



The *National Disability Advocacy Framework 2023-2025* is an Associated Plan under *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031*.

National Disability Advocacy Work Plan 2023–2025

Easy Read version



How to use this plan



The Australian and state and territory governments wrote this plan.

When you see the word 'we', it means the Australian and state and territory governments.



We wrote this plan in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

We wrote some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 31.



This is an Easy Read summary of our plan.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.

You can find more information about the plan
on our website.



[www.dss.gov.au/nationaldisability
advocacyframework](http://www.dss.gov.au/nationaldisabilityadvocacyframework)



You can ask for help to read this plan.

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

What's in this plan?

About our Work Plan 5

What we want Australia to be in the future 8

Why we created the Framework and Work Plan 9

How we updated the Framework and Work Plan 11

Work areas 18

Checking the Framework and Work Plan 25

Working with other government plans 29

Word list 31

About our Work Plan



We wrote the National Disability Advocacy **Framework** 2023–2025.

We call it our Framework.



Our Framework is about **disability advocacy**.



Disability advocacy is when someone supports you to speak up for your **rights**.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.

Disability advocacy supports people with disability to take part in:



- decisions that affect them



- the community



- services and support.



Our Framework is also about disability **advocacy services.**



Advocacy services:

- support you
- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.



Our Framework will help governments work together to make advocacy services better.



To reach the goals in the Framework, we created the Disability Advocacy Work Plan 2023–2025.

We call it our Work Plan.



Our Work Plan explains how we will reach the goals in the Framework.



Governments can choose which parts of the Work Plan they want to work on.

What we want Australia to be in the future

We want people with disability to find and use disability advocacy services that:



- supports them



- protects them



- helps them take part in the community



- makes sure everyone respects their rights.

Why we created the Framework and Work Plan



There are some gaps in what we know about disability advocacy in Australia.

This includes what we can check about disability advocacy.



There's no way to check who needs advocacy services but can't find them.



There's no way to check where people can't find advocacy services in Australia.



There's also no way to check how much **funding** different advocacy services get.

Funding is money from the government to pay for supports and services.



Governments give funding to disability advocacy services:

- in different ways
- for different reasons.

How will the Work Plan help?

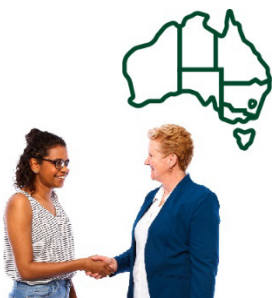


The Framework and Work Plan are part of how governments will work together.

They're doing this to make disability advocacy better.



While we start using the Framework and Work Plan, we'll think about what each local area needs.



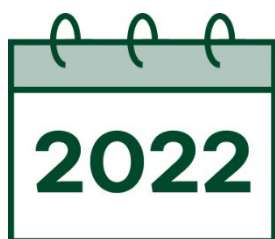
In the future, governments will be able to work together more.

And they'll be able to affect more of Australia.



We'll check the Framework and Work Plan often to make sure they're up to date.

How we updated the Framework and Work Plan



In 2022, we worked with the disability community to update the Framework and Work Plan.



40% of people who took part were people with disability.

We also heard from:



- their families and carers



- organisations that work with people with disability.

What the community told us



The community helped us with the goals in the Framework.



They said we need to work with people with disability to reach our goals.

They said we need to be able to:



- tell people about how well we're reaching our goals



- collect **data** about our goals to know if we're reaching them.

When we talk about data, we mean:



- facts
- information
- records.



The community told us we need to use **evidence** to check how disability advocacy changes.

Evidence is proof that something is true.



They told us that funding from governments should:

- be fair
- think about what everyone needs.



They also said governments should give more funding for disability advocacy.

And the funding should last longer.



The community said that disability advocacy should support more people with disability to:

- have more choice and control
- make their own decisions.



They said it's important that people with disability from certain groups can find and use advocacy services.

And advocacy services should support these groups to:



- have more choice
- make their own decisions.

These groups include:



- First Nations peoples



- people who live far away from cities or towns.



This also includes people who need support because of more than one thing in their life.

For example, if they have a disability and also speak a language other than English.



It's important that disability advocacy gives support to everyone who needs it.

Research about disability advocacy services



In March 2020, we asked an organisation called ASK Insight to do research for us.



We wanted to find out about disability advocacy in Australia.



They finished their research in December 2020.

We created an Easy Read summary of their report.



You can find it on our website.

[www.dss.gov.au/nationaldisabilityadvocacy
framework](http://www.dss.gov.au/nationaldisabilityadvocacyframework)

ASK Insight told us that we should update our Framework to make sure governments work:



- together



- to make disability advocacy better.

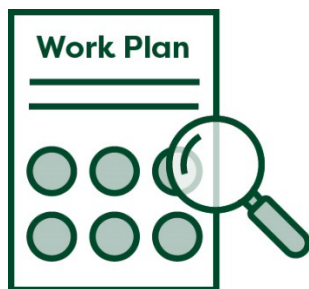


We updated our Framework based on their research.



We also created our Work Plan.

Work areas



Our Work Plan includes areas we want to focus on.

We call them our 'work areas'.



We have 6 work areas.

They support the Framework.



