



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Changing the Disability Services Act

How it will affect providers

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

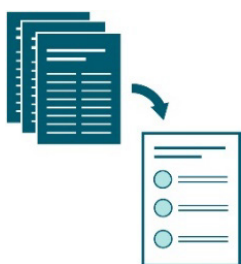
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 16.



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.

What's in this fact sheet?

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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.



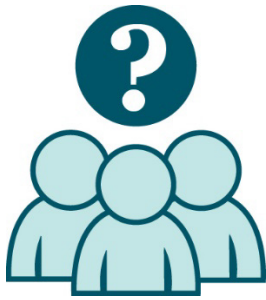
We want to make a new law to replace the Act.

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 **providers**.

Providers deliver services to people with disability.

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.

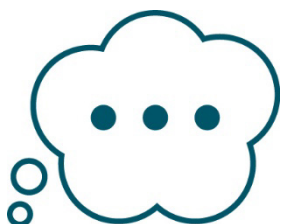
Other people check a draft before they publish it.



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



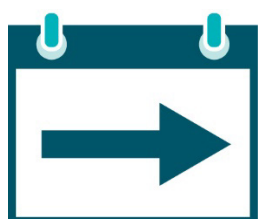
Please tell us what you think by 13 August 2023.

What the new Act means for providers



The new Act will support the Australian Government to continue to give **funding** for services.

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



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

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



The new Act won't change the services that providers deliver right now.



And everyone's **grant** agreements will continue until their end dates.

A grant is money from the government to pay for important work that helps others.



When providers create new agreements, we'll help them to understand what changes.

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 show:

- why we are giving funding to providers
- what we think is important.



They also explain how we always think about people with disability when we create new services.

And that services must also think about the **rights** of people with disability.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.

How we talk about disability



The community shared that it might cause problems if we only explain what disability is in one way.



Some people might not fit the words we use.



We think that the new Act won't talk about disability in one way.

It will support all people with disability.



But we might still give funding to services that are only for a certain group or type of disability.

Creating supports and services



The new Act will allow us to give funding for more types of supports and services.



The new Act will also include other ways we can give funding to services.



This means more services will be able to get funding.

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.



It will be like the **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)** Code of Conduct.

The NDIS provides services and support to people with disability.



We won't check that providers are following the Code of Conduct.



But if we learn a provider isn't following it, we have the power to do something about it.

Standards



Standards are rules about how to do things well.

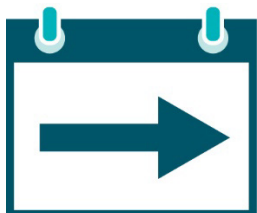
You can:

- meet standards
- go above standards.



The new Act will follow the National Standards for Disability Services (NSDS).

These are the standards we used in the old Act.



We will be able to create other standards in the future if we need to.



We'll also be able to choose which services need providers to follow different standards.

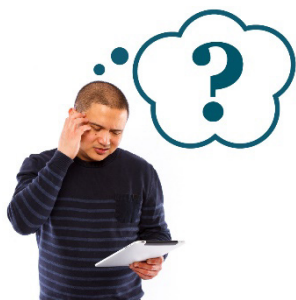
For example, if a provider needs training to deliver a service.



For some services, providers can follow just one set of standards.

For example, if they meet the NDIS standards, they don't have to meet the NSDS as 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.



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Funding

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



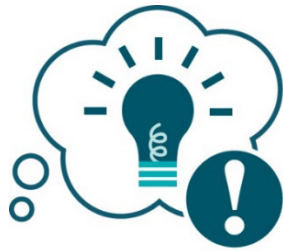
Grant

A grant is money from the government to pay for important work that helps others.



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.



Standards

Standards are rules about how to do things well.

You can:

- meet standards
- go above standards.



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