

2010–2020

National Disability Strategy



Progress Report to the Council of Australian Governments

2014

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A word from disability ministers

Australia's disability ministers summarise their jurisdictions' actions and achievements from 2011 to 2014 under the National Disability Strategy

Australian Government

The *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020* represents a shared national vision for improving the lives of Australians with disability, their families and carers. We want to ensure that all of our fellow citizens — including the one in five who live with disability — have fair and equal access to the full range of mainstream programmes and services available, whether employment, healthcare, education, transport, or public facilities and infrastructure. Reforming our mainstream systems will provide greater opportunity for participation, as well as an essential foundation for gradually rolling out the National Disability Insurance Scheme. There is a strong commitment to the strategy across each level of government, but it will require a collaborative effort by all of us to provide people with disability with the freedoms, dignity and choice that all Australians expect.

Although only in its first stage of implementation, we are already seeing significant progress under the strategy towards the creation of a more inclusive Australia. Ours is a country where the principles of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* are an inherent part of the way in which we support all people within our community. The reform of disability services through the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme is testament to this approach. We want to create a society where every citizen has the opportunity to have a good education, to choose a place to live, to find and maintain a job, to socialise with friends and be part of everyday community life. As the strategy advances towards 2020, our ultimate goal is for people with disability to be able to fulfill their dream of equal participation in all aspects of society.

The Hon Christian Porter MP
Minister for Social Services

New South Wales

The NSW Government is committed to full community inclusion for all people with disability. On 3 December 2014, the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* (the Act) officially commenced in NSW. The Act enshrines the rights of people with disability into NSW law during and beyond the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and aligns with the United Nations *Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

Central to the *Disability Inclusion Act* is the NSW Disability Inclusion Plan. The Plan is a whole-of-government approach to planning of services to make them more accessible and communities more inclusive — all in consultation with people with disability.

This work is in addition to the National Disability Strategy NSW Implementation Plan 2012–2014. I am pleased to say that many of the actions have been completed, and there have been significant steps taken by the NSW Government to increase access to mainstream services for people with disability.

I am honored to be part of a government that is working to deliver the best outcomes for people with disability across NSW. I am excited by what we have achieved so far, but I know there is more to do. I look forward to continuing to work with people with disability, all stakeholders, and the community to ensure full inclusion in our society.

Hon John Ajaka MLC

Minister for Ageing

Minister for Disability Services

Victoria

The Victorian Government is committed to increasing the social inclusion of people with a disability and reducing barriers to their participation. People with a disability have a right to decent and fulfilling lives where their efforts and their achievements, not their disabilities, will be their defining features. Implemented in Victoria through the State Disability Plan, the National Disability Strategy is one important way we can achieve this.

Victoria is contributing over \$300 million of existing and new funding for services for people with a disability in the Barwon Area over the three year NDIS trial period.

Our focus in Victoria is working together to provide people with a disability with the services and support they need to participate in the community in the same way as people without a disability.

A recent Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Social Inclusion and Victorians with Disability has highlighted what we already know — that people with a disability face barriers to employment, education, housing, service provision, civic participation and other areas. The inquiry has confirmed the *Victorian Disability Act 2006* and the current State Disability Plan provide a strong basis for our social inclusion agenda.

We are going to continue to draw on the expertise of people with a disability, their families, carers, the disability sector and others to achieve our vision for people with a disability.

Hon Martin Foley MP

Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing

Queensland

The new Queensland Government sworn in February 2015 is committed to the outcomes of the National Disability Strategy. These share much in common with Queensland's own 10-year blueprint, *Absolutely everybody: enabling Queenslanders with a disability*, released in 2011.

The milestones noted in this progress report are given effect through Queensland Government departmental disability service plans, required under the *Disability Services Act 2006*, introduced by a previous Labor government. The intent was to provide a coordinated approach in Queensland to making government services more accessible and responsive. Like those before us, the new Labor government will work towards achieving a more inclusive society. Most importantly, we will seek a more inclusive economy — one which provides more employment opportunities for people with disability, as well as long-term carers re-entering the workforce.

As one of the original supporters of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), our priority in coming months will be working towards its successful implementation in 2016. The NDIS represents one of the great social reforms of our lifetime. To ensure its smooth roll-out, we will establish an NDIS launch prior to the national roll-out that will provide vital information about how the NDIS will work in a local context.

Hon Coralee O'Rourke MP

Minister for Disability Services

Minister for Seniors

Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland

Western Australia

Western Australia is committed to the National Disability Strategy and actively pursues important public policy changes to address the challenges faced by people with disability, their families and carers. The State's *Count Me In* strategy continues to be the primary vehicle through which the National Disability Strategy is delivered in Western Australia. The Disability Services Commission works in partnership with people with disability, service providers and community representatives and there is a particular focus on access, inclusion and participation across government and in communities across the state.

Hon Helen Morton MLC

Minister for Disability Services

South Australia

A major reform agenda for South Australians with disability and their families is well underway. This is underpinned by *Strong Voices: A Blueprint to Enhance Life and Claim the Rights of People with Disability in South Australia (2010–2020)*. Our reforms aim to bring people with disability to the forefront in determining how they live their lives, pursue aspirations and contribute to our society.

As Minister for Disabilities, I am committed to ensuring people with disability have opportunities to participate in the ongoing development of government policy, programmes and delivery of services. I established the South Australian Disability Register, a database of individuals who agreed to be consulted on particular disability-related topics. I have personally led a number of community engagement roundtables. This led to the development and passing of the *Disability Services (Rights, Protection and Inclusion) Amendment Act 2013* and addressed employment opportunities for people with disability.

I am particularly proud that our disability agenda is occurring in mainstream policy areas across the whole sphere of state government. This includes in health, housing, transport, education, employment, justice and the arts. This work is complementary to the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which is transforming the way services are delivered to people with disability.

Hon Tony Piccolo MP

Minister for Disabilities

Tasmania

The Tasmanian Government is committed to providing leadership to achieve a fully inclusive and participatory society in which people with disability are valued and respected as equal and contributing members of our community.

The *Disability Framework for Action 2013–2017* sets out how, in collaboration with the Tasmanian community, we will ensure that the *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020* is implemented in this state and what we will do to build a better Tasmania for people with disability.

People with disability, through the Premier's Disability Advisory Council and the Minister's Disability Advisory Council, continue to partner with us — contributing to a strong agenda for change and taking a key role in monitoring the Tasmanian Government's action in this area.

I am genuinely proud of our recent achievements including supporting the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, guaranteeing greater protection for the rights of people with disability through a new *Mental Health Act 2013* and delivering improved experiences for students with disability in Tasmanian schools.

Of course there is more to do. During 2014, each Tasmanian Government department has developed a new four-year disability action plan detailing what it will do to ensure that there are better opportunities for people with disability to work, learn, access the services they need and to participate in social, recreational, cultural and political life.

Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP

Minister for Human Services

Minister for Women

Australian Capital Territory

Future Directions: Towards Challenge 2014 is the ACT Government's five-year policy framework for achieving positive outcomes for people with disability. Focusing on collaborative action across the ACT Government and the business, sports, arts and community sectors, it is the ACT's translation of the objectives of the National Disability Strategy. Launched in 2010, *Future Directions* ended in December 2014 which has provided us with a great opportunity to reflect on achievements and future action.

We have come a long way to ensure people with disability have the same opportunities as others to work and participate in the community. Under *Future Directions*, we have delivered real and tangible outcomes for people with disability, families and carers across the six outcome areas of the National Disability Strategy as highlighted in this report. Some notable examples include a curriculum resource for schools about inclusion, creation of innovative housing options and increasing transport options for people with disability.

The ACT will be the first jurisdiction to accept all eligible residents into the National Disability Insurance Scheme. An estimated population of 5,075 people will transition into the scheme by July 2016. The ACT is committed to the implementation of the National Disability Strategy to create inclusive communities where people with disability can fully participate and engage in the life of the community as equal citizens.

Our commitment to the *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020* will continue through the development of an ACT Inclusion Statement that will be created in partnership with the community in 2015. This will reinforce our commitment to the National Disability Strategy and assist in our transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Hon Joy Burch MLA

Minister for Disability

Northern Territory

In 2014, the Northern Territory Government created the first dedicated ministerial portfolio for Disability Services. This has enabled disability to be recognised as its own area of government responsibility in the Territory and receive the focus of a dedicated Minister.

Work has commenced on the development of a whole-of-government Disability Strategy. This strategy takes advantage of the increased focus on disability at both a community and government level which is being driven by the National Disability Strategy and reforms occurring as part of the NDIS.

A Disability Scholarships Programme was established in 2014, aimed at building the capacity of the disability services sector in the Northern Territory. Scholarships are awarded to employees and staff working in the disability services sector currently enrolled or intending to enrol in a course that is relevant to the strategic workforce directions of the disability services.

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability Reform was also established in 2014, to provide strategic advice to Government on the issues facing Territorians with disability, their carers and families. The council has a particular focus to advise government on the current trial of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the Barkly region.

The trial in the Barkly region has raised significant expectation for people with disability, the disability service sector and the broader community in the Northern Territory regarding increased services and choice. It is vital that the lessons from this trial serve to build an equitable and effective remote service delivery model within the frameworks and principles of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We must ensure that remote clients are not disadvantaged either by access, eligibility challenges or service delivery which do not fully address the market challenges or the special needs of the client group.

