



Roles and Responsibilities of Governments

The National Autism Strategy is focused on actions related to the roles and responsibilities of the Australian Government.

Listing key government roles and responsibilities helps everyone understand which level of government is responsible for the systems that may be used by people with disability.

In many cases, more than one level of government has some responsibility for a support, service or system. For example, the Australian Government and state and territory governments are all involved in funding, delivering and/or regulating systems like education, community housing, and the NDIS.

The table on government roles and responsibilities that is included in this document shows where one level of government holds *primary responsibility* for the delivery of a system. There is also a section in the table showing systems where responsibilities are shared to an extent that primary responsibility for delivery cannot be assigned to one level of government.

More detailed information about roles and responsibilities, as well as some of the key systems outside of government, can be accessed through the [Australia's Disability Strategy 2021 -2031 website](#). This information includes:

- points of contact for people to identify and contact the agency responsible for delivering the service they want to access or to handle a specific issue they are experiencing
- legislation and agreements outlining the funding, regulation and operational responsibility for those services and systems
- the NDIS Applied Principles and Tables of Support setting out responsibilities between the NDIS and other service systems.

People who do not have access to the internet can contact the National Disability Information Gateway telephone helpline on 1800 643 787.

The table on government roles and responsibilities is high-level and does not include every support, service or system. The table also does not include all systems provided by governments.

Table on Government Roles and Responsibilities

Primary responsibility for delivery lies with the Australian Government	Primary responsibility for delivery lies with state and territory governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDIS* (administration) • Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) • NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission • Employment services • Income support payments • Federal justice system • Australian Federal Police • Child Care Subsidy • Medicare Benefits Schedule • General practitioners • Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme • Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations • Aged Care system • My Aged Care • Veterans' Care system • Universities • Hearing Services Program • Commonwealth Ombudsman • Australian Human Rights Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public, social and community housing • Public hospitals • Community health services • Home and Community Care programs for under 65s • Public transport services • Public primary and secondary schools • TAFE/Vocational Education and Training (VET) • Kindergartens and pre-schools • Jurisdictional court systems and correctional centres • State and territory Police • Guardianship, Public trustees and Ombudsman • Child protection • Community visitors programs for disability** • Domestic and family violence services • Major sporting facilities • State and territory human rights/anti-discrimination bodies
Primary responsibility for delivery lies with local governments***	Responsibility for delivery is substantially shared across levels of government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban planning/design of the built environment • Accessible buildings • Local development planning • Local roads, bikeways and footpaths • Local parks and recreational facilities • Local sports grounds • Public toilets • Playgrounds • Council-run childcare and aged care centres • Municipal services • Parking regulation • Public libraries and community halls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDIS* (funding and shared governance) • Mental health supports and services • Disability advocacy services – individual and systemic • Concessions for government services • Community infrastructure • Arts and cultural funding and support • Public museums, galleries and performance facilities

Note: This listing of roles and responsibilities is not comprehensive and some responsibilities may change over time.

* The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a nationally based scheme jointly governed and funded by the Australian, state and territory governments. Delivery of the NDIS is the responsibility of the National Disability Insurance Agency, a Commonwealth Corporate Entity.

** Not all states have community visitors programs for disability (e.g. Tasmania, Western Australia).

*** Local governments are established by state and territory governments (except the ACT) to deliver a range of municipal services and infrastructure, which is determined by each state and territory government. Listed examples of key responsibilities of most local governments are not representative of the responsibilities of all local governments.

The Australian, state and territory, and local governments make and uphold laws, rules and regulations, and agreements that play a role in supporting people with disability and upholding their rights.

Examples include:

- The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Commonwealth) and the Standards made under this Act
- The *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (Commonwealth) and NDIS Rules
- Bilateral Agreements on the NDIS
- NDIS Applied Principles and Tables of Support
- National guidelines for safety, employment, and disability access
- Agreements between the Australian Government and state and territory governments under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations
- State and territory disability services Acts and disability inclusion Acts
- State regulations on planning, development and management of state-based infrastructure and resources
- Local government planning and regulation.

There is also a range of international instruments that establish normative standards and principles for the treatment of people with disability. Examples include:

- The UN CRPD
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.