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts. Members shared their lived experiences and highlighted the need for clear rules, accessible design, staff training, and strong complaint processes so people with disability can travel safely, independently, and with dignity. Members will have another chance to provide feedback during the public consultation.

Members also noted updates from new state and territory representatives.

The Advisory Council endorsed their advice on the Independent Evaluation of Australia's Disability Strategy.

The next meeting will be held in person on 24 and 25 June 2026 (location to be confirmed).



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## Advisory Council

### Communiqué