Hon John Elferink MLA

Minister for Disability Services

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Executive summary

The *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020* sets out a ten-year national policy framework for improving the lives of Australians with disability, their families and carers. This report is the first of four two-yearly progress reports to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). The report provides a high-level view of progress under the strategy based on reporting from Australian Government, and state, territory and local government agencies on the implementation of policies and programmes which will contribute to achieving the strategy's vision for:

‘An inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens.’

This report is an important means of communicating progress to people with disability, their families and carers, governments and the wider community. The National Disability Strategy is a ‘living’ policy framework and progress reports will inform the further development and implementation of the strategy over its ten-year life span. Achievements may not be immediately measurable because of the strategy's long-term focus; however, a key feature of this progress report is the inclusion of baseline population trend data to monitor and track national progress against the strategy's six policy outcome areas:

1. Inclusive and accessible communities
2. Rights protection, justice and legislation
3. Economic security
4. Personal and community support
5. Learning and skills
6. Health and wellbeing

Other evidence of progress is provided through reporting from the Disability Reform Council about key achievements, as well as feedback from Disability Champion Ministers who have been working to progress the objectives of the strategy. States and territories have developed disability plans consistent with the strategy and are reporting on these within their jurisdictions. Importantly, the views of people with disability, their families and carers, and their representative organisations have provided invaluable insight on progress and how the strategy is making a difference and where there is a need to renew focus.

Since the strategy was launched in 2011, achievements have been made across each key policy area. Highlighted in this report are positive actions by each level of government, and the community as a whole, towards creating a more accessible and inclusive environment. This has been enhanced by improved adherence to planning and regulatory systems such as the *Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010* and *Disability Standards to Accessible Public Transport 2002*. An increased awareness and application of universal design principles across housing, transport and public infrastructure such as inclusive playgrounds, has brought with it positive improvements for people with disability.

While there is more work to be done to ensure that information and communication material is accessible to everyone, in June 2014 the Australian Government made a significant contribution to this goal by signing the *Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or otherwise Print Disabled* in Geneva. Work is currently underway towards ratification of the Treaty through Federal Parliament. The treaty will come into effect following ratification by 20 countries and will ultimately provide millions of people with vision impairments around the world access to more books published in accessible formats — including large print, braille or audio.

The strategy is an important mechanism for meeting Australia's obligations under the United Nations *Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities*. In October 2013, following an appearance by the Australian delegation before the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Geneva, the Committee released its concluding observations which commended Australia for the adoption of the National Disability Strategy and the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The development of the NDIS is a significant achievement under the strategy and the most influential means of personal and community support for people with disability, their families and carers. While the NDIS represents a positive step forward for many people with disability, the strategy remains the key to achieving improvements in access to mainstream services and support for all people with disability. These mainstream reforms are an essential element in the successful introduction of the NDIS, both for participants in the scheme and for the many people with disability who may not be participants.

In terms of economic security, efforts to increase employer demand for people with disability and to provide better support to assist people with disability to remain in employment continue to progress, while the Disability Support Pension (DSP) will continue to provide a safety net for those unable to work. Recent reforms to DSP, focusing particularly on people below the age of 35, will also ensure that young people with disability have the best opportunity and support to get back into the workforce. The Wage Connect initiative proved successful, together with the Social Enterprise Development and Investment Funds (SEDIF), an initiative designed to help support social enterprises to develop, grow and sustain their work and impact by providing an avenue of tailored finance.

Improving access to quality education is an essential preparation for employment and the ability to live independently. The Australian Government and state and territory governments have sought to improve access to a quality education and appropriate training and support for people with disability through both mainstream and disability specific policies and programmes. The Higher Education Disability Support Programme has assisted in removing barriers to education for students with disability, and the National Disability Coordination Officer Programme (NDCO) has enhanced access to tertiary education and subsequent employment. The *Students First* approach is a means by which the Australian Government is working successfully with states and territories to focus on the key areas of school autonomy, quality teachers, an effective curriculum, and increased parental engagement to make a real difference for all students.

Finally, in the area of health and wellbeing, actions undertaken under the strategy have sought to address the barriers to mainstream health services and supports for people with disability across a number of areas, including through the provision of better training and education for medical and allied health professionals; improved assessment tools to identify complex needs; placing more people with disability in health advisory roles; better data collection; and improved networking, leadership and sharing of best-practice models across and within a range of health and lifestyle services.

Over the coming years, the strategy will be evaluated progressively using the information gathered in this report and subsequent two-yearly progress reports. This approach to evaluation will allow governments to learn from past experience and, if needed, review and amend the approach taken. This means that each implementation stage can be designed accordingly. A final evaluation report will use the evidence gathered through the two-yearly progress reports and will draw on the findings from evaluations of related government initiatives. It will also assess the strategy's performance in terms of its vision, the six policy outcomes, and the overall purpose of the strategy.



The 2014 National Disability Awards

The National Disability Awards form part of the Australian Government's celebration of International Day of People with Disability.

The Award categories are aligned with the key policy areas of the National Disability Strategy and celebrate and acknowledge people, teams and organisations who demonstrate excellence, passion, vision and a commitment to assisting people with disability to achieve their goals.



Introduction

Endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in February 2011, the *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020* outlines a ten-year national approach to improving outcomes and whole-of-life opportunities for people with disability in Australia.

The strategy aims to influence the planning, design and delivery of mainstream policies, programmes, services and infrastructure, as well as the specialist disability services system, so that people with disability can participate as equal citizens in all areas of Australian life.

The strategy is structured under six broad policy outcome areas:

1. Inclusive and accessible communities

2. Rights, protection, justice and legislation

3. Economic security

4. Personal and community support

5. Learning and skills

6. Health and wellbeing

These six outcome areas were developed in consultation with people with disability and reflect the principles of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* to which Australia is a signatory.

All governments remain committed to driving change as outlined in the strategy. Implementation of the strategy is to be guided by three separate implementation plans over its ten-year life span. The first implementation plan, *Laying the Groundwork 2011–2014*, established the foundations to drive reform in the planning and delivery of both mainstream and disability-specific policies and services. It also established the basis for reporting and evaluation of the strategy.

This report is the first of four two-yearly progress reports to COAG required under the strategy's reporting framework. It offers a high-level reflection of progress under the strategy provided from a range of sources including Commonwealth Government agencies, and state and territory and local governments that have had oversight of a range of measures and activities designed to further the objectives of the strategy. Disability Champion Ministers have also shared their experiences in promoting a mainstream response within their respective fields of influence.

People with disability, through their representative organisations, were also invited to comment on the first phase of the strategy's implementation; outlining if and how it had impacted their lives, and informing the development of the second implementation plan *Driving Action 2015–2018*. Their feedback is reflected in this report.

Laying the groundwork

Implementation of the strategy in this first phase focused on six main actions to achieve results. These actions were designed to influence and enable improvement across all service systems and eliminate barriers for people with disability in all areas of life. The six actions were:

1. Influencing the mainstream support system by ensuring that when National Partnerships and National Agreements are periodically reviewed, consideration is given to how these agreements might be amended to better respond to the needs of people with disability
2. Appointing ministers from a range of mainstream portfolios to take a strong national leadership role to support the implementation of the National Disability Strategy and to act as champions for disability issues within their portfolio areas
3. Improving the evidence base — acknowledging that the more we know and understand, the better we can respond to the needs of people with disability
4. Developing, reviewing and implementing state and territory government disability plans and/or initiatives that complement the objectives of the National Disability Strategy
5. Involving people with disability in the development and implementation of government policies and programmes
6. Maintaining a commitment by governments to work together to realise the objectives of the National Disability Strategy

State and territory disability plans

In addition to embracing national efforts across the strategy's six outcome areas, state and territory governments have direct responsibility for delivering the majority of public services that are essential for all people to participate in their communities, including people with disability. These services range from health, hospitals and education to housing and transport, and they are found across all of the policy areas identified under the strategy.

Accordingly, each jurisdiction has its own individually tailored disability plan to translate the strategy's vision into improvements that are based on the circumstances and priorities relevant to each state or territory. These plans align with the objectives of the strategy.

A select number of activities covered in the state and territory disability plans have been included in this high-level report. A comprehensive account of the progress made by each state and territory can be found in their individual reports.¹

Local government

Local government plays an important and unique role in driving the objectives of the strategy. Local councils are responsible for delivering a range of federal, state and territory government policies and programmes. Being so close to the communities they serve, they often engage more comprehensively to identify barriers to access and inclusion and can respond more sensitively to the expressed and specific needs of their communities.

An increasing number of local councils have developed and worked to disability access and inclusion plans. This has resulted in the implementation of a range of innovative and practical measures to improve outcomes for people with disability.

New South Wales

The *National Disability Strategy NSW Implementation Plan 2012–2014* is a whole-of-government outline of the state government's initial priorities and actions to be undertaken between 2012 and 2014. The NSW plan aligns with the strategy and *NSW 2021*, and is referenced against the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. It complements reforms made to the specialist disability system through *Stronger Together*, which set a new direction for disability services from 2006 to 2016, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The NSW plan was based on targeted strategy-related communication and consultation initiatives that took place between October 2011 and April 2012. These were primarily with peak consumer organisations and existing disability consultative groups to inform the priorities and actions for NSW. The plan was also based on feedback from extensive consultations conducted by Ageing, Disability and Home Care on *Stronger Together 2* and person-centred approaches that were reviewed to identify priority issues relevant to the National Disability Strategy.