Our work areas will help us collect evidence about disability advocacy in Australia.



The evidence will help us make disability advocacy better.

Work area 1 – Check how well we’re reaching our goals

1



The Framework has goals we want to reach.



We want to find a way to know how well we’re reaching our goals.



We also want to collect data so we can tell people about how well we’re reaching our goals.



We will work on this area between April 2023 and June 2024.

Work area 2 – Check how we collect data

2



People and organisations deliver disability advocacy in different ways across Australia.

They also have different ways they collect data about disability advocacy.



We want to check how everyone collects data.

And we want to agree on one way that everyone can collect data.



This will help make sure we're working together to make disability advocacy better across Australia.



We will work on this area between April 2023 and June 2024.

Work area 3 – Create a map of disability advocacy services

3



We want to create a map of disability advocacy services in Australia.

We want our map to include:



- where people can find and use advocacy services



- what gaps there are



- what types of people use advocacy services.



We will work on this area between April 2023 and September 2023.

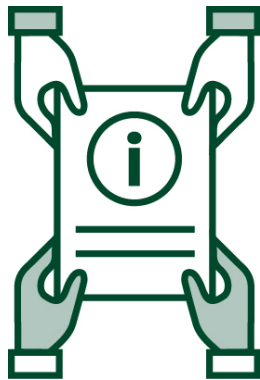
Work area 4 – Create shared resources for advocacy services

4



We want to support people to deliver advocacy services.

We can do this by sharing resources that we know work well.



We also want to support people to share information about disability advocacy.



We will work on this area between April 2023 and December 2023.

Work area 5 – Check how funding works

5



We want to check how governments fund disability advocacy.



We will collect information from other work areas.

And we will use it to think about how funding could work better.



We will work on this area between October 2023 and June 2024.

Work area 6 – Support First Nations peoples

6



We want to make sure First Nations people with disability can find and use disability advocacy services.



We'll do this by:

- training people who deliver advocacy services
- sharing resources with them, like training.



This will help First Nations people to:

- become leaders
- speak up for people with disability.



We will work on this area between April 2023 and March 2024.

Checking the Framework and Work Plan



The Disability Reform Ministerial Council will check the Framework and the Work Plan.



We call them the Council.



The Council includes disability **ministers** from across Australia.



A minister leads an area of the government.



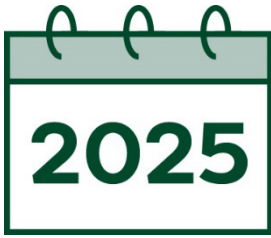
The Council agreed to the Framework and Work Plan on 21 April 2023.



Governments will give reports to the Council about how they are reaching the goals in the:

- Framework
- Work Plan.

They will give reports to the Council every year.



The Framework will finish at the end of 2025.



We'll check the Framework and Work Plan over 2025 to find out how well they worked.



We'll use information from other government:

- programs
- strategies.



This includes information about how well Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 worked.

This is a plan to support people with disability in all areas of their life.

We call it the Strategy.

Working with the community in the future

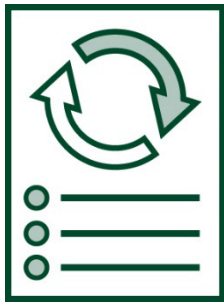


We want to work with people with disability when we do things that affect them.

This includes creating:



- programs



- policies – plans for how to do things.



We will keep working with people with disability while we use the Work Plan.



We will also work with **advisory councils**.

For example, Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council.

An advisory council is a group of people who help us understand what people with disability need.



We will also work with organisations that provide disability advocacy.

This includes Disability Representative Organisations.

Working with other government plans



The Framework and Work Plan will work with other government plans and policies.

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031



Our Framework and Work Plan work with the Strategy.



Disability advocacy is an important part of the Strategy.

It's part of the 'Rights to fair treatment and safety' section.



You can find the Strategy on the Disability Gateway website.

[www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/
ads/easy-read-strategy](http://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/easy-read-strategy)

National Agreement on Closing the Gap



Our Framework and Work Plan work with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.



The National Agreement on Closing the Gap explains how we can support First Nations peoples.

This includes First Nations peoples with disability.

Disability Sector Strengthening Plan



Our Framework and Work Plan work with the Disability Sector Strengthening Plan.

We call it the Disability SSP.



The Disability SSP is a plan to make sure people have the right skills to support First Nations peoples with disability.

Word list

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



Advisory council

An advisory council is a group of people who help us understand what people with disability need.



Advocacy services

Advocacy services:

- support you
- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.

Data

When we talk about data, we mean:



- facts
- information
- records.



Disability advocacy

Disability advocacy is when someone supports you to speak up for your rights.



Evidence

Evidence is proof that something is true.



Framework

A framework explains how things should work.



Funding

Funding is money from the government to pay for supports and services.



Minister

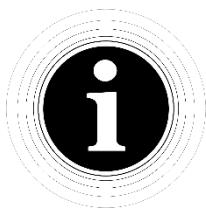
A minister leads an area of the government.



Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



This Easy Read document was created by the Information Access Group using stock photography and custom images. The images may not be reused without permission. For any enquiries about the images, please visit www.informationaccessgroup.com. Quote job number 5191-B.