

Australian governments are consulting on the national disability strategy for beyond 2020. Go to [engage.dss.gov.au](https://engage.dss.gov.au) for more information and to participate.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the National Disability Strategy?

The *National Disability Strategy 2010-2020* is about creating a more inclusive society that enables Australians with disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens. It is a shared commitment by all governments to work together to improve the lives of Australians with disability by guiding governments and other organisations to build the wellbeing of people with disability and their carers.

More information about the current strategy is available [here](#).

### Why do we need a new disability strategy?

At the end of 2020 the National Disability Strategy will end and we need to develop a new national disability strategy for 2020 and beyond.

We need to make sure a new strategy reflects the changing policy environment and builds on opportunities available today as well as what may emerge over the next decade. This includes the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as well as aged care reforms, carer reforms and reforms to disability employment services.

### Is the current national disability strategy working?

A recent [independent review](#) has shown that many parts of the current strategy are working well to guide policies and programs and as a response to Australia's obligations under the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD).

The recommendations of this review will help guide us in developing the new strategy. For example, we heard the Strategy's overall

principles and goals are valuable and important but there are still areas for improvement, particularly on how the strategy is implemented.

We will also consider other recent reviews, such as the [Productivity Commission review](#) of the National Disability Agreement, which focused on implementation of disability policies and programs and how different levels of government work together, including through a new strategy.

### How can I help shape the new disability strategy?

It is vital people with disability, their families and carers have a leading role in shaping the new strategy.

The strategy is for all Australians. It is important all parts of the community, including business and mainstream services like health services and schools have an opportunity to take part too.

The first stage includes an open public survey, community forums in every state and territory, and online forums. More details about these are available at [engage.dss.gov.au](https://engage.dss.gov.au).

### How will information from the consultations be used?

The survey and discussions from April to June 2019 will capture the issues that are important to people with disability, their families and carers and the wider community.

This input will be brought together into a consultation report.

Your personal information will be collected, managed and used in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988*. It will not be used for any purpose other than why it was collected.

### What will be in the new strategy?

The consultations will help to set future priorities.

A new national disability strategy for beyond 2020 will make sure Australia continues to fulfil its UN obligations in upholding the rights of people with disability. It will reflect changes in the disability policy landscape to inform how policies and programs are made so people with disability can participate in all areas of Australian life.

## What do the changes in the national disability strategy have to do with the NDIS?

The new national disability strategy will reflect the changed disability policy landscape, including the NDIS, and responsibilities for delivering disability services.

The consultations are an opportunity to input into how the NDIS fits into broader themes of inclusion and accessibility, rights and protections, employment, and health and wellbeing.

Specific questions and inquiries about the NDIS or your NDIS plan, should be directed to the [National Disability Insurance Agency](#) or your local planner.

## Is there any connection between these consultations on a new disability strategy and a Royal Commission into violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability?

The current Strategy has a broad policy focus. Safety for people with disability from violence, exploitation and neglect is one of the priority areas under the current strategy.

Consultation on a national disability strategy for beyond 2020 will hear people's views on preventing violence, exploitation and neglect, and what might be needed in a new strategy to improve safety and reduce violence against people with disability.

We expect information gathered from the strategy consultation could support a Royal Commission, and similarly a Royal Commission may provide insights into future areas of policy focus or action for the new strategy.

Click here to find out more about the [Royal Commission](#).