The NSW Plan is available at the [NSW Government Family & Community Services, Ageing, Disability & Home Care website](#)².

1 Disability plans are a requirement under some state legislation, such as in Queensland where the development of agency disability service plans is regulated by the *Disability Services Act 2006*. At the Australian Government level, the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* encourages development of action plans, which are provided to the Australian Human Rights Commission.

2 http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about_us/strategies/national_disability_strategy/nds_nsw_implementation_plan

In 2013, Local Government NSW and the Department of Family and Community Services commissioned a report to better understand current planning by NSW councils to support access and inclusion for people with disability. The research found that the majority of councils are planning for inclusive and accessible communities.

The report is also available at the [Local Government NSW website](#)³.

The *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* (NSW) (the Act) commenced on 3 December 2014 and requires the NSW Government to develop a four-year State Disability Inclusion Plan to guide how the whole-of-government will work towards the inclusion in the community of people with disability and improve access to mainstream services and community facilities.

The Act also requires NSW Government departments, local councils and some other public authorities to develop and implement their own Disability Inclusion Action Plans. The plans must be consistent with the State Disability Inclusion Plan and include strategies to increase access and participation. In developing and reviewing their plans, departments, councils and other public authorities must consult with people with disability.

The NSW Department of Families and Community Services and Local Government NSW have also reviewed local council disability access and inclusion planning and identified a number of excellent projects being undertaken at a local level to increase the accessibility and inclusiveness of communities for people with disability.

Victoria

The Victorian Government is committed to listening to people with disability, their families and carers and taking the actions needed to improve their lives at home, play, school and work.

The *Victorian state disability plan 2013–2016* involves work across government and the community sectors to make it possible for people with disability to use mainstream services such as health, education and transport — in the same way and in the same places as everyone else.

Victoria has long been at the forefront of increasing independence and choice for people with disability and is continuing to reform disability services to increase independence and choice. The Victorian Government is committed to monitoring and reporting back on progress against the plan while developing a new state disability plan for launch in 2017. The current plan is available at the [Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services website](#)⁴.

3 <http://www.lgnsw.org.au/policy/disability>

4 www.dhs.vic.gov.au/statedisabilityplan

Queensland

The Queensland Government is committed to enabling people with disability to have greater choice and control over disability care and supports, and to providing social and economic opportunities for people with disability.

In September 2011, the Queensland Government released *Absolutely everybody: enabling Queenslanders with a disability* — an action plan to build an inclusive Queensland. The ten priorities of the action plan complemented the aims of the National Disability Strategy:

1. Rights and responsibilities
2. Inclusive communities
3. Accessible information, places and spaces
4. Health lives
5. Technology and innovation
6. Lifelong learning
7. Valued roles in the community and in employment
8. Strong natural networks
9. Responsive and effective disability support
10. Partnerships.

The *Queensland Disability Plan 2014–19: Enabling choices and opportunities* (QDP) was released in December 2013, building on the ground-work provided by *Absolutely everybody: enabling Queenslanders with a disability* and the range of activities that had been underway since 2011. The QDP was a blueprint to prepare Queensland for the NDIS and to continue to deliver the Queensland Government's commitments under the *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020* to improve access and inclusion across Queensland communities.

The QDP is a call to action that outlines the key roles business, industry and community partners can play in achieving the plan's aims. The seven priorities of the QDP are:

1. Support people with disability and communities to be well-informed and confident about what the NDIS means for them.
2. Support people with disability, their families and carers to exercise choice and take up opportunities.
3. Support non-government disability service providers to operate in a competitive market-based environment.
4. Develop a skilled and strong workforce.
5. Prepare Queensland Government departments to transition disability funding and services to the National Disability Insurance Agency
6. Enhance mainstream services and facilities to enable genuine choice and participation in all areas, including education, employment, health, justice services and housing.
7. Promote genuine participation in the community.

The QDP is available at [Queensland Government, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services website](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reform-and-renewal/disability-services/queensland-government-disability-plans/queensland-disability-plan-2014-19)⁵.

5 www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reform-and-renewal/disability-services/queensland-government-disability-plans/queensland-disability-plan-2014-19

Queensland's commitment to the National Disability Strategy and the *Queensland Disability Plan 2014–19* will be delivered through actions set out in the disability service plan of each Queensland Government department. The development of a disability service plan is a legislative requirement under Queensland's *Disability Services Act 2006*. All Queensland departments or agencies develop a disability service plan to provide a coordinated approach to improving access to government services and responses to the needs of people with disability, their families and carers. This approach takes into account partnerships with all levels of government, business, industry, people with disability, their families, carers and the community sector.

Disability service plans of agencies are available at [Queensland Government, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services website](#)⁶.

Western Australia

The *Count Me In* initiative guides implementation of the National Disability Strategy in Western Australia. *Count Me In* is a change agenda to improve access, inclusion and participation across local communities, local and state government and the disability sector. Its key themes are 'economic and community foundations', 'participation and contribution in all aspects of life' and 'personalised supports and services'.

The *Count Me In* strategy is underpinned by 240 state government agencies and local governments that are required by law to develop and progress disability access and inclusion plans which cover seven key outcome areas. Many of the policy directions within *Count Me In* and the National Disability Strategy are also informing the state trial of the WA NDIS. This forms part of the national trials through a national partnership agreement.

Count Me In has been widely welcomed across the state. It increased community awareness and capacity to respond to people with disability. It proved an important way to increase choice and control and to improve outcomes on behalf of people with disability through ensuring collaboration continues with mainstream agencies, including local governments.

The Western Australian *Disability Services Act 1993* requires state government authorities and local governments to develop and implement a disability access and inclusion plan. Disability access and inclusion plans are a formal mechanism for public authorities to identify and remove barriers preventing access by people with disability to services, events, information, buildings and facilities, and employment. Public authorities, including local government bodies, are required to report on progress in their annual reports and to the Disability Services Commission, which collates an annual progress report for parliament.

Progress reports of the disability access and inclusion plans, and information about *Count Me In* activities, are available at [Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission website](#)⁷.

6 <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reform-and-renewal/disability-services/queensland-government-disability-plans/queensland-government-disability-service-plans>

7 www.disability.wa.gov.au

South Australia

South Australia's disability plan, *Strong Voices — a Blueprint to Enhance Life and Claim the Rights of People with Disability in South Australia (2012–2020)*, was developed through intensive consultation with people with disability, their families and supporters. *Strong Voices* aligns with objectives of the National Disability Strategy and its actions reflect the South Australian context.

Highlights to date under *Strong Voices* include:

- new disability legislation, the *Disability Services (Rights, Protection and Inclusion) Amendment Act 2013*, which came into operation in South Australia in December 2013 to ensure greater choice, control and rights protection for people with disability
- development and funding of the *Disability Justice Plan 2014–2017* to safeguard the rights of all people with disability in their interactions with the criminal justice system
- greater protection for people with disability who require support workers through expanding screening provisions for volunteers and support workers through South Australia's *Disability Services (Assessment of Relevant History) Regulations 2014*; these new provisions create a national benchmark for the comprehensive assessment of foreseeable risk.
- introducing disability access and inclusion plans across state and local government
- progressive implementation of individualised funding for South Australians with disability.

Strong Voices is available at [South Australian Government Department for Communities and Social Inclusion website](#)⁸.

Tasmania

The *Disability Framework for Action 2013–2017* set out the Tasmanian Government's vision for a fully inclusive and participatory society in which people with disability are valued and respected as equal and contributing members of our community. The strategy includes 71 actions to be undertaken by the state government. These relate to the six outcome areas of the National Disability Strategy and a commitment to achieve better outcomes for Tasmanians with disability through working collaboratively with the Australian Government, local government, as well as with industry and community organisations.

During 2014, all Tasmanian Government departments developed disability action plans that identify how the state's framework will be implemented. Performance under the framework is monitored by the Premier's Disability Advisory Council. This is chaired by the Premier of Tasmania and includes people with disability, carers and people with disability expertise.

State Government agencies report annually to the council about their progress against the framework and the council provides an annual report to state cabinet, including recommendations for action for the following year. Heads of agency make personal presentations biannually to the council.

The strategy is available at [Tasmanian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet website](#)⁹.

8 <http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/services/disability-sa/disability-sa-publications/plans-and-reports/strong-voices>

9 http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/csrt/for_and_about/people_with_disability

Australian Capital Territory

Future Directions: Towards Challenge 2014 is the ACT Government's policy framework to improve outcomes and opportunities for Canberrans who have a disability. The six strategic priorities of Future Directions align with the National Disability Strategy. They focus the efforts of government, community and business towards making a positive difference in the lives of people with disability and their families.

Future Directions is underpinned by the vision expressed by Canberrans with disability that:

'All people with disabilities achieve what they want to achieve, live how they choose to live and are valued as full and equal members of the ACT community.'

Publication of the Future Directions finalisation report coincided with the 2014 International Day of People with Disability. The report celebrates, through first-person accounts, the outcomes and achievements of the framework over the past four years to promote a more inclusive Canberra community.

The report provides a solid platform on which to build the ACT Government's new ACT Inclusion Statement in the first quarter of 2015. Broad community consultation will be invited in developing this statement.

Future Directions and the finalisation report are available at the [ACT Government Community Services website](#)¹⁰.

