

2010—2020
National Disability Strategy

Progress Report to the Council of Australian Governments

2014

Easy Read version



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How to use this document



This information is written in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



Some words are written in **bold**. We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 21.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the longer document on our website at www.dss.gov.au/nds



You can ask for help to read this document.

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

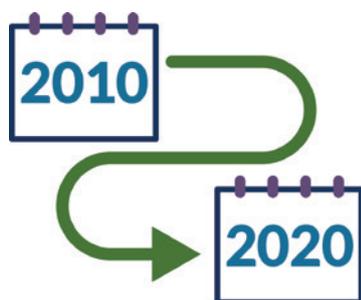
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What is the National Disability Strategy?



The National Disability Strategy is a plan for improving the lives of people with disability.



This plan is for 10 years.

We will use it from 2010 to 2020.



Every 2 years, we write a report about how the plan is going.



This is the first report. It explains what's been done since the plan was started in 2011.

Who uses the National Disability Strategy?



The National Disability Strategy is for all Australians.

It is used by all the governments in Australia, including:



- the Federal government



- state and territory governments



- local governments.



The plan is making a difference in people's lives.



Since the plan was started, different governments around Australia have been working on their own disability plans as well.



People in the community have been telling us what they think about the plan.



This includes:

- people with disability
- families and carers
- people who work with people with disability.



We use their ideas and feedback to make sure that the plan is working.

The main ideas we are working on

Some of the main ideas in the plan are making sure that people with disability:



- are included in our society



- can reach their potential



- are treated as equals.

The plan covers 6 main areas:



1. Taking part in the community



2. Our rights for fair treatment



3. Work, money and housing



4. Getting support



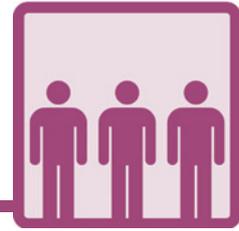
5. Learning and skills



6. Health and wellbeing

In this document, we explain the work we have been doing in each of these areas.

Taking part in the community



We are working on making our community more **inclusive** and **accessible**.



Inclusive means that you feel included and you can take part in everyday life.



Accessible means that you can enter a place or building. You can use a service or get information.

We have written new rules about accessibility for:



- buildings



- public transport.

We are also making information better.



For example, we are working on an important project about information for people who are blind.



We are working on this project with 20 other countries around the world.

Together, we will make sure that millions of people who are blind can get information in different ways, including:



- Braille

abc
def

- large print



- audio.



Our rights for fair treatment

In Australia, we all want to:



- be treated fairly



- feel safe



- take part in the community



- be respected.



In 2008, the Australian Government signed an agreement called the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.



This agreement is used by many countries around the world.



It was written by a group of people who work for the United Nations.



In 2013, these people said that Australia is doing very good work, but there is more to do.

They said that the National Disability Strategy is a good plan.



And they said that the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a good idea.

The NDIS is a way of providing care and support for people with disability.

We talk more about the NDIS on pages 16 and 17.

Work, money and housing



We are helping more people with disability get work, and have more money.



We understand that some people with disability can't work. To help them get by, the government provides the Disability Support Pension.



But we know that there are many people with disability who can work, and who want to work.



We are helping these people by:

- encouraging people with disability who are under 35 to find and keep work
- continuing to run Wage Connect – a programme that helps people who are homeless or who have not had a job for a long time
- helping people set up and run social enterprises – businesses that are working for the good of our community.



Getting support



Many people with disability need support to get by in everyday life.



They might need the help of a carer, or some help to get a job or find a good place to live.

ndis

In the future, some of this support will be taken care of by the NDIS.



The NDIS offers people more choice and control about the type of support they use.



The NDIS started in 2012 in some places around Australia.



The NDIS will start happening around most of Australia from 2016.



This is a big change and it will make a big difference in many people's lives.

Learning skills



Getting a good education is an important part of having a good life.



We want people with disability to get an education, and get the skills they need to get a job.



We are working on some programmes that help people with disability go to TAFE or university, and to get a job afterwards.

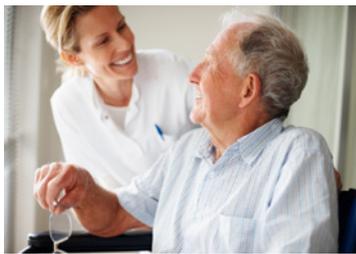


We are also helping schools, teachers and parents support children to learn.

Health and wellbeing



We want to make sure that people with disability can use the health services they need, like visiting the doctor or going to hospital.



We've been providing better training for doctors about caring for people with disability.

We have also:



- improved the way we work out people's needs



- asked more people with disability to provide advice about making health care better and more accessible



- done more research and collected better data



- encouraged people working in the health system to share ideas and information with each other.

What will happen next?



We have done a lot of work since the plan was started, but people tell us there is more to do. We will keep working hard to improve the lives of people with disability in Australia.



In 2 years, we will write another report to let people know how the plan is going.



If we think the plan isn't working, we can make changes and improvements along the way.



After 2020, we will write a final report about the National Disability Strategy.

Word list



Accessible

You can enter a place or building. You can use a service or get information.



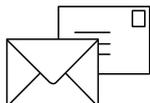
Inclusive

You feel included and you can take part in everyday life.

Contact us



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