



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**

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# Submission Guide

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*Review of the National Disability Advocacy Framework (NDAF)*

*April 2022*

## Introduction

The Commonwealth, states and territories have been working together to draft a new National Disability Advocacy Framework (NDAF), which is now available for public consultation.

This submission guide is to assist people with disability and key stakeholders in developing their feedback on the new NDAF, to influence the direction of disability advocacy into the future.

## Why are we reviewing the Framework?

Since the original NDAF was released in 2012, there have been significant changes to the disability advocacy landscape. This includes the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which prompted a consultation on the NDAF in 2015, and a Disability Advocacy Factsheet was published in 2018. The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission was established in 2017 and the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability in 2019.

Another significant development is the publication of *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031* (the Strategy), which recognises that advocacy helps safeguard peoples' rights and overcome barriers to their inclusion and participation in the community.

On 13 December 2019, the former Disability Reform Council (DRC) agreed<sup>1</sup> that funding of independent disability advocacy is a responsibility shared by all jurisdictions. The NDAF confirms jurisdictions' shared commitment to disability advocacy and the Commonwealth has been working closely with the states and territories to draft the new NDAF.

The Disability Reform Ministers' Meeting (DRMM) provides the forum for the Commonwealth and state and territory ministers responsible for disability policy to drive national reform in disability policy and implementation. The DRMM has endorsed the draft NDAF to proceed to public consultation.

The NDAF will be supported by a disability advocacy work plan that will drive the implementation of its objective, principles and outcomes. The work plan will be developed and implemented between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments. The work plan will be informed by engagement with people with disability and where appropriate, align with the Strategy's Targeted Action Plans. Disability Advocacy is part of the Strategy's Safety Targeted Action plan, which can be found [here](#).

## How do you have your say?

We strongly encourage anyone with disability, or with a connection to disability advocacy to make a submission on the new NDAF, which you can also find on DSS Engage. You can do this by:

- Visiting the consultation website at DSS Engage.
- Emailing a written submission to [disabilityadvocacysecretariat@dss.gov.au](mailto:disabilityadvocacysecretariat@dss.gov.au).

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<sup>1</sup> South Australia originally dissented in this decision, however has supported the new draft NDAF.

- Sending us a written submission at:  
Disability Advocacy Policy  
GPO Box 9820  
Department of Social Services  
Canberra ACT 2601

If you provide a submission online via DSS Engage, you will be asked to specify whether you would like your submission published on the DSS website.

If you send your submission via email or post, please specify if you would like your submission to be published online.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 8 July 2022.

## What goes into your submission?

Please use the questions below as a guide when developing your submission:

1. Do you believe the new NDAF encompasses your vision of advocacy? If not, what changes are required?
2. Are the **principles** of the NDAF appropriate for guiding the delivery of advocacy for people with disability in a changing disability environment, including in the context of the NDIS? If not, what changes are required?
3. Are the **outcomes** of the NDAF clear and achievable? Should different ones be included? If so, what should be included?
4. Are the **responsibilities, reform and policy directions** of the NDAF relevant or should different ones be included?
5. Does the NDAF **identify what is needed** in the current and future disability environment? If not, what changes are required?
6. Do you have any other comments, thoughts or ideas about the NDAF?

If you have any questions about the consultation process, please email [disabilityadvocacysecretariat@dss.gov.au](mailto:disabilityadvocacysecretariat@dss.gov.au).

## Next steps

The Commonwealth, states and territories will use feedback from this consultation to finalise the NDAF.

Once feedback on the NDAF has been considered, the final NDAF will be presented to the Disability Reform Ministers' Meeting for endorsement, and uploaded to the Department of Social Services' website thereafter.