- [ACT Government, Future Directions — Five year policy framework \[PDF 83.5KB\]](#)¹¹
- [ACT Government, Future Directions — Five year policy framework \[Word 135KB\]](#)¹²

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory Disability Strategy is a whole-of-government initiative to guide the future direction of the Disability Services portfolio. It set outs actions for the Northern Territory Government to carry out from 2015 to 2019 to address the priorities for people with disability — in line with the National Disability Strategy.

The Territory's strategy will ensure key disability reforms remain a firm focus alongside the roll out of the NDIS. It will also ensure a high priority for programmes and initiatives for people with disability in the Territory.

Several more initiatives drive disability reform in the Territory:

- The portfolio of Minister of Disability Services was set up in February 2014 — the first time this portfolio has existed in the Territory, bringing it in line with other jurisdictions.
- The Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability Reform (MAC) was set up in February 2014 to give the Northern Territory Government strategic advice on key disability reform issues. MAC members include disability service providers, and consumers of disability services from throughout the Territory.

10 http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/disability_act/policies_and_publications

11 http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/79872/final_policy_framework_PUBLISHED.pdf

12 http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0007/314593/final_policy_framework_PUBLISHED.doc

- Disability Service Scholarships were created by the Northern Territory Government in March 2014 to boost the skills and career opportunities of people who work in the disability service sector. The scholarships encourage employees in the sector currently enrolled, or intending to enrol, in a course relevant to the strategic workforce directions of disability services. This underpinned a highly trained and competent workforce in disability services.
- On 1 July 2014, the National Disability Insurance Scheme trial was launched in the Barkly region. As the only remote trial in the nation, it is distinctly different from other trials currently underway in Australia. More than 100 Barkly residents with significant and profound disabilities will have their needs assessed under the trial, and most of the participants are Indigenous.

Disability Champion Ministers

The appointment of Disability Champion Ministers from mainstream portfolios is one of the six key action areas identified in the National Disability Strategy. The role of Disability Champions is to actively promote the mainstreaming objectives of the strategy within their portfolio areas, such as education, health and transport, at a national level.

Since the implementation of the strategy in 2011, the appointment and retention of Disability Champions has been challenging, due to changes in government portfolio responsibilities, state and territory elections, and a streamlined COAG ministerial council system. The absence of a housing and homelessness ministerial council has meant there has been no forum for appointing a Disability Champion for housing and progressing this agenda. Recent Disability Champions have represented health; regional Australia; accessible transport and infrastructure; school education and early childhood development; tertiary education, skills and employment; law and justice; and local government.

There have been varying levels of engagement from Disability Champions to progress improvements for people with disability under their mainstream portfolio areas. There have been some excellent initiatives undertaken by Disability Champions to raise awareness of the strategy and encourage reform. In particular, the Local Government Disability Champion has undertaken a range of activities to raise awareness and encourage local councils to identify and respond to barriers faced by people with disability. This includes using speaking engagements to promote the strategy's goals and objectives, encouraging all councils to develop a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan for their community, and initiating nominations for state and territory level Local Government Disability Champions.

Disability Champions have also undertaken a number of other national and statebased reform initiatives which promote the core principles of the strategy. For example, education Champions have encouraged reforms to the education sector to improve access to support services for people with disability, including the development of e-resource materials and nationally consistent data collection policies. Most Champions have also played an active role in establishing statebased disability plans that align to the strategy under their respective portfolios.

As part of the design of the NDIS, Champions have encouraged consideration of disability specific issues in their respective areas, and have used various conferences and committee meetings to give visibility to the strategy. All Champions have worked to advance the objectives of the strategy through their individual efforts.

Disability Champion for Local Government

An important part of the role of Disability Champion for Local Government is to raise awareness of the National Disability Strategy and to speak to councils about the importance of identifying and overcoming barriers faced by people with disability. Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis was Disability Champion for Local Government from 2012 to 2014. In her role as President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and as Mayor of Marion, she regularly used speaking engagements to promote inclusive communities. These included state and national local government conferences and events, as well as ALGA's National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra in June 2013, involving more than 1,000 local government representatives and elected officials.

As Disability Champion for Local Government, Mayor Lewis urged all councils to develop a disability access and inclusion plan for their community; to review their practices and policies; and to continue their work on building inclusive and accessible communities. She encouraged councils to share innovative projects and solutions with each other to promote the goals and aims of the *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020*.

The creation of a new disability category in the National Awards for Local Government in 2014 was a significant achievement and a direct result of the efforts of Mayor Lewis in her role as Local Government Disability Champion. In her words, 'the role of disability champion is one of leadership and involves setting the right examples for our young people and others in the community. Leading by example is of critical importance in promoting inclusivity.'



Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis was Disability Champion for Local Government from 2012 to 2014. As a Disability Champion, Mayor Lewis encouraged all councils to consider an inclusive playspace when upgrading an existing playground or planning a new playground.

Image courtesy of Touched by Olivia Foundation.

Table 1 Recent Disability Champions

Portfolio	Recent Disability Champions
Accessible transport and infrastructure	The Hon Terry Mulder MP (October 2012 – November 2014)
Health	The Hon Michelle O’Byrne MP (July 2013 – March 2014)
Housing	Minister Karen Struthers (December 2010 – March 2012)
Law, crime and community safety	The Hon Brad Hazzard MP (November 2014 – April 2015)
Local government	Mayor Felicity-Ann Lewis (April 2012 – November 2014)
Police and emergency management	The Hon Jennifer Rankine MP (July 2012 – March 2013)
Regional Australia	The Hon Dr Denis Napthine MP (July 2012 – November 2014)
School education and early childhood development	The Hon Mark Dixon MP (January 2012 – November 2014)
Tertiary education, skills and employment	The Hon Peter Collier MLC (February 2012 – July 2012) The Hon Murray Cowper MLA (December 2012 – February 2013) The Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP (September 2013 – January 2015)

National Partnership Agreements

Ensuring that people with disability are considered in the review of national agreements and related national partnerships is an important part of the mainstreaming objectives of the strategy. National agreements and national partnerships, agreed by COAG, are central to achieving government service delivery improvements and reforms.

Under the strategy, all governments have agreed to use the review points of relevant agreements to assess their consistency with the strategy. In effect, governments have agreed to consider the inclusion of additional strategies and performance indicators to ensure they address the needs of people with disability. This is a long-term initiative that will go some way towards embedding disability issues into everyday policy making and programme development.

In December 2012, the *Short Guide to Reviewing National Partnerships* was updated to reflect governments' agreement under the strategy, and now refers to COAG's commitment to using the review points of national agreements and related national partnerships to consider the inclusion of strategies and performance indicators to ensure they address the needs of people with disability. This document is available at the [Council on Federal Financial Relations website](#)¹³.

Streamlining the COAG council system

In December 2013, COAG agreed to streamline the council system and refocus priorities over the next 12 to 18 months. The previous 22 councils were replaced with the following eight:

- Federal Financial Relations
- Disability Reform
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Energy
- Industry and skills
- Law, Crime and Community Safety
- Education
- Health.

Discussions regarding relevant national agreements and national partnerships are being held between various Australian Government departments and agencies, and future work on this action will reflect any changes in federal-state relations. While the development of an overarching statement for inclusion in all new partnership agreements has proved an effective means of ensuring new partnership agreements make reference to both the National Disability Strategy and the needs of people with disability, work is nevertheless progressing with responsible agencies to ensure people with disability are considered in the development of strategies and performance indicators.

13 http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/guidelines_for_new_nps.aspx

Community engagement

Governments are required under the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* to consult with and actively involve people with disability, including children, through their representative organisations. In the *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020: Report to the Council of Australian Governments 2012*, it was agreed that the voice of people with disability would be embedded in the implementation of the strategy at three main levels:

1. providing advice and feedback to governments about the development and progress of each implementation plan through representative organisations of people with disability and government advisory bodies
2. encouraging government agencies to adopt protocols that ensure people with disability and their representative organisations have the opportunity to contribute to policy and programme development
3. ensuring the experiences of people with disability are reflected in the progress reports to COAG and in the evaluation of the strategy.

The following outlines a number of high level mechanisms that have been implemented to ensure people with disability have the opportunity to engage with government on issues and policies that affect their lives. This is by no means an exhaustive list of the practical measures that have been put in place at all levels of government to provide opportunities for people with disability to influence policies and programmes.

Australian Government funding of national disability organisations

The Australian Government supports national disability organisations, which helps to ensure government disability policies, programmes and services are informed about disability issues appropriately and effectively. National disability organisations advise the Government on how policies and programmes will affect the lives and experiences of people with disability, carers and service providers. These organisations are well placed to provide the Government with the perspectives of people with disability they represent and convey information between government, their membership and the broader community on social policy issues.

The Australian Government provided secretariat funding of about \$2.5 million in 2013–14 and 2014–15 to national disability organisations to contribute to policies about issues affecting people with disability, their families and carers. The disability peak bodies represent many types of disabilities, as well as the interests of women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability and their communities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with disability.

National disability organisations have provided advice to government on the National Disability Strategy and the NDIS during the reporting period of the past two years. They also advised on issues important to their constituents such as inclusive education, improving employment outcomes for people, improving access to transport, promoting independent advocacy and eliminating incidences of abuse, violence and loss of rights, and inequality faced by people with disability.

