

NDS and NDIS Outcomes Frameworks Submission National ADHD Forum

The National ADHD Forum (NAF) has been created to be a national voice for the ADHD community. The NAF has reviewed the position paper within the context of representing the broad views of many ADHD community organisations. Our submission was informed by a series of national community forums conducted during the past four months.

NAF welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback for the new National Disability Strategy (NDS) and we are available to provide more detailed advice to the Department at any time to further their deliberations.

What NAF thinks about the different elements in draft structure for the Outcomes Frameworks?

Overall the different elements in the draft structure for the Outcomes framework are appropriate and cover the main concerns of the ADHD community.

The board members of the National ADHD Forum would like to recommend the inclusion of following:

- Within the Domain: **Rights, protection, justice and legislation** the NAF board would like to recommend an additional Sub-Outcome, which is:

“My disability is recognised as a disability by the legal and justice system”

For the ADHD community the lack of recognition within the legislative framework that supports the disability strategy has led to ongoing discrimination and undue hardship for members of the community. ADHD is not included on the Federal Government’s *List of Recognised Disability* despite its recognition in the Disability Discrimination Act (1992), until this is addressed true equality is not possible for those living with ADHD.

By ensuring that recognition is included in the Outcomes Frameworks all disabilities are protected from the discrimination that occurs due to the lack of recognition within legislative frameworks.

- Within the Domain: **Learning and skills** the NAF board would like to recommend an additional Sub-Outcome, which is:

“My carer, parent or guardian is engaged with to ensure I have access to the educational supports I need to reach my full potential”

For the ADHD community, and many others in the disability community, appropriate access to the available educational supports is often difficult to achieve. For the early childhood, primary and secondary educational contexts it is the parent or carer who arranges for access to these educational supports therefore it is important to recognise the parent or carer’s critical role in this context in order to provide a context for parents and carers to be engaged with by the educational institution.

The NAF board would also like to recommend the following Example Indicator:
“Engagement in the educational community”

An engaged and thriving educational community is a key indicator of health within the educational domain.

How can we best implement the Outcomes Frameworks to enable governments and stakeholders to track the effectiveness of the Strategy and the NDIS?

The outcomes framework must be mapped to relevant policy and/or guidelines and detail the responsibility for implementation where it rests with the relevant Commonwealth, state/territory or community organizations. This is critical to ensure that each organisation responsible is clearly aware of that responsibility and is expected to take part in the reporting process for implementation outcomes.

Ongoing engagement with the community the Strategy is designed to support is critical to ensuring that the Outcomes Frameworks are being implemented effectively. This engagement should be meaningful and qualitative with the information gathered used to inform any potential changes needed to the implementation strategy.

The incorporation of effective change management strategies would also be beneficial to ensure that changes made within these communities have the community's positive engagement to maximise the effective implementation of the Outcomes Framework.

What else should be considered when we are monitoring and measuring the impact of activities on people with disability.

The NAF Board recommends a tracking strategy that includes the right balance between collecting data that is useful and instructive, and placing an undue burden upon the organisations providing services to the community.

The tracking strategy should include funds provided to each service provider specifically to support the collection of data relating to the effectiveness of the strategy. It should also include a community of practice that will enable groups collecting data to share ideas and resources related to effective tracking mechanisms.

The tracking strategy should be responsive to the needs of the community and the needs of government. Requests for retrospective data collection should be strongly discouraged as this places an undue burden of community organisations.