

# **Help shape the next National Disability Strategy**

**Summary handout**



**Easy Read version**

## How to use this document



The Australian Government wrote this fact sheet. When you see the word 'we', it means the Australian Government.



We have written this document in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



We have written some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 30.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on our website at <https://engage.dss.gov.au/a-new-national-disability-strategy-for-beyond-2020/>



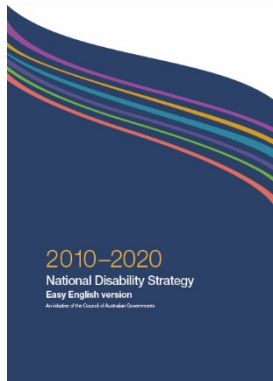
You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

## What's in this document?

What is the National Disability Strategy?	4
A new national disability strategy	7
You can tell us what you think	10
What people have told us so far	14
What we want to learn	21
Areas we will be talking about	24
Things you may want to think about	26
How we will use the information you give us	28
Word list	30
Contact us	33

# What is the National Disability Strategy?



The *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020* is a plan to improve the lives of people with disability.

In this document we call it ‘the Strategy’.



The Strategy talks about what we can do to make Australia more:

- **inclusive**
- **accessible.**



If something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



If something is accessible, everyone can use it. This might be:

- a place or a building
- transport
- a service
- information
- a website.



The Strategy explains how people with disability should be:

- treated the same as everyone else
- included in our community.



The Strategy is based on ideas that are in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (UN Convention).



The UN Convention is an international agreement.  
It applies all around the world.



The UN Convention sets out the rights of people with disability.  
It explains how people with disability should be treated fairly.

## A new national disability strategy



In 2020, the Strategy will end.



Governments across Australia are working together to develop a new strategy.



As we develop a new strategy, we want to hear from people with disability, and their families and carers.



We want to know:

- what is important to them
- how to break down the barriers people with disability face
- how to better meet the needs of people with disability.



The new strategy needs to include ideas that are important to people with disability, their family and carers.



It also needs to think about what has changed in the last 10 years.



In Australia, 1 in 5 people have a disability.



They are an important part of our community.



When people with disability can take part in the community, it makes things better for everyone.





We all need to help make our community more inclusive and accessible for people with disability.

We want all Australians with disability to:



- have the same rights as everyone else

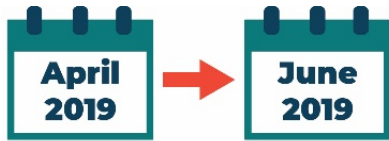


- be able to find and use the supports and services they need



- have the same opportunities as everyone else.

## You can tell us what you think



We will be talking to people across Australia from April to June 2019.



This includes people:

- with disability
- without disability.



This is your chance to help shape the next national disability strategy.

You can have your say by:



- filling out a survey



- taking part in a workshop event



- taking part in an online forum.



You can visit this website to get more information:

**[www.engage.dss.gov.au](http://www.engage.dss.gov.au)**

## The ideas in the current Strategy



The current Strategy has 6 ideas for improving many different parts of life for people with disability, including making sure:



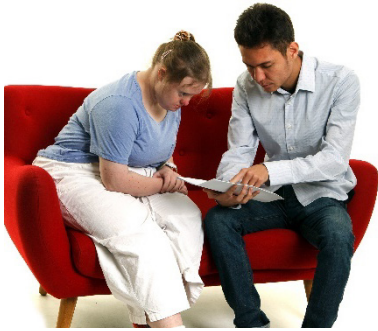
- communities are inclusive and accessible, including places and buildings



- there are laws to protect your rights



- you can take part in the economy and be **financially independent** – you can make your own money and support yourself



- you get the support you need to take part in the community



- you can get an education and help finding a job after you have finished school



- you can live a happy and healthy life.

## What people have told us so far



The first National Disability Strategy was created in 2009 after we talked to people with disability, their families and carers.



We heard about the key barriers and issues people with disability face.



Since the Strategy was put in place in 2010, all governments around Australia have reported on how things have been going.



Other organisations have also done some research and told us how the Strategy has been going.





These organisations were the:

- University of New South Wales
- Productivity Commission – they do research for the Australian Government.



There are 5 main areas that came out of this research.

### **1. The Strategy is a good start, but more can be done.**



They found that the Strategy is working well, but more needs to be done to make sure people with disability:

- are treated equally
- can find and use the services they need.



The new strategy also needs to look at how things are going for families and carers.

## 2. Changes to the disability environment.



A lot has changed in the disability sector since the Strategy was made.



One of the main changes is the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



The NDIS is changing the way people with disability get support.



A **Royal Commission** into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability will also be happening soon.





A Royal Commission is a formal public inquiry.

It is an official way of looking into a big problem and working out what went wrong.



It will go for at least 3 years.