Following an open and competitive tender process in mid-2014, the Government announced the establishment a new disability peaks funding model from 2015, representing the interests and views of all people with disability, which will provide advice to the Government on breaking down barriers and improving social and economic participation. The new funding model for the disability peak sector is focused on providing the best framework to effectively represent the interests and views of all people with disability.

The new model is a major shift in the way the disability representative sector is organised — a move from a medical model of disability to a social model of disability. The new model will represent all people with disability within the one framework that recognises that disability is more a reflection of social barriers and discrimination, rather than a person's medical condition or impairment. The social model of disability is consistent with the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, the National Disability Strategy and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Protocols for Australian Government agencies to engage with people with disability

Australian Government agencies were asked to consider protocols to inform and guide their staff on their obligations to actively involve people with disability — to ensure policies and programmes are inclusive and relevant to people with disability, their families and carers. Agencies with direct portfolio responsibility to develop and administer public policy subsequently developed disability engagement protocols to guide their public policy and programme development.

State and territory government engagement

State and territory governments also committed to ensuring the design and implementation of both their disability-specific and their mainstream policies and services were informed by people with disability, their families and carers.

New South Wales

The Minister for Disability Services has asked the Disability Council NSW to monitor implementation of the NSW plan. The Council has invited the heads of all NSW Government departments to discuss their progress in implementing actions under the plan, as well as broader issues facing people with disability in accessing mainstream services and employment. The Council also seeks input through consultation directly with disability groups, to obtain their views about how the plan is affecting their experiences. The Minister receives regular updates on the progress of the plan through the Disability Council NSW and the Department of Family and Community Services.

Victoria

Throughout implementation of the *Victorian state disability plan 2013–2016*, the Victorian Government sought the views of people with disability, their families and carers about how the plan has worked for them. Their views were sought in 2013 and 2014 through the Victorian Disability Advisory Council, consultations with hard-to-reach groups, targeted interviews with key stakeholders and through progress reports from state departments. In 2014, the Victorian Government also carried out two state disability plan surveys that asked people with disability about their experiences since the state disability plan was launched.

Queensland

The Queensland Disability Advisory Council and seven regional disability advisory councils have been important channels for advice to the minister responsible for disability services on regional, state and national disability and related matters that affect the broader community.

The establishment of ministerial advisory councils has a legislative base under the *Disability Services Act 2006*. The councils represent the community and include people with disability, family members, carers and advocacy representatives, as well as members of community organisations, local government and disability service providers.

The Queensland Disability Advisory Council comprises the chairs of the state's seven regional disability advisory councils and additional members who have specialist expertise or knowledge. The councils are an invaluable consultative mechanism for the Minister and the department to seek representative stakeholder views.

Western Australia

In Western Australia, public authorities used disability access and inclusion plans to ensure access and inclusion for people with disability and participation in decision-making processes. State and local government had to report annually on their progress and their plans continued to be a primary driver of change at both the state and local levels.

South Australia

The South Australian Government's Disability Engagement Strategy connected people with disability, their carers and families, the broader community and the non-government sector to the development of government policy, programmes and service delivery. As part of this strategy, the South Australian Disability Engagement Register provided an independent contact list of people with experience of disability who provided advice on issues relating to disability.

Tasmania

As mentioned previously, under *State and territory disability plans*, the Premier of Tasmania ensures people with disability, their families and carers are able to inform Tasmanian Government policy at the highest level through the Premier's Disability Advisory Council. Chaired by the Premier, the Council includes people with disability, carers and people with disability expertise, and has two main functions: to provide strategic advice to the Tasmanian Government on directions, policies and solutions to issues related to the social inclusion and participation of people with disability; and to help monitor the roll out of Tasmania's whole-of-government disability policy, the *Disability Framework for Action 2013–2017*.

The Council reports annually to the Tasmanian Cabinet on progress relating to the framework's implementation, and has two subcommittees: the Minister's Disability Advisory Council and the Sport and Recreation Committee. The Council advises the Minister for Human Services on delivery of specialist disability services. It also holds regional community forums to engage with people concerned with disability.

The Sport and Recreation Committee advises on issues relating to the provision of sport and active recreation opportunities for people with disability. Sport and Recreation Tasmania also explores and shares ideas and initiatives through conducting disability network forums that attract representatives from sport and recreation organisations, disability service providers, people with disability, parents, carers and other community members.

In addition, an NDIS Advisory Group was set up to inform people with disability, their families and carers about the Tasmanian Government's approach to the launch of the NDIS.

Australian Capital Territory

An ACT National Disability Insurance Scheme Expert Panel was established in August 2012 to guide implementation of the NDIS in the ACT. When the Territory's NDIS trial began on 1 July 2014, the panel broadened its role and responsibility to provide advice and engagement on both the transition to the NDIS and the continuing implementation of the National Disability Strategy. The panel includes people with disability, family members, members from community organisations, business, government, and service providers.

The term of the ACT Ministerial Disability Advisory Council ended on 31 March 2014 and its end-of-term 2011–14 report included recommendations to support development of the next Territory-wide disability plan. Key themes arising from the report will be considered in the implementation of the National Disability Strategy.

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability Reform brought together people with a variety of knowledge and experience. They contribute to the roll out of the NDIS in the Barkly region and the remainder of the Northern Territory by providing strategic advice to the Northern Territory Government through the Minister for Disability Services.

The objectives of the Council are to:

- work in partnership with the Northern Territory Government to identify and recommend potential solutions to presenting issues affecting the Northern Territory's preparedness for and implementation of the NDIS
- provide advice at the strategic and operational level on Northern Territory Government activities, policies, plans and projects in relation to the NDIS
- provide advice on issues related to the delivery of both government and non-government disability services in the Northern Territory
- provide advice on issues related to the access and delivery of mainstream community services to people with disability in the Northern Territory.

Focus group on progress under the National Disability Strategy

From February to May 2014, 13 national disability peak organisations, Carers Australia and People with Disability Australia, were invited to provide a written submission outlining the perceptions and ideas of their members and constituents about progress under the strategy, as well as if and in what way the strategy had impacted their lives.

These 15 disability representative organisations were then invited to take part in a focus group discussion, held on 29 May 2014. The discussion explored observations made by the stakeholders about what had been achieved under the strategy. It also identified opportunities for future effort and focus. The feedback received is reflected in the body of this report and will inform the development of the next National Disability Strategy implementation plan, *Driving Action 2015–2018*.

People at the focus group considered the strategy a powerful indication of government commitment and a high-priority way to improve the lives of people with disability. They also thought strong government leadership, and accountability, were fundamental precursors to achieving the strategy's outcomes.

All participants thought it was important to raise awareness, knowledge and understanding of priority actions under the strategy across all levels of government. They considered this focus should be maintained throughout the life of the strategy. While they saw establishment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme as a significant step forward for people with disability and their families, it was thought that the scheme had become the main focus of attention. Actions under the strategy, by contrast, were considered to be less visible. Nevertheless, the participants recognised the long-term nature of the strategy and understood the timeframe that would be necessary for achieving change.



The first Disability Ministers' National Forum took place on 16 February 2015.

Disability Ministers' National Forum

The Australian Government and state and territory governments are committed under the strategy to hold a Disability Ministers' National Forum with representatives of people with disability every two years. The first Disability Ministers' National Forum took place on the 16 February 2015 in Melbourne. State and territory disability advisory bodies and key national disability organisations were represented at the forum.

The aim of the forum was to provide representatives of people with disability with a means of engaging directly with disability ministers from across Australia, and the Australian Local Government Association, about the ongoing implementation of the strategy. The forum also provided an opportunity for participants to discuss what has been achieved in implementing the strategy to date. The forum discussion covered various topics including opportunities for improvement in the areas of employment, transport, housing and education.

Formal engagement on the NDIS

Stakeholders contributed to the design and implementation of the NDIS through several formal engagement mechanisms between October 2011 and April 2013. These included:

- the National Disability Insurance Scheme Advisory Group, which included seven members with extensive knowledge and experience in the disability sector who were appointed by the then minister, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP. The group provided independent advice to the Select Council on Disability Reform, which comprises the Australian Government and each state and territory treasurer and disability minister. The advisory group also provided specialist advice to government on the necessary foundations for reform, the overall design of the NDIS and its launch.
- four expert groups, which provided technical advice to the advisory group on core issues that included Choice and Control; Eligibility and Assessment; Quality, Safeguards and Standards; and Workforce and Sector Development. The expert groups included experts from the community and sector, people with disability, carers and service providers.
- the National Disability and Carer Alliance carried out grassroots engagement with people with disability, their families, carers and service providers around Australia under the alliance's NDIS Engagement Project. This was funded by the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

- an online NDIS ‘your say’ forum sought feedback on key questions regarding the NDIS and invited discussion with the advisory group on issues important to NDIS design and implementation.
- workshops exploring the use of collaborative design in the first stage of the NDIS, particularly with regard to the ‘client pathway’. The first of these co-design workshops was staged by the NDIS Launch Transition Agency in September 2012.

Engagement activities like these helped ensure key design elements of the scheme were informed by the views and experiences of the disability sector, people with disability, their families and carers. In turn, they kept stakeholders informed about the latest developments and progress.

This approach also enabled testing and validation of the latest design and technical details of the scheme by a broad diversity of stakeholders. Overall, the engagement activities helped in the design of important elements of the scheme, such as eligibility and assessment, control and choice, and in the quality, standards and safeguards of the NDIS.

