Have your say about a

First Nations Disability Forum

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| Australian Government logo with Department of Social Services underneath | The Australian Government Department of Social Services wrote this.  We say **DSS** for short.  When you see the word **we** it means the DSS. |
| A person holding a white book with easy read on the cover | We wrote this in an easy to read way.  We use pictures to explain some ideas. |
| The word bold is in bold and the words not bold are in plain text | We have some words in **bold**.  This means the letters are thicker and darker.  These are important words. |
| An easy read document with pictures and lines for text. | This is an Easy Read summary of another document.  This means it has the most important ideas. |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people sitting by a river | You can ask for help to read this document.  You can ask   * A friend * Family members * A support person. |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in the background | We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the **Traditional Owners** of the land we live on. |
| teal map of australia | They were the **first peoples** to live on and use the   * Land * Waters. |

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The Disability Royal Commission

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| the DRC logo | The Disability Royal Commission looked at how people with disability are treated.    We call it the Royal Commission.  It happened between 2019 and 2023.  The Royal Commission listened to lots of people with disability. |
| A booklet with recommendations as the title | The Royal Commission shared many **recommendations.**  Recommendations are ideas to do things better. |

First Nations Disability Forum

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| a booklet with First Nations Disability Forum and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags sitting on a desk in front of a bookshelf | The Royal Commission made a recommendation to have a First Nations Disability **Forum**.  We call it a **Forum**. |
| illustration of an elder talking to two people | A Forum is a group of people who   * Talk about what First Nations people with disability need * Come up with ideas to make things better. |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in the background | The Royal Commission recommendation said a Forum should include   * First Nations people with disability * Organisations that support First Nations people with disability * Organisations that speak up for First Nations people with disability. |
| icon of parliament house in teal | The Royal Commission recommendation said a Forum and governments need to **work together.**  This means the   * Australian government * State and territory governments.   This is very important when governments are making decisions about First Nations people with disability. |

We want to hear from you

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| --- | --- |
| an illustration of an elder giving a speech | We want your ideas on how a Forum could work. |
| Smiling woman with a headset and a signpost graphic in a speech bubble labeled 'SUPPORT', 'HELP', and 'ADVICE'. | The Australian government   * Know a Forum is important * Want **your help** to make a Forum work for First Nations people with disability. |
| A hand holding a pen marking 'Not sure' on a questionnaire. | We have 7 questions for you to answer.  We call this **a submission**. |

1 What should a Forum do

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| illustration of an elder talking to 2 people | A Forum could support   * First Nations people with disability to share their stories and ideas |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people waving to each other | * Governments and First Nations people to work together |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in the background | * **Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.**   We call them ACCOs for short.  ACCOs are organisations   * Run by First Nations people * Who support First Nations people in their community. |

2 Who should be part of a Forum

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| --- | --- |
| illustration of Aboriginal people with the Aboriginal flag in the background | A Forum could include First Nations people with disability who are   * From organisations that support First Nations people with disability * From organisations that speak up for First Nations people with disability **like** First Peoples Disability Network |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people sitting by a river | * **Not** part of an organisation. |
| icon of parliament house in teal | The Forum could include people who work for the   * Australian government * State and territory governments. |
| A map of australia with different colored squares | There are different ways we could run a Forum.  We could have   * **1 Forum** for all of Australia * **Forums** in each state and territory. |
| illustration of a city  illustration of Uluru | A Forum could have First Nations people with disability from different parts of Australia like   * Cities * Remote places. |

3 Who should a Forum make recommendations to

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| --- | --- |
| illustration of an elder talking to 2 people | A Forum could   * Talk about problems * Share recommendations. |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in an office | The recommendations would be about what needs to change in   * Governments * Services that support First Nations people with disability. |
| closing the gap logo | The Forum could share their recommendations with the **Joint Council on Closing the Gap**.  The Joint Council is a group that want to improve life for First Nations peoples. |
| A group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people sitting in parliament | The Joint Council is made up of   * First Nations leaders * Government **Ministers.**   Ministers are leaders in an area of the government. |
| A map of australia with different colored squares | The Forum could share their recommendations with Disability Ministers in each state and territory**.** |

4 What could be funded

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| --- | --- |
| A fanned out paper money | The Forum will need support to work well.  **Funding** could support the Forum.  Funding is **money from the government.** |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with an elder giving a speak on a podium | Funding could support people at the Forum to   * Be paid for their time and travel * Visit and talk to First Nations people with disability around Australia * Make ACCOs stronger. * Increase jobs. |
| a book with a hand and pen | A **secretariat** could support the Forum.  A secretariat is a group of people who can   * Organise meetings * Make appointments * Write down the recommendations. |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people waving at each other | The secretariat could be someone   * In the government * From a First Nations organisation * The government and a First Nations Organisation working together. |

5 How would a Forum work with other groups

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| --- | --- |
| An illustration of an incandescent light bulb with glowing rays.  icon of parliament house in teal | The Forum would be a new way for the government and First Nations people with disability to work together.  The government will still work with other groups that look at   * Early childhood * Health * Housing * Justice * NDIS. |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people waving at each other | The Forum would **also** work with these other groups. |

6 How should the government check if a Forum is working well

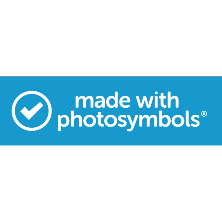
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Image of a checklist with one item checked off. | There could be a plan to check the Forum is working well.  We could   * Work out the things to do first * Plan to check how the Forum is working after 1 year. * Plan an **evaluation**. |
| A spiral-bound notebook with lined pages and a black pen lying diagonally across it. | An evaluation means looking at what   * Worked * Did **not** work. |

7 Do you have any more ideas

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with an elder talking to 2 people | We want to hear your ideas about the Forum.  Do you have any more ideas about the Forum? |
| illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in the background  icon of parliament house in teal | We will work with First Nations people with disability to come up with ideas about a Forum.  We will share ideas of what the Forum could look like.  We will work with   * The Australian government * State and territory governments * Organisations that speak up for First Nations people with disability like First Peoples Disability Network   To come up with these ideas. |

How to tell us your ideas

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| teal envelope  illustration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with an elder talking to 2 people  Clipboard with a red 'X' mark on the paper. | When you tell us your ideas we will see your personal information like   * Your email address * If you are a person with disability * If you are a First Nations person * If you are a carer or family member of someone with disability.   We will **not** share this information with other people.  We will keep it safe. |
| Calendar icon showing January 28 | You need to send us your ideas before  **28 January 2025.**  This is **very important**. |
| teal envelope | You can tell us about your ideas in different ways.  You can  Send us an email.  [adsfirstnations@dss.gov.au](mailto:adsfirstnations@dss.gov.au) |
| A person putting letters into an australia post box | Write us a letter.  ADS Branch, DSS  GPO Box 9820  Canberra ACT 2601 |
| A phone icon on a blue background | Call us   * Before 25 December 2024 * After January 1   **02 5162 7335** |
| teal arrow with lines | Go to our website  [engage.dss.gov.au](https://engage.dss.gov.au/)  This website is **not** Easy Read.  The questions look different but mean the same thing.  You can ask someone you trust to support you. |

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