



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council

March 2026

Update



Creating
an inclusive
community
together





Australian Government
**Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing**

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

We say **DHDA** for short.

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



We wrote this in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

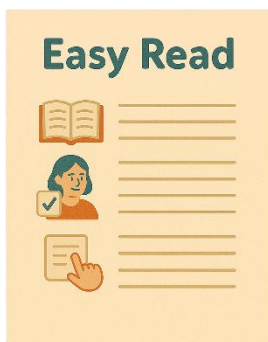
Bold

We have some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

These are important words.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it has the most important ideas.



We can answer any questions by email.

Email us ADSAdvisoryCouncil@health.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this document.

You can ask

- A friend
- Family members
- A support person.



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



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

- Land
- Waters.

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Australia's Disability Strategy



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

We call it **the Strategy** for short.

It is sometimes called **ADS**.



The Strategy is important for Australia to be more **inclusive**.

Inclusive means everyone can take part.



This makes everyone in our community feel welcome.

The Advisory Council



The **Advisory Council** gives advice about the Strategy to

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

We call it **the Council**.



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



Creating
an inclusive
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The Council helps governments understand how to

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

Goals are things you want to do.



The Council includes people

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



A barrier is something that stops you from doing what you

- Want
- Need.



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

It is called a **communiqué**.

We share important information with the community.



This information is about the Council meeting on 17 March 2026.

New Council members

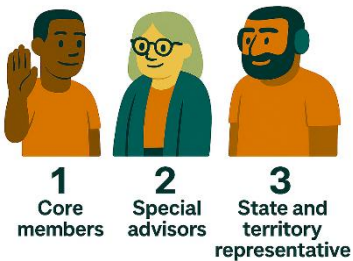


Jane Spring is the Council **Chair**.

The Chair is the person who runs the meeting.



Jane welcomed the new Council members to their first meeting.



There are 3 different types of members on the Council

1. **Core members**
2. **Special advisors**
3. **State and territory representatives.**



1. Core members

Core members **must** be a person with disability.

They can **represent** different disability groups.



Represent means to speak up for a group of people.



2. Special advisor

They have

- Lived experience
- Lots of knowledge about disability.



3. State and territory members

These members can have

- A disability or **lived experience** of disability.

They are chosen by the state or territory government where they live.



Lived experience is when you know what

- It feels like to have a disability
- Helps
- Makes it harder.



There are 7 new members on the Council.

The new members are

- Ebe Gannon



- Sara Shams.

They are **core members**.



- Dr Nick Hartland

He is a **special advisor**.



- Kelly Brown from the ACT



- Rachael Watson from Queensland

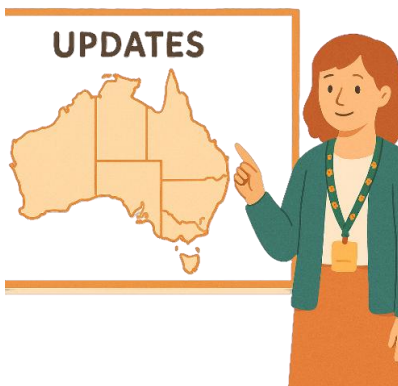


- Chris Symonds from Tasmania



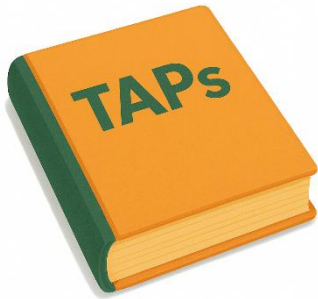
- Ellie Moir from Western Australia

They are **state and territory representatives**.



The 4 new state and territory representatives each gave an update.

Targeted action plans report



The Council talked about the

- **Targeted action plans** report.

Targeted action plans are small plans to help us work on the Strategy.

The small plans are called **TAPs**.



They talked about the TAPs report for

- 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.



They gave ideas about how to make the report more **accessible**.

Accessible means everyone can use it.

Everyone can get it.



The Council also talked about how important it is to

- Check what has been done
- Check if it is helping
- Look at what should be done next.

Aviation Disability Standards



The Council also talked about the

- New **aviation** disability standards.



Aviation includes all work to do with **aircrafts**.

- This is when people work with aircrafts.

Aircrafts are

- Planes
- Helicopters.



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

The Department of Infrastructure Transport
Regional Development Communications
Sport and the Arts are working on these
standards.

They are **not** finished yet.



These standards are about

- Making air travel for people with disability better.

Air travel is when you fly in an aircraft.



Council members talked about times they have travelled in planes.



They talked about needing

- Easy to understand rules



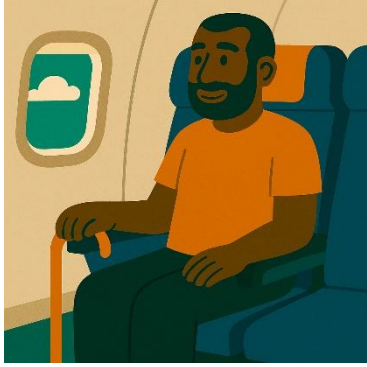
- Better accessibility



- Better training for staff



- Easy ways to make a complaint.



Members said this would help people with disability to

- Travel safely
- Be independent
- Travel with **dignity**.



Dignity means

- Feeling important
- Being listened to
- Being treated with respect.



The aviation standards will be open for **public consultation**.

Public consultation is when everyone is asked to give their ideas.



They will be open for public consultation in the next few months.



Council members will be able to give more ideas when the public consultation is open.

Evaluation of the Strategy



The Council has given advice on the **evaluation** of the Strategy.

Evaluation means you look at what

- Went well
- Could be done better.



You can do an evaluation of a

- Strategy
- Service
- Program.



The Council

- **Endorsed** their advice on the evaluation of the Strategy.

Endorsed means agreeing with what is written or said.

The next meeting



The next Council meeting will be **in person**.

It will go for 2 days on

- 24 and 25 June 2026.



The place of the next meeting has **not** been decided yet.

We will let you know where this meeting will be when it is decided.



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

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



You can email us.

ADSAdvisoryCouncil@health.gov.au

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May 2026