National Disability Insurance Agency

The agency is committed to providing a range of engagement activities that raise awareness about the scheme, mark significant milestones and involve the disability sector. A director of engagement has been deployed to each trial site to run activities to engage core stakeholders from the sector.

In November 2013, the agency initiated a webinar series to engage key stakeholders regarding the NDIS roll out. Members of the public sent in questions through the internet to be answered by the series panel. Each panel included a person with disability. Other panellists included the Australian Government Assistant Minister for Social Services, Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield.

The agency’s first seven webinars attracted a combined audience of more than 120,000. Questions received during the webinars provided useful insights into the public’s understanding of the NDIS and people’s questions and concerns. Each webinar had a particular theme. For example, the *Preparing for the NDIS* webinar included perspectives and experiences of early trial site participants and carers. Another webinar, *Provider Q&A on NDIA Price Changes*, explained the agency’s approach to achieving an ‘efficient price’ for provision of high-quality support services.

The agency learned through the webinars that many of its stakeholders accessed information electronically and appreciated the opportunity to take part in a discussion with the agency. The agency saw that it could reach a much larger audience electronically rather than through face-to-face meetings. It will continue to refine the webinars based on the feedback received. This was in line with what the agency called its ‘learn-build-learn-build’ approach.

Collaboration with DSS

The Australian Government Department of Social Services works closely with the agency and, in May 2014, ran a series of information sessions and workshops with its mental health providers. These providers were due to commence, or already operated in NDIS trial sites to deliver either Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) or Mental Health Respite: Carer Support (MHR:CS) programmes.

The workshops helped prepare 2014 NDIS trial site providers in the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and Western Australia. They also sought feedback from 2013 trial sites in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. The workshop participants shared lessons learned, case studies and innovative practices. These were studied by the agency for its continuous improvement.





Progress and achievements

Progress and achievements

The following section of the report covers achievements and progress made by governments. These achievements have furthered the main objective of the National Disability Strategy which is to improve the lives of people with disability by driving mainstream reform across all areas of government policy, programme design and service delivery.

Some achievements were identified as national priorities under the strategy and in its first implementation plan, *Laying the Groundwork 2011–2014*, or in state and territory governments' individual disability plans. Other outcomes may not have been foreshadowed when *Laying the Groundwork 2011–2014* and state and territory governments' disability plans were drafted. However, they remain clearly aligned with and have advanced the objectives of the strategy. These include initiatives that improved community understanding and attitudes relating to the rights of people with disability to be supported to reach their full potential in life.

Over the life of the strategy, progress towards the six policy outcomes has been monitored using agreed national trend indicators. The trend indicators were reviewed in 2013 to ensure they embody the key national data for this purpose. In this reporting round, baseline data was available from prior to the introduction of the strategy and from its first and second years — 2011 and 2012.

Each outcome in this report includes a brief overview of the key data from the trend indicators. Appendix 2 provides more detailed trend indicator data including, where available, disaggregated data by gender, by Indigenous status and by other factors.

Outcome 1



Inclusive and accessible communities

People with disability live in accessible and well-designed communities with opportunity for full inclusion in social, economic, sporting and cultural life

This outcome has five policy directions:

- increased participation of people with disability, their families and carers in the social, cultural, religious, recreational and sporting life of the community
- improved accessibility of the built and natural environment through planning and regulatory systems, maximising the participation and inclusion of every member of the community
- improved provision of accessible and well-designed housing with choice for people with disability about where they live
- a public, private and community transport system that is accessible for the whole community
- communication and information systems that are accessible, reliable and responsive to the needs of people with disability, their families and carers.

Of the six policy outcome areas in the overall strategy, the success indicators and achievements of this outcome are most visible in the general community. Community expectations for immediate and tangible improvement are perhaps the highest for this outcome. Removing barriers to the physical environment and ensuring information is accessible opens up access and inclusion to an infinite range of other mainstream opportunities including education, employment, social, sporting and cultural events and activities that promote health and wellbeing.

Since the launch of the strategy, there has been a positive movement at all levels of government, and across communities, towards greater consideration of accessibility and inclusiveness of the physical, sensory and technological environments that Australians enjoy. Measures implemented under the strategy by the Australian Government and state and territory governments under Outcome 1, between 2010 and 2014 are detailed in Appendix 1, Table 1.

1

Improving accessibility

The accessibility of the built environment and public infrastructure has been improved by greater adherence to planning and regulatory systems such as the *Disability (Access to Premises — Buildings) Standards 2010* and *Disability Standards to Accessible Public Transport 2002*. All states and territories have acknowledged their obligations to these standards in their individual disability plans. Both the building and transport standards are being reviewed and governments will then consider the findings.

Accessibility is starting to become a routine consideration for planners, designers and policy makers, following the widespread promotion of the principles of universal design in private and public housing design, transport services and other fields.

Universal design

Universal design principles are enhancing the independence of people who live with disability, as well as Australia's elderly. Community and industry awareness of universal design is being raised by a comprehensive national voluntary accreditation system developed by Livable Housing Australia.

Standards and accreditation processes such as these lead to the construction of more dwellings that comply with universal design principles — resulting in more private accommodation suitable for people with disability. More suitable community-based accommodation provides tenants with better access to mainstream services. Over time, it is anticipated that both the building industry and the wider community will automatically think in terms of universal and livable design principles and how they can benefit individuals and families throughout their lives.

During the reporting period, states and territories continued to carry out work to include liveable design features in their housing. Livable Housing Australia worked with the ageing, disability community and residential building and construction sectors on its voluntary accreditation process.

In Victoria, more than 450 builders, architects and designers attended 10 information seminars on how to design and build homes that meet the needs of older people and people with disability. These promoted key projects by Livable Housing Australia and were run by the Victorian Building Authority. A universal design awareness strategy has been developed by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. This included an industry manual, video and website launched in September 2014 to inform industry about universal design.

In Queensland, designers and builders were required to apply the Livable Housing Design Guidelines to new social housing projects. The Department of Housing and Public Works in Queensland seeks to deliver all new social housing apartments and houses to Livable Housing Gold or Platinum levels.

In Western Australia, new sales staff with the Housing Industry Association WA are now trained about Livable Housing guidelines — encouraging home builders to build accessible homes. This will increase universally designed stock over time. Housing plans for various block sizes are provided online free of charge by leading builders in support of the programme.

The ACT Government is also developing ways to embed universal design in building public and private housing, including:

- consulting with local communities regarding the proposed implementation of a requirement for all new Class 1a detached dwellings to comply with universal design guidelines
- having all new social housing developments meet the Gold standards outlined in the Commonwealth's Livable Housing Design guidelines
- funding in the 2013–14 ACT Budget to undertake design options to relocate older public housing tenants into more appropriate housing, as well as funding to design culturally appropriate housing for elderly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Arts for people with disability

Australia's *National Arts and Disability Strategy* helped improve participation and access to the arts for people with disability. This resulted in greater exposure and support of artists with disability and more opportunities for people with disability to enjoy art and cultural experiences and take part in activities.

Arts access and participation

Governments committed to a vision for supporting, encouraging and promoting access to and participation in the arts by people with disability under the *National Arts and Disability Strategy*. The Australian Government, and state and territory governments made the commitment through the Meeting of Cultural Ministers.

Attention was given to improving access to and participation in arts and cultural activities by people with disability during the first three years of the strategy to 2012 — both as audience members and as participants. The *Arts and Disability Strategy* also addressed barriers that prevent emerging artists and cultural workers with disability to develop their practice.

An early evaluation of this strategy, which analysed activity across jurisdictions from October 2009 to December 2012, was finalised in October 2013. The evaluation report included input from the Australian, state and territory governments, following targeted consultation with arts and disability stakeholders.

Some key findings from the evaluation were:

- physical access for people with disability increased, as did the programming, training, exhibitions and information available on websites about access
- a noticeable increase occurred in access to funding programmes and processes for people with disability
- a growth in opportunities for people with disability to present their work.

The evaluation report was endorsed by Australia's arts and cultural ministers in October 2014. The *National Arts and Disability Strategy Evaluation Report* summarised achievements in all jurisdictions under the strategy from 2009–2012. Further information is available at the [Meeting of Cultural Ministers website](http://mcm.arts.gov.au/working-groups/nads)¹⁴.

Work has since continued on implementing the strategy across all jurisdictions. The Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian Government's principal arts funding and advisory body, recently announced funding of \$1 million over three years for artists with disability. This extends a pilot programme established after extensive consultation with the sector.

Applications for the pilot opened early in 2014 and individuals and groups who identified as having disability submitted more than 200 applications from across Australia in all kinds of art. They included high quality applications from artists who had never previously applied to the Council, demonstrating a high demand for such dedicated funding. The funding will be allocated through the Council's general applications process from 2015, with grants supporting Australian artists with disability to create, develop, present, produce, exhibit or tour their work.

Local governments also played a role in improving arts access. For example, Frankston Arts Centre in Victoria was fitted with ramps, wide automatic doors, a row of removable theatre seats for wheelchairs, recharge power points for mobility devices, and dedicated aisle seats for patrons who need mobility assistance. The centre now provides live-captioned and Auslan-interpreted performances and portable hearing assistance devices.

Frankston Arts Centre's arts access officer facilitated industry training placements for people with disability, in partnership with Registered Training Organisations. These led to the employment of arts workers, theatre technicians, box office and front-of-house staff. The centre's arts access programme includes regular art, art therapy and circus activities for people with disability, older people with complex health issues, and socially and culturally isolated young people.

