



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Changing the Disability Services Act

How it will affect people with disability,
their families and carers

An Easy Read fact sheet



How to use this fact sheet



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

When you see the word 'we', it means DSS.



We wrote this fact sheet in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

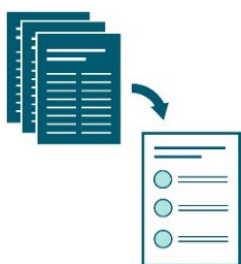
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 15.



This is an Easy Read summary of another fact sheet.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find more information on our website.

engage.dss.gov.au/disability-services-and-inclusion-bill-2023



You can ask for help to read this fact sheet.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What is this fact sheet about?



The *Disability Services Act 1986* is a law.



It explains what services the Australian Government can provide for people with disability.

In this paper we call it the Act.



We want to make a new law to replace the Act.

In this paper we call it the new Act.



We want to hear what you think about the new Act.

The new Act will also include:



- who the services are for



- how the services should work



- how we'll make sure the services are safe.



We wrote this fact sheet to explain how the new Act will affect:

- people with disability
- their families and carers.

We want to know what you think



We heard from the community about what they thought should be in the new Act.

This happened between November 2022 and February 2023.



We wrote a **draft** of the new Act based on what they told us.



A draft is a document that isn't finished.

Some things in a draft might change later.

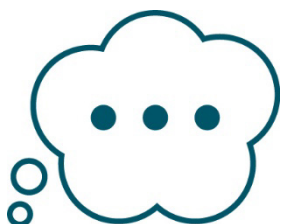
Other people check a draft before they publish it.



You can read the draft on our website.

engage.dss.gov.au/disability-services-and-inclusion-bill-draft-exposure-consultation-consultation-material#exposure-draft

How to tell us what you think



You can use our survey to tell us what you think about our draft of the new Act.



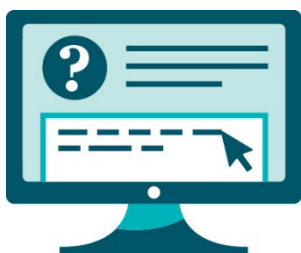
We also have some questions you can answer.

You can choose to answer:

- all of the questions
- some of the questions.



What you say will help us change the new Act.



You can find our survey online.

engage.dss.gov.au/disability-services-and-inclusion-bill-2023

We also wrote an Easy Read paper to explain what we put in the draft.



You can find it on our website.

engage.dss.gov.au/disability-services-and-inclusion-bill-draft-exposure-consultation-consultation-material



Please tell us what you think by 13 August 2023.

What the new Act means for you



The new Act won't change the services you're receiving right now.



It will support all people with disability.



This includes people who aren't part of the **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**.

The NDIS provides services and support to people with disability.



The new Act won't affect any **funding** that people with disability get themselves.

Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.

This includes funding like:



- the NDIS



- the **Disability Support Pension**.

The Disability Support Pension is a payment from the government to help with your day-to-day living costs.



The new Act will support the Australian Government to keep giving funding to services outside the NDIS.



The new Act won't provide services directly to people with disability.

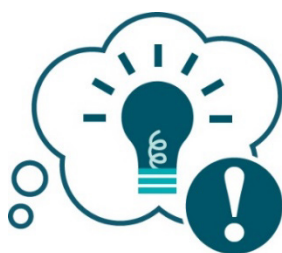
But it will help us create new services in the future.

Our aims and principles

At the start of the new Act, we'll explain our:



- aims – what we want the new Act to do



- **principles** – important ideas we should always think about.



Our aims and principles explain that people with disability are at the centre of everything we do.



And they focus on the **rights** of people with disability.

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.

Creating supports and services



When we are creating new supports and services we will think about:

- what you need
- how they will help you.



We'll work with you to create the supports and services you need.



The new Act will allow us to create more types of supports and services.



And it will allow us to give funding in more ways.



We will continue to check that the services you receive are:

- safe
- good quality.

Our Code of Conduct



We want the new Act to have a **Code of Conduct**.

A Code of Conduct is a list of rules about how **providers** and workers should behave.



Providers deliver services to people with disability.

Our Code of Conduct would tell providers how we expect them to deliver their services.



You can make a **complaint** if a provider doesn't follow the Code of Conduct.



When you make a complaint, you tell someone that something:

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.

Contact us



If you have any questions about changing the Act, you can contact us.



You can email us.

sector.engagement@dss.gov.au



You can visit our website.

engage.dss.gov.au/disability-services-and-inclusion-bill-2023

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words mean.



Code of Conduct

A Code of Conduct is a list of rules about how providers and workers should behave.



Complaint

When you make a complaint, you tell someone that something:

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well.



Disability Support Pension

The Disability Support Pension is a payment from the government to help with your day-to-day living costs.



Draft

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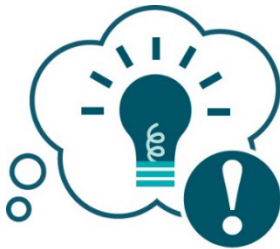
Funding

Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports.



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The NDIS provides services and support to people with disability.



Principles

Principles are important ideas we should always think about.



Providers

Providers deliver services to people with disability.



Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



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