# We want to know what you think

## Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031

### Our guiding principles

### An Easy Read text-only paper

How to use this paper

The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) wrote this paper.

When you see the word ‘we’, it means DSS.

We wrote this paper in an easy to read way.

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 19.

This Easy Read paper is a summary of another paper. This means it only includes the most important ideas.

You can find the other paper on our website.  
<https://engage.dss.gov.au/ads‐consultations‐develop‐guide‐evaluation>

You can ask for help to read this paper. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What’s in this paper?

[What is this paper about? 3](#_Toc115857182)

[How to tell us what you think 4](#_Toc115857183)

[The Strategy’s principles 6](#_Toc115857184)

[Questions for you to think about 7](#_Toc115857185)

[Support for you 16](#_Toc115857186)

[Word list 19](#_Toc115857187)

## What is this paper about?

Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031 is a plan to support people with disability in all areas of their life.

In this paper we call it the Strategy.

The Strategy has 8 **guiding principles**.

Guiding principles are important ideas we should always think about.

In this paper, we just call them principles.

These principles focus on the **rights** of people with disability.

Rights are rules about how everyone should be treated fairly and equally.

These principles help everyone make sure they include people with disability.

The principles are for:

* all levels of government
* businesses
* the community.

And they must use these principles for any new project.

For example, creating new buildings or services for Australians.

All levels of government are making a guide to help people follow these principles.

And we want to make sure the guide includes the most important things for people with disability.

We want to know what you think about the principles, including what:

* works well
* can be better.

## How to tell us what you think

In this paper we:

* talk about our ideas
* ask questions.

We want to know what you think about our ideas.

There is no right or wrong answer.

You can answer:

* all our questions
* some of our questions.

There is a box below each question where you can share your answers.

You can write your answers in this document and send it to us by email.

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

You can also send us a video or voice recording by email.

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

You can email us what you think.

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

You can write to us.

Mailing Address –   
Australia’s Disability Strategy Governance and Engagement Section   
GPO Box 9820 Department of Social Services Canberra, ACT 2601

You can tell us what you think on the DSS Engage website.

<https://engage.dss.gov.au/ads‐consultations‐develop‐guide‐evaluation>

Please tell us what you think before Wednesday 30 November 2022 at 11:59 pm.

We want to share your answers online.

But if you do not want us to share your answers, please tell us.

If you have any questions about this paper, you can email us.

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

Or you can call us.

Phone – **1800 334 505**

## The Strategy’s principles

1. People should be able to make their own choices.
2. People should be safe from **discrimination**.

Discrimination is when you treat someone badly because of something about them they can’t change.

1. People with disability should have the same rights as anyone else to take part in the community.
2. People with disability should be treated with respect.
3. Everyone should get equal chances to do what they want to do.
4. Everyone should be able to find and use the same things.
5. All people with disability should get equal chances to do what they want to do.

Even if they have different experiences.

This includes people with different disabilities.

It also includes people from different:

* places
* communities
* backgrounds.

And it includes people of different **genders**.

Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

It isn’t about whether your body is male or female.

1. Children with disability should be treated with respect as they grow older.

## Questions for you to think about

What do you think about our principles?

Are there any more principles we should include?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

On the following pages, you can share what you think about each principle.

We want to know what you think:

* works well
* can be better.

Please share examples and stories.

For example, you can tell us about a time that someone followed our principles.

Or you can tell us about a time when someone didn’t follow our principles.

Sharing your stories and experiences can be hard.

If you need help or support, there are services you can contact.

Their contact details are on page 16.

### Principle 1

Principle 1: people should be able to make their own choices.

What do you think about principle 1?

Do you have any examples or stories to share?

What do you think:

* works well?
* needs to change?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### Principle 2

Principle 2: people should be safe from discrimination.

What do you think about principle 2?

Do you have examples or stories to share?

What do you think:

* works well?
* needs to change?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### Principle 3

Principle 3: people with disability should have the same rights as anyone else to take part in the community.

What do you think about principle 3?

Do you have any examples or stories to share?

What do you think:

* works well?
* needs to change?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### Principle 4

Principle 4: people with disability should be treated with respect.

What do you think about principle 4?

Do you have any examples or stories to share?

What do you think:

* works well?
* needs to change?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### Principle 5

Principle 5: everyone should get equal chances to do what they want to do.

What do you think about principle 5?

Do you have any examples or stories to share?

What do you think:

* works well?
* needs to change?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### Principle 6

Principle 6: everyone should be able to find and use the same things.

What do you think about principle 6?

Do you have any examples or stories to share?

What do you think:

* works well?
* needs to change?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### Principle 7

Principle 7: all people with disability should get equal chances to do what they want to do.

Even if they have different experiences.

What do you think about principle 7?

Do you have any examples or stories to share?

What do you think:

* works well?
* needs to change?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### Principle 8

Principle 8: children with disability should be treated with respect as they grow older.

What do you think about principle 8?

Do you have any examples or stories to share?

What do you think:

* works well?
* needs to change?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## Support for you

### Triple Zero

If you are in danger now, you should call Triple Zero.

Phone – **000**

### 1800Respect

1800Respect is a phone service for people who are hurt by someone close to them, such as:

* their partner or ex-partner
* someone who lives with them
* someone who cares for them.

You can call them any time.

They are available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Phone – **1800 737 732**

### The National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline

The National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline is a service for people with disability who experience:

* abuse – when someone treats you badly
* neglect – when someone isn’t helping you the way they are supposed to.

You can call them.

Phone – **1800 880 052**

You can call them from 9 am to 7 pm, Monday to Friday.

### Lifeline

Lifeline is a service for people at risk of suicide.

This is when someone ends their own life.

You can call them any time.

They are available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Phone – **13 11 14**

### Suicide Call Back Service

The Suicide Call Back Service is another service that can people at risk of suicide. This is when someone ends their own life.

You can call them any time.

They are available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Phone – **1300 659 467**

### Beyond Blue

Beyond Blue is a service that can support you with your mental health.

You can call them any time.

They are available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Phone – **1300 224 636**

### MensLine

MensLine is a service that can support men with family and relationship problems.

You can call them any time.

They are available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Phone – **1300 78 99 78**

### Advocates

An **advocate** is someone who speaks up for people with disability.

They can help you:

* sort out problems
* make decisions
* understand information.

You can find your local advocate on the Ask Izzy website.

Website – [askizzy.org.au/disability-advocacy-finder](https://askizzy.org.au/disability-advocacy-finder)

## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.

**Discrimination**

Discrimination is when you treat someone badly because of something about them they can’t change.

**Genders**

Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

It isn’t about whether your body is male or female.

**Guiding principles**

Guiding principles are important ideas we should always think about.

**Rights**

Rights are rules about how everyone should be treated fairly and equally.

The Information Access Group created this Easy Read text-only document.   
For any enquiries, please visit [www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com).   
Quote job number 4964.