Sport

It is a priority of the Australian Sports Commission to maintain an ongoing investment in sport for people with disability, as part of Australia's *Winning Edge 2012–2022* strategy. The strategy sets high national performance goals to achieve more than 20 world champions annually, with: top-five finishes for Olympic and Paralympic Games; top-15 at Winter Olympics and Paralympics; and top-one at the Commonwealth Games.

The commission invested \$13.3 million in 2014–15 to support Paralympic programmes and \$1.25 million in eight national sporting organisations for people with disability. This supports the participation of adults and children with disability by expanding their choice of sport and recreation options. New support arrangements for athletes will provide more funding than ever before directly to Paralympic athletes, in recognition of Australia's emerging talent.

In 2013, the NSW Government supported the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Games in the Hunter Region. This attracted more than 1,700 athletes with disability from Australia and overseas and demonstrated Australia's skill in international competition.

¹⁴ <http://mcm.arts.gov.au/working-groups/nads>

Web accessibility

All levels of Australian government — federal, state and local — have embraced the *Web Accessibility National Transition Strategy*. This mandated the adoption of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Version 2.0 (WCAG 2.0).

The National Transition Strategy required all levels of government to apply the internationally-accepted standards for web accessibility — WCAG 2.0 — to all their websites and web applications by the end of 2014. This will help create a more socially inclusive online and digital environment in which people can access information and services and engage with government at their convenience.

Australian Government agencies reported considerable progress at the midpoint of the strategy in applying WCAG 2.0 to their 1.7 million web pages, 1,300 websites and 1,100 web applications. Agencies also reported they had action plans that addressed ongoing accessibility issues, which have been prioritised for future remedial action. At the state level, all states and territories had incorporated WCAG 2.0 into their standards and were actively progressing towards more accessible web environments.

The National Transition Strategy concluded at the end of 2014. The next step for the Australian Government will be to coordinate a new round of formal reporting from all its agencies, as well as from the states and territories. Once that is complete, the Australian Government expects to report on the outcomes of the National Transition Strategy and the overall accessibility status of the Australian Government web environment in 2015.

Existing and emerging technological developments in media, telecommunications and IT devices, programmes and applications will continue to present opportunities to improve access and accessibility for people with disability.

New TV captioning standards

All captions on television are required to be readable, accurate and comprehensible for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers under a new Australian captioning standard. In June 2013, the Australian Government Department of Communications introduced a Television Captioning Quality Standard for all television broadcasters. This followed a 13-week trial in 2013 that raised industry and community awareness of audio captioning and identified technical issues to be remedied.

In the same month, the Australian Government Department of Human Services began a High Definition Videoconferencing Pilot as part of a shared-delivery agreement with the Department of Communications. Videoconferencing provides flexibility for customers in their interactions with the department. The pilot aimed to increase access to the department's managed- and intensive-needs services, in particular for customers facing geographical or disability challenges. People who were being assessed for the Disability Support Pension, and those with hearing impairments, were included in the pilot. The Department of Communications received the first-phase evaluation report about the pilot in November 2014.

1

Local government

As mentioned in *State and territory disability plans*, local government plays an important role in delivering federal and state government programmes and thousands of councils across Australia engage actively with their communities. An increasing number of local councils have developed and worked to a disability access and inclusion plan with the encouragement of the Local Government Disability Champion, Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis (April 2012 – November 2014). This was reflected in a high number of worthy initiatives that were entered in the 2014 inaugural Disability Access and Inclusion Award, under the Australian Government's National Awards for Local Government.

National Awards for Local Government: Disability Access and Inclusion Category

In 2014 the Department of Social Services sponsored the inaugural Disability Access and Inclusion Award as part of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's National Awards for Local Government.

The new award promotes the objectives of the National Disability Strategy by recognising local governments that applied the principles of the strategy by engaging with people with disability, their families and carers to develop and implement innovative services, practices or policies that provide greater opportunity for people with disability to participate in local community life.

This could include access and inclusion provided by councils in any sphere, such as by:

- removing barriers to participation of people with disability in the community
- strategies and actions that give people with disability a voice in the community and the capacity to influence the design of services, programmes and infrastructure that impact their lives
- greater access to mainstream services and support.

The new category attracted more entries than any other single category in the National Awards for Local Government. This highlighted the important role of local governments in meeting community needs and demonstrated the growing commitment they have to ensuring their efforts are inclusive of all people.

The 2014 award went to the Hume City Council in Victoria for its school holiday programme for Indigenous children with disability. The programme empowered Indigenous families to engage with mainstream support services and to advocate on behalf of their children with disability. The Department of Social Services will sponsor this award again in 2015.



2014 National Awards for Local Government, Disability Access and Inclusion Award winner — Hume City Council Victoria for its school holiday programme for Indigenous children with disability.

Left to right: Cr Alan Bolton, Hume City Council; Ms Caren Aspinall, Respite Manager, Northern Support Services for people with disabilities; Ms Leanne Brooke, HACC Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Hume City Council; Cr Jack Ogilvie, Hume City Council; and Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield, Assistant Minister for Social Services.

Mapping more accessible toilets in NSW

NSW is improving access to accessible toilets in NSW through a partnership with Spinal Cord Injuries Australia and the Department of Social Services — National Public Toilet Map (NPTM). The NPTM provides the locations of more than 16,000 publicly available toilets across Australia and is a tool used widely by people with disability to find an accessible toilet.

The project is improving the availability of accessible toilets — an action under the National Disability Strategy NSW Implementation Plan 2012–2014. It is also improving the quality, quantity and reliability of data on the state's accessible facilities.

Trend indicator summary

Baseline information that will be used to measure broad changes over the life of the strategy is set out in this section. It presents key baseline data on the trend indicators relating to inclusive and accessible communities. The available data covers 2011–2012 — the first two years of the strategy. This is presented alongside 2009 data, from before the strategy was introduced.

1.1 Difficulties in using public transport

People with disability continued to report difficulty using public transport. In 2012, 34 per cent¹⁵ of people with disability reported difficulty with, or needed assistance with, using public transport.¹⁶ The 2012 result was a slight increase on the proportion who reported public transport difficulty in 2003 (30 per cent) and 2009 (32 per cent).¹⁷

The rate of difficulty with public transport increases along with the level of disability a person has. For example in 2012, 70 per cent of people with profound and severe disability reported public transport difficulty compared to 26 per cent of people with a mild and moderate disability.¹⁸

1.2 Cultural and recreational participation

The vast majority of people with disability participated in social or community activities on a regular basis according to survey data from 2012. In the last three months from when people were surveyed, 96 per cent participated in these activities at home and 92 per cent participated away from home.¹⁹ The 2012 results were slightly down from the 2009 results of 96 per cent (activities at home) and 91 per cent (away from home).²⁰

People were asked questions about their social and community activities, such as visiting friends or relatives; telephone calls with family or friends; church or special community activities; voluntary activities; visiting restaurants or clubs; performing arts group activities; art or craft activities with other people; and other special interest group activities.

Further data on these trend indicators, including available information by gender, Indigenous status and other factors, appear in Appendix 2.

15 Note: some of these people (in the 34 per cent segment) provided reasons for their difficulty in using public transport that were not related to potential transport improvements. A total of 17 per cent cited fear or anxiety; 11 per cent cited cognitive difficulties; and 6 per cent cited behavioural problems. However, the remaining 66 per cent reported reasons like access difficulties and lack of seating.

16 Source: Department of Social Services (DSS) analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), 2012 TableBuilder

17 Source: DSS analysis of ABS SDAC, 2003, 2009 and 2012 TableBuilder.

18 Ibid.

19 Source: DSS analysis of ABS SDAC, 2012 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

20 Source: DSS analysis of ABS SDAC, 2009 and 2012 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

Stakeholder feedback

In May 2014 people with disability, through their representative peak organisations, were asked to provide feedback on the Inclusive and Accessible Communities outcome area and any improvement they may have experienced since the introduction of the National Disability Strategy.

Public perceptions were mixed about the effectiveness of the strategy to drive improvements in access and inclusion. For example, some of their responses suggested positive improvements in public transport through better signage and announcements for people with sensory impairment. However, improvements were not considered consistent across all jurisdictions and all forms of public transport, including taxis. The respondents agreed more work needs to be done to improve the experiences of people with disability who want to access public transport.

Views were also mixed on the accessibility of information across a variety of electronic media. While a few positive initiatives were noted — such as captioning of television and cinema and greater accessibility of some web-based material — stakeholders felt a more comprehensive and consistent effort was needed in this area. Despite the progress made towards accessible communication and information systems, people with disability reported that fully accessible information and communication material is still largely the exception rather than the rule. They believed more needs to be done to ensure compliance with existing accessibility guidelines and in educating other sectors, private business, industry and the wider community about their obligations and responsibilities. This would help ensure their information and communication material was accessible to everyone.

The increasing awareness and application of universal design principles and the increasing number of inclusive playgrounds were noted by stakeholders as positive improvements under this outcome of the strategy.

Outcome 2



Rights protection, justice and legislation

2

People with disability have their rights promoted, upheld and protected

This outcome has five policy directions:

- increase awareness and acceptance of the rights of people with disability
- remove societal barriers preventing people with disability from participating as equal citizens
- people with disability have access to justice
- people with disability to be safe from violence, exploitation and neglect
- more effective responses from the criminal justice system to people with disability who have complex needs or heightened vulnerabilities.

