



2010–2020

# National Disability Strategy

**Easy English version**

An initiative of the Council of Australian Governments

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This document was designed and printed by an Australian Disability Enterprise.

## How to use this document



This information is written in an 'easy to read' way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Some words are written in **purple**.

We explain what these words mean.

This document is a summary of the *National Disability Strategy*.

The full version is much longer and contains a lot more detail.

Please contact us to request the full version.

Our contact details are on the next page.

This information is also available in other formats:



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# Introduction



Australians with disability want the same things as everybody else:

- somewhere to live
- a good job
- good health
- to spend time with family and friends
- to do fun things like go to the movies or the footy.



But there are many barriers that stop people with disability from doing these things.



We want to change this.



We have a new plan for improving the lives of people with disability.

This plan is called the *National Disability Strategy*.

This plan is for all governments in Australia, including:



- the Federal Government



- state governments









- local governments.



Everyone in the **community** needs to work together to make things better for people with disability.

The community is the place where you live. It is not just your home. It is outside your home as well. It includes the people who live in your area.

The *National Disability Strategy* has ideas for improving many different parts of life, including:

-  **1. Taking part in the community**
-  **2. Our rights for fair treatment**
-  **3. Work, money and housing**
-  **4. Getting support**
-  **5. Learning and skills**
-  **6. Health and wellbeing.**

## Taking part in the community

There are many barriers that stop people with disability taking part in the community.



Sometimes, there are physical barriers that stop people getting into buildings, or getting from place to place.



Sometimes, it is people that stop other people from taking part in work or activities. Some people have bad attitudes towards people with disability.

We want to change these things.

## What we want for the future – our community



We want to live in a community where people with disability can take part – just like everyone else.

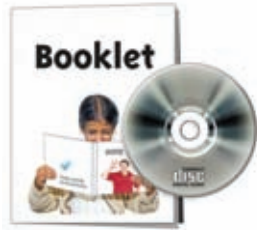


We want better access to buildings.





We want better access to public transport.



And we want better communication and information for people with disability, their families and carers.

## What governments are going to do – our community

There are a lot of things that governments can start doing to make sure that people with disability are included in our community, including:



- Encouraging people with disability to take part in activities in our community. There are lots of different ways that people can take part, including:
  - playing sport or games
  - creating art, such as paintings, plays or music
  - watching a show or game
  - attending events
  - organising events
  - helping out at activities
  - working with others.



- Improving access to buildings.



- Improving access to public transport



- Improving access to information.

## Our rights for fair treatment



In Australia, we have **laws** that protect us.

Laws are the rules that everyone must follow.



Laws are made by:

- governments



- the legal system, including the courts.



The laws are there so that we can all:

- be treated fairly
- feel safe
- take part in the community
- respect each other.



In 2008, the Australian Government signed a law called the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

This law says that people with disability must be treated fairly.



But sometimes, people with disability are not treated fairly.

We want to change this.

## What we want for the future – fair treatment



We want everyone in the community to understand that people with disability have rights.



And we want to make sure that the laws are working well for people with disability.

## What governments are going to do – fair treatment

There are a lot of things that governments can start doing to make sure that people with disability are treated fairly, including:



- Making sure everyone understands that people with disability have the right to be treated fairly.



- Finding ways to protect people with disability from being treated badly.



- Helping people with disability understand the law. This is important if someone with disability breaks the law. They need to understand what is happening to them and why.



- Helping people with disability speak up for themselves and their rights.

## Work, money and housing

For some people with disability, their families and carers, getting by in everyday life can be difficult.



Sometimes, there's not enough money.



Sometimes, it's difficult to find a good place to live.



And sometimes, it can be difficult to find a good job.

## What we want for the future – work, money and housing



We want people with disability, their families and carers to have more control over their lives.



We want people with disability to have more choices.



And we want people with disability to be able to plan for the future.

