

Station 3: Independence and wellbeing

Independence and wellbeing are critical to our quality of life.

The current National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 improves independence and wellbeing for people with disability through:

- **economic security**, so they can plan for the future, make choices and have control over their lives
- participation in **an inclusive high-quality education system** that responds to their needs and provides continuous learning opportunities
- access to health services and programs that give them the **best possible health and wellbeing outcomes**.

When it comes to independence and wellbeing, how might a future strategy improve:

Financial security (having access to income)

A secure income for everyday living, with opportunities to plan for the future means having:

- financial security to be more independent and live well
- access to financial supports that raise the standard of living to be equal
- more employment and business opportunities.

Employment and careers

Open and inclusive workplaces support the employment and careers of people with disability. For people with disability who can work, a job or career:

- provides income
- connects them with others
- is a way of participating in community life
- can lead to improved financial security and personal wellbeing of individuals, and their families and carers.

Lifelong learning and skills

Inclusive education is critical for people's independence and wellbeing. It's important to consider:

- opportunities to continue learning and to gain new skills
- access to an education system that responds to their needs, at every life stage
- continued access to quality education from early childhood to high school
- full access to and inclusion in universities, TAFEs and training programs
- support to learn on the job.

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Personal support services

Supports and services are needed to help people, their families and carers, including:

- person-centred and self-directed supports that help people with disability to achieve independence and wellbeing
- accessible community groups and activities, parenting programs, sports clubs, and volunteer networks
- information and support for families, carers (whether they are paid to give care or not) and friends of people with disability.

Health and wellbeing:

Quality, accessible health services and programs:

- help people with disability be well throughout their lives
- create equality in health outcomes for people with disability and other people in the community
- meet the needs of people with disability, including:
 - hospitals
 - clinics
 - dentists
 - allied health
 - specialist health services and clinics.
- provide access to early intervention and rehabilitation to reduce future health problems and costs.

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

- What can stop for people with disability from being educated, healthy and wealthy?
- What are your ideas for improving education, employment and career opportunities and health outcomes for people with disability?