



Creating
an inclusive
community
together

How we are making Australia's Disability Strategy better

We want to know what you think

Easy Read version



How to use this document



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

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



We wrote this report 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 bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **24**.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on the
Disability Gateway website.

www.engage.dss.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this document.

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

What's in this document?

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Our work to make the Strategy better



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

In this document, we call it the Strategy.

We are doing a **review** of the Strategy.



When we review something, we check to see what:

- works well
- needs to change.



We want to know how we can make the Strategy better.



The community has shared their ideas with us about the Strategy.



We want to know what you think about the ideas we have heard so far.

This includes ideas about:



- how well the Strategy works

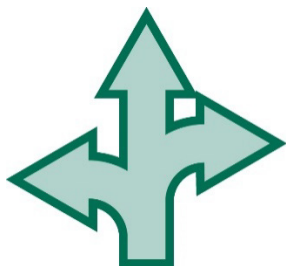


- how we should deliver the Strategy



- what it should focus on.

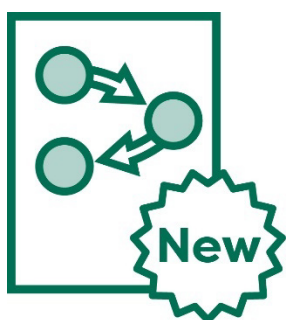
How we should deliver the Strategy



We have already heard different ideas about how we should deliver the Strategy.



We heard that governments should work better together to achieve the Strategy's goals.



Some members of the community want new Targeted Action Plans.

Our Targeted Action Plans talk about what we will do to achieve the Strategy's goals.



You can read more about our Targeted Action Plans on the Disability Gateway website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/easy-read-strategy



We heard there should be more **accessible** information for people with disability.



When information is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



We heard there should be more information about how well the Strategy is going.



We also heard the Strategy should include more information about the different experiences of people with disability.

For example, people with disability from different **cultures**.

Your culture is:



- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.



We heard that we should make sure people with disability have a say about the Strategy.

What we can do to improve how we deliver the Strategy



We want to find ways to work better with all governments to deliver the Strategy.



We want to find out the best ways to make information accessible.



We want to collect better information about people with disability from different:

- communities
- backgrounds.



We want to learn as early as possible if we are not achieving the goals in the Strategy.



We want to make a plan to involve the community in more decisions about the Strategy.

What the Strategy should focus on



The community shared ideas they think the Strategy should focus on.



We explain these ideas below.



You can find Easy Read information on our website about all the ideas in the Strategy.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/easy-read-strategy

Employment



Employment means you:

- have a job
- go to work
- get paid.



We heard that the Strategy should focus on supporting students with disability to:

- finish their studies
- move from study to work.



We heard that the Strategy should focus on removing **barriers** that stop people with disability from working.



A barrier is something that stops you from doing something you:

- need to do
- want to do.

Housing



We heard that the Strategy should focus on ways to create more accessible housing that people can afford.

Laws



We heard that the Strategy should focus on improving laws that protect the **rights** of people with disability.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



We also heard that the Strategy should focus on ways to protect women and girls with disability from **violence**.

Violence is when someone:



- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.



We also heard that the Strategy should focus on making the **justice system** better for people with disability.

Our justice system includes:



- prisons
- the courts
- police
- the law.

Getting support



We heard that the Strategy should do more so that people with disability get the support they need.

Education

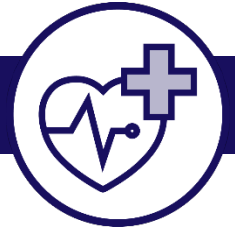


We heard that the Strategy should focus on creating a plan to make education more **inclusive**.

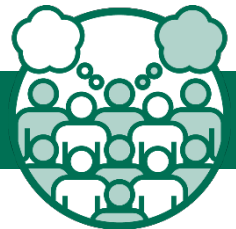


When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.



We heard the Strategy should focus on making health services more inclusive.



People's **attitudes** are what they:

- think
- feel
- believe.



We heard that the Strategy should focus more on ways to protect people with disability from **discrimination**.



Discrimination is when someone treats you unfairly because of a part of who you are.

This includes how services treat you.



We also heard the Strategy should focus on ways to support people with disability to be leaders in Australia.



This includes showing more people with disability in the **media**.

For example, in movies and TV shows.

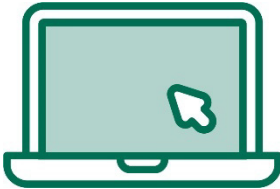


Media is a way of getting information.

Parts of the media include:



- TV

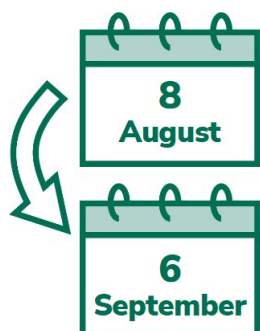


- the internet



- social media, like Facebook.

How to share your ideas



You can share your ideas between

8 August and **6 September 2024**.



We have some questions you can answer when you share your ideas.

You can answer:



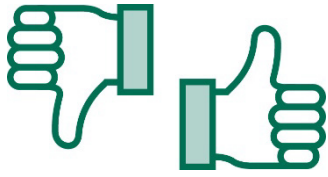
- all of the questions



- some of the questions.



You can write your answer in the box below each question.



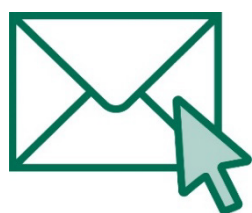
How well do you think the Strategy works now?



How can we make the Strategy better?



What do you think the Strategy should focus on?



You can email us your ideas.

ADSReview@dss.gov.au

You can send us your ideas in the mail.



**ADS Branch: ADS Review
Department of Social Services
GPO Box 9820
Canberra, ACT 2601**



We also have some questions you can answer on the DSS Engage website.

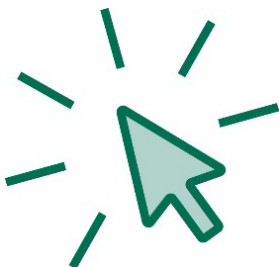
These questions can help you think of ideas.

www.engage.dss.gov.au



If you have any questions, you can send us an email.

ADSReview@dss.gov.au



You can read other documents about the Strategy on the Disability Gateway website before you share your ideas.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads

What happens next



We will use your ideas to write a report about what people think about the Strategy.

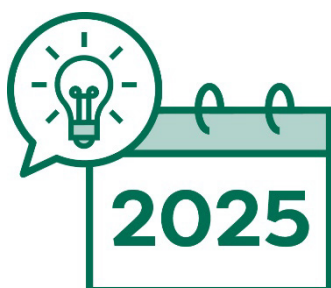


We will publish our report in **September 2024.**



You will be able to find it on the Disability Gateway website.

www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/reporting-ads



We will ask the community for more ideas about the Strategy in 2025.



We will use what we learned to give advice to the disability **ministers.**

A minister leads an area of government.

Word list

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



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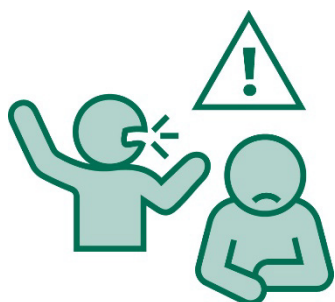
Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:



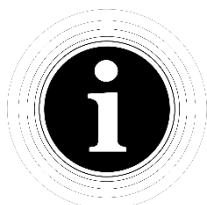
- fairly
- equally.

Violence



Violence is when someone:

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