



Disability Royal Commission Australian Government Response: Volume 7c Inclusive Housing

Volume 7c considers the experiences of people with disability in accessing inclusive housing. It includes 12 recommendations, 8 of which are within the Australian Government’s primary or shared responsibility.

| Inclusive Housing | |
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| Recommendation | Australian Government Response |
| 7:33: Prioritise people with disability in key national housing and homelessness approaches | Accept in principle |
| 7:34: Include homelessness in Australia’s Disability Strategy | Accept |
| 7:39: Preventing homelessness when people with disability transition from service or institutional settings | Accept in principle |
| 7:40: Address homelessness for people with disability in the National Housing and Homelessness Plan | Subject to further consideration |
| 7:41: Group home reform | Accept in principle |
| 7:42: Improve access to alternative housing options | Accept in principle |
| 7:43: A roadmap to phase out group homes within 15 years | Subject to further consideration |
| 7:44: A roadmap to phase out group homes over a generational timeframe | Subject to further consideration |

Key actions and initiatives

All governments have committed to an ambitious housing reform agenda to boost the supply of all housing, and deliver housing and homelessness supports for vulnerable communities, including people with disability. This includes:

- The proposed National Housing and Homelessness Plan, expected to be released later in 2024, which will provide a shared national vision for tackling Australia's housing challenges and support those experiencing housing stress and homelessness.
- The National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness, designed to help people who are experiencing, or are at risk of, homelessness and support the effective operation of Australia's social housing and homelessness services sectors. It provides jurisdictions with flexibility to address issues for cohorts with disproportionate disadvantage, such as people with disability.
- An agreed focus on homelessness in *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031*.

Other housing policies and programs recognise the importance of supporting people with disability. For example:

- New homes delivered under the National Housing Accord and the Housing Australia Future Fund are required to meet standards in the 2022 National Construction Code relating to liveable housing design.
- The Safe Places Inclusion Round focuses on increasing access to appropriate emergency accommodation for women and children experiencing family and domestic violence, including women and children with disability. New builds delivered under the Safe Places Inclusion Round are required to meet Liveable Housing Australia Silver-level accreditation.

Government investment

- Through the measure 'Building a strong ecosystem of disability supports', the Government has committed **\$49.7 million** for design and consultation to support better home and living options for NDIS participants.
- The measure includes targeted compliance activities and an education campaign to ensure Specialist Disability Accommodation providers are aware of and meet their existing conflict of interest obligations. It also includes funding to conduct design activities to explore the legal separation of Specialist Disability Accommodation and Supported Independent Living.