The Royal Commission may work out areas that could be included in a strategy in the future.

### 3. Barriers still exist for people with disability.



A lot of barriers still exist for people with disability.

These barriers include problems like:



- **discrimination** – when you are treated unfairly because of your race, beliefs, sexuality, disability or age



- buildings or services in the community that aren't accessible



- information about the supports and services available aren't reaching people.



These barriers stop people with disability from taking part in their community.

#### 4. People with disability are diverse.



We need to think about all the different types of people with disability.

For example, we need to think about people with disability who:



- have a different **sexual orientation** – who you are attracted to
- are from different **cultures** – your race, the language you speak or the way you live your life because of where you or your family were born
- are different **genders** – whether you are male, female or another gender.



The new strategy will need to include the needs of all the different groups of people with disability.

## 5. Making sure a national disability strategy works well.



All levels of government and the community need to be involved in making the new strategy better.

This includes:



- working with people with disability and the wider community
- making sure that governments are taking action and getting results
- writing reports on how things are going
- making sure all parts of government are working together, including:
  - **policies** – government plans for the future
  - laws
  - agreements.

## What we want to learn



We want to learn your ideas about what should be in the new strategy.



We want to know what is important to:

- people with disability
- families
- carers.



We want to know what:

- is important now
- will be important over the next 10 years.

We also want to know:



- what issues people with disability are still facing



- how people with disability are treated in the community



- if the community has changed how it thinks about people with disability



- what barriers people with disability are facing





- if there are any other ways we can break down these barriers



- how we can include different groups of people with disability in the strategy



- how carers can be included



- how the new strategy can make life better for people with disability



- how we can make sure the strategy is followed.

## Areas we will be talking about



When we are talking to you, we will be thinking about 4 main ideas.



- People with disability having the same rights as everyone else.



- People with disability being included in all community life.

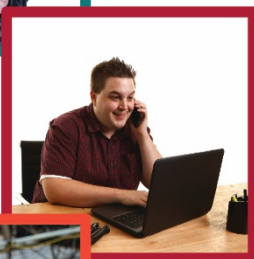




- People with disability being independent, healthy and living a good life.



ndis



- Other areas that will be important in the future including:
  - technology, such as **assistive technology** – an aid, equipment or system that makes it easier for you to do things
  - the NDIS
  - caring for older people in our community
  - **microenterprises** – opportunities for people to start their own business
  - **social enterprises** – businesses that aim to change how the community thinks. Making money is not the only goal.

## Things you may want to think about

When you are having your say, you might want to think about:



- what is important to you



- what will make a difference in your life



- what makes you feel part of the community



- what is missing in your community



- how you know if things have gotten better

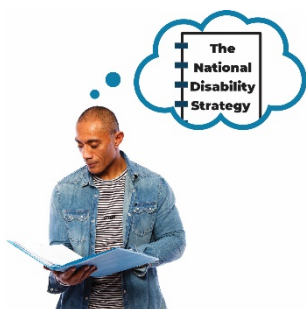


- what governments can do to make things better.

## How we will use the information you give us



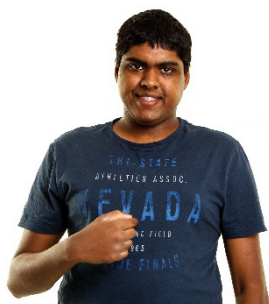
The information you give us will be used to write a report.



This report will help governments work out what might be needed in the next strategy.



Information about you won't be shared with anyone.



This includes your name or anything else that shows who you are.



No one will be able to tell who you are based on what you've said.

## Notes



## Word list



### Accessible

If something is accessible, everyone can use it.

This might be:

- a place or a building
- transport
- a service
- information
- a website.



### Assistive technology

An aid, equipment or system that makes it easier for you to do things.



### Culture

Your race, the language you speak or the way you live your life because of where you or your family were born.



## **Discrimination**

When you are treated unfairly because of your race, beliefs, sexuality, disability or age.



## **Financially independent**

When a person can make their own money and support themselves.



## **Genders**

Whether you are male, female or another gender.



## **Inclusive**

If something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



## **Microenterprises**

Opportunities for people to start their own business.





## **Policies**

Government plans for the future.



## **Royal Commission**

A formal public inquiry. It is an official way of looking into a big problem and working out what went wrong.



## **Sexual orientation**

Who you are attracted to.



## **Social enterprises**

Businesses that aim to change how the community thinks. Making money is not the only goal.



## Contact us



1800 334 505



You can also call the National Relay Service.

TTY users:

- Phone 13 36 77



**[disabilityreform@dss.gov.au](mailto:disabilityreform@dss.gov.au)**



**<https://engage.dss.gov.au>**



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read fact sheet using stock photography and custom images.

The images may not be reused without permission.

For any enquiries about the images, please visit

**[www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com)**.

Quote job number 3124-C.