## What governments are going to do – work, money and housing

There are a lot of things that governments can start doing to help people with disability, their families and carers, including:



- Helping people with disability find jobs and keep them.
  - We want to work out what is stopping people with disability from getting good jobs.
  - We want to provide opportunities for people with disability to work with the government.
  - And we want to find new ways to help people find work.  
For example, some people with disability may want to start their own small business.



- Helping people with disability find housing that is safe and affordable.



## Getting support



Some people with disability need support to take part in the community. For example, they might need help to find a job or somewhere to live.



Governments provide a lot of services for people with disability, their families and their carers. Over the past few years, we've been working hard to improve these services.

### What we want for the future – getting support



We want to provide the services that people with disability, their families and carers need.

And we want to make sure these services meet everyone's needs, especially those people who need extra support.



We want to help people with disability be independent.



We want to help people with disability take part in the community.



And we want to give more attention to the role that families and carers play in the lives of people with disability.

## What governments are going to do – getting support

There are a lot of things that governments can start doing to provide better support to people with disability, their families and carers, including:



- Making services more suitable to the needs of people with disability.

This includes offering people with disability more:

- information
  - choice
  - control.
- Finding new ways to provide services.
    - We want to provide services to every person with disability who needs them.
    - We want to provide services at all times throughout a person's life.



At the moment, the **Productivity Commission** is looking into ways that we can achieve this.

The Productivity Commission is part of the Australian Government.



- Continuing to work together to reach the goals in the **National Disability Agreement**.

The *National Disability Agreement* is a plan. All governments in Australia have agreed on this plan.

It explains how governments will make disability support services better.



- Providing support to people with disability, their families and carers when they need it.

For example, many children with disability need **early intervention** services. These are services designed especially for young children with disability.

- Making sure other services in the community are available for people with disability.

This includes services like:

- counselling
- information
- support services in your local area.

## Learning and skills



In Australia, everybody has the right to a good education.

Getting a good education is important at all ages, including:



- early childhood



- school years



- adult life.

## What we want for the future – learning and skills



There are lots of different ways to get an education.



We want to help people with disability to get an education that is right for them.



And we want to help people with disability continue to learn throughout their lives.

## What governments are going to do – learning and skills

There are a lot of things that governments can start doing to improve education for people with disability, including:



- Coming up with new ideas for improving education so that people with disability are included.



- Helping people as they move from one level of education to another. For example, people might need assistance as they move from kindergarten to school, or from school to further training.



- Thinking about the things people with disability need when we are planning and making decisions about education.

## Health and wellbeing



In Australia, governments provide health care for everyone.

This includes:



- hospitals



- doctors – keeping our bodies healthy



- dentists – keeping our mouths healthy



- mental health – keeping our minds healthy



- ambulances and emergency care.

## What we want for the future – health and wellbeing



We want people with disability to live a long, healthy life – just like everyone else.



## What governments are going to do – health and wellbeing

There are a lot of things that governments can start doing to improve health services for people with disability, including:



- Making sure that our health services meet the needs of people with disability.

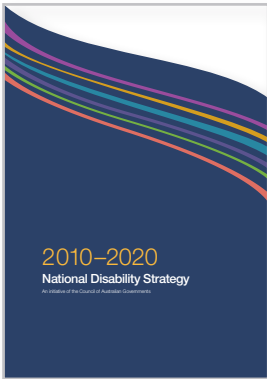


- Thinking about the needs of people with disability when we are planning and making decisions.



- Giving people with disability more support so they can make informed choices about health care.

## Conclusion



The *National Disability Strategy* is an important part of making things better for people with disability in Australia.



We have a lot of good ideas for making changes.



But it won't be easy to make these changes happen quickly. This plan is for the next 10 years.



During that time, governments will continue to check the plan to see if it is working.



We will check the plan every 2 years.



We will change the plan if things aren't working well.



And we will celebrate the things that we achieve.

