

Station 4: Emerging areas

Emerging areas are changing the way people with disability live.

These are areas that have changed or started to become more important over the last 10 years. The next strategy should reflect the emerging areas affecting people with disability.

When thinking about the future, how might a future strategy include emerging areas, such as:

Interaction with NDIS

As the NDIS comes into place and more people access it, a future strategy will need to consider the way we deliver disability services and supports.

This includes:

- giving people with disability more choice and control over the supports they receive
- a broader range of supports coming from a growing market of disability service providers
- promoting equity between NDIS participants and those not eligible for NDIS. strengthening connections between NDIS services, other specialist disability services and mainstream services.

Technology

New technologies will change the lives of many people with disability, allowing:

- the development of innovative apps and software, particularly in assistive technology
- improved independence, inclusion and participation in all areas of life with 'disability-tech'
- new systems that help people to communicate better, which is critical in every aspect of life: completing school, applying for a job, going shopping, using transport, banking, filing a yearly tax return or maintaining social contact
- other technologies likely to change the lives of people with disability, such as self-driving cars.

Entrepreneurship and microenterprise - opportunities for people to start their own business

The growth in the start-up and "gig" economies may increase opportunities for people with disability to:

- establish their own microenterprises or businesses
- access their own forms of income
- work in ways that overcome accessibility issues, like being able to work from home

Station 4: Emerging areas

- design roles or tasks that suit a person's abilities.

The NDIS could also promote microenterprises in the disability sector and by people with disability.

An ageing population

Australia's population is ageing as people live longer. This is likely to have an impact on programs, policies, supports and services for people with disability and their carers, because:

- older people are more likely to have a disability
- older people with disabilities can face specific barriers preventing them from full and equal inclusion and participation in the community
- policies and programs need to take a longer term view to community planning and design to meet the capacity and needs of an ageing population, including people with disability
- the number of younger carers will increase when people look after ageing parents, family and friends with disability.

Social enterprise and cooperatives

Social enterprises employ twice as many Australians with disability as mainstream small businesses. They are businesses that:

- tackle social problems and improve communities
- have potential to positively impact the delivery of disability services and supports
- create more sustainable services
- provide more opportunities for people with disability for work or to be in business.

The number of social enterprises and cooperatives is growing in Australia. They are important for the development of an inclusive and sustainable economy, and they present significant opportunity for people with disability to access employment and build their careers.

In relation to these areas, we'd like to know:

- In the future, what could affect people with disability living in Australia?
- What sorts of new technologies or new ways of living do you think might help to improve the lives of people with disability in the future?