The Australian Government, and state and territory governments have implemented a wide variety of measures under this outcome to promote, uphold and protect the rights of people with disability. These range from national and state-based legislative and regulatory reform, to targeted training that promotes awareness of their rights among people with disability, and people whose work brings them into contact with people with disability.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The object of Outcome 2 is central to achieving benefits across each of the other five outcome areas. It is also the primary vehicle for progressing and monitoring Australia's obligations under the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, which the Australian Government ratified in 2008. The Convention promotes, protects and ensures full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all who have disabilities. It also promotes respect for their inherent dignity.

The Convention requires its signatories to report on the measures they have taken to meet their obligations under the Convention every four years. Australia has now completed one cycle of reporting under the Convention. This involved:

- submitting the first periodic report in December 2010
- responding in writing in July 2013 to a list of issues from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- an Australian delegation appearing before the committee in Geneva in September 2013
- releasing the Concluding Observations on the Initial Report of Australia as adopted by the Committee on 24 October 2013. These are available at the [United Nations Human Rights website](#)²¹.

The committee commended Australia for many actions, including its adoption of the *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020* and introducing the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The committee also noted extra efforts were needed in some areas. For example, in assisting Indigenous Australians with disability in discrimination law; data availability; funding for disability organisations; and imprisonment or detention of people with disability.

In 2013, the committee provided Australia with a list of issues and processes for its combined second and third periodic reports. In line with this, Australia's next report will provide answers to a list of questions from the Committee, rather than a full report of Australia's progress to implement the Convention. The report is due in September 2018.

Disability justice

The Western Australian Government has developed legislation to establish the state's first disability justice centre. The new centre will provide secure accommodation in the community for people with intellectual or cognitive disability who have been charged with an offence, but are unable to plead and have received a custody order.

The centre will address long-standing legal and social justice issues — providing a declared place for people who do not need to be imprisoned, but do require targeted developmental interventions in a secure setting before their release into the community.

The Western Australian Government, through its Disability Services Commission, has also developed a position paper on 'safeguarding'. This will support changes to the state's quality system to ensure evaluations focus on individual outcomes, as well as service quality. The paper outlines best practice in the promotion, enhancement and protection of an individual's human rights, decision-making, choice and control, safety and wellbeing, citizenship and quality of life.

21 http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=4&DocTypeID=5

Marrakesh Treaty

To help overcome the barriers that affect the availability of accessible-format works worldwide, the Australian Government signed the Marrakesh Treaty in June 2014. The treaty will be taken to Federal Parliament for ratification and will come into effect following ratification by 20 countries.

The *Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or otherwise Print Disabled* will bring greater access to published works for people who are blind, vision impaired, or otherwise print disabled. The treaty will allow exceptions to copyright law to enable organisations to produce and distribute accessible format books and other materials where they are not commercially available.

Voting online

Electronic voting in ACT Legislative Assembly elections has been provided in six major centres across Canberra for people who are blind or vision impaired to give them the same rights as people in other territories. Wheelchair accessible and seated-voting compartments are also available in every polling place for local elections.

The ACT Electoral Commission is a member of the Australian Electoral Commission's Disability Advisory Committee, which includes disability peaks and discusses electoral issues for voters.

Australian Human Rights Commission

Administrators and policymakers are being informed by the Australian Human Rights Commission about current barriers to equal treatment under the law that can be experienced by people with disability. In February 2014, the Commission released its report *Equal before the law: Towards disability justice strategies* to highlight services and programmes and ways for all levels of government to develop disability justice strategies.

The Commission found that equality before the law was a widespread problem for people with disability and, in some cases, the injustice experienced has been severe. Public meetings were held in each state and territory and the Commission conducted 114 individual meetings with people with disability, their families and carers, attorneys-general, members of the police forces, corrective services and judiciaries, disability advocacy peak bodies and community groups, as well as academic, medical and legal experts to inform the report.

The report is available at the [Australian Human Rights Commission website](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/equal-law)²².

²² <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/equal-law>

Promoting the rights of people with disability

Several jurisdictions took action to improve the criminal justice system's support for vulnerable witnesses and victims.

South Australia promoted the rights and needs of people with disability who are in contact with the criminal justice system, including those accused or convicted of a crime. The release of the *Disability Justice Plan 2014–2017* in June 2014 by the South Australian Government aimed to promote their rights, while the state budget funded support for people with disability to help them navigate the criminal justice system.

Specific actions to improve responses by the state's criminal justice system to vulnerable witnesses and victims included:

- amendments proposed for the state's *Evidence Act 1929* to assist people with disability when they give evidence across the criminal justice system
- legislative amendments to give people with cognitive impairment greater protection from abuse by service providers and support workers in positions of trust, power and authority
- establishment of a victim management section within the South Australia Police to give specialist advice to front-line police regarding investigative interviewing and statement-taking from vulnerable people, including people with disability.

In Tasmania, the state government created an *Interviewing Vulnerable Witnesses* course to enable Tasmanian police to be more responsive to the needs of people with disability and provide them with a more positive experience of the justice system. The course was also attended by representatives from other government agencies.

Australian Law Reform Commission

The Australian Law Reform Commission's report, *Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws* was tabled in parliament in November 2014. The inquiry examined the laws and legal frameworks within the Commonwealth jurisdiction that deny or diminish the equal recognition of people with disability as persons before the law and their ability to exercise legal capacity. The Australian Law Reform Commission made 55 recommendations for reform directed at adopting measures to encourage supported decision-making for people with disability.

The commission's report is available at the [Australian Law Reform Commission website](https://www.alrc.gov.au/publications/equality-capacity-disability-report-124)²³.

23 <https://www.alrc.gov.au/publications/equality-capacity-disability-report-124>

Improving the court experience for people with disability

Courts in Victoria have introduced measures to improve the experience of people with disability prior to attending court. These include:

- providing independent support to people with disability before they go to court and while at court
- people with disability who are witnesses or victims not having to be in court to give evidence
- magistrates' courts making it easier for accused people, witnesses and victims who have a disability and who need more support.

Disability service and victim support agencies in the state get support and information, which encourages collaboration. Support agencies assist victims with a disability as part of their contract with government.

In addition, Victoria's Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Justice and Regulation are developing ways to improve the experiences and outcomes of those people with disability who have heightened vulnerabilities when they come into contact with, or are at risk of contact, with the justice system. These include:

- considering improvements to service models in line with the NDIS and other developments — such changes will lead to individually tailoring responses for people with disability when they are involved with the justice system
- a positive practice framework in use at Parkville Youth Justice Precinct is being reviewed for use at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct — with adjustments to meet the needs of its older age group.

Restrictive practices

Disability ministers have endorsed a framework to reduce and eliminate the use of restrictive practices in Australia's disability service sector. Federal, state and territory disability ministers endorsed the *National Framework for Reducing and Eliminating the Use of Restrictive Practices in the Disability Service Sector* at their Disability Reform Council meeting on 21 March 2014. This followed broad consultations to develop the framework with jurisdictions, NDIS officials and more widely with stakeholders from disability and industry sectors.

Work to reduce and eliminate the use of restrictive practices in the disability service sector is consistent with Australia's commitment to meet its obligations under the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. The new national framework is an interim step to provide leadership in reducing the use of restrictive practices. Later, it will be incorporated into the NDIS quality assurance and safeguards framework and implemented over the longer term. Biennial jurisdictional reports will track progress in implementing the national framework.

National Disability Advocacy Programme

The National Disability Advocacy Programme provides access for people with disability to effective advocacy that promotes, protects and ensures their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights. In 2014–15 the Australian Government committed \$16.5 million under the programme to fund 59 organisations across Australia.

Policy and programme implementation is guided by the principles and objectives of key legislation, conventions, agreements and frameworks. These include the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*; the National Disability Strategy; the National Disability Agreement; the National Disability Advocacy Framework; and the *Disability Services Act 1986 (Cwth)*.

New South Wales

The *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* (the Act), which commenced on 3 December 2014, contains legislative safeguards for people accessing NSW funded disability supports and services. These include: that supports and services must be delivered in compliance with disability service standards; and that non-government organisations must provide evidence of third party verification that they can provide supports and services in compliance with the standards.

There are also new employment screening requirements which mandate that workers and non-government board members who provide supports and services directly to people with disability must undergo criminal record checks and provide at least one reference. The Act introduces an automatic bar to employment or volunteering for anyone convicted of certain prescribed offences.

Another new safeguard is that disability accommodation providers, including those who provide respite care, must report abuse or neglect of people with disability to the NSW Ombudsman.

Victoria

Journalism award — The Victorian Government Quill for Reporting on Disability Issues was created as an ongoing media award in 2013, sponsored by recurrent funding from the state government. The award recognises and acknowledges the work of journalists to positively and sensitively represent people with disability. The inaugural award was won in 2014 by Kirsten Veness for her story on Harvey Thulborn, a 12-year-old boy who wants to make wheelchair skating a mainstream sport in Australia.

The media plays a key role in shaping community understanding of people with disability. The leading media awards in Victoria are the Quill Awards for Excellence in Victorian Journalism, hosted by the Melbourne Press Club.

Victims of crime — People with disability are widely reported as being over-represented as victims of crime. To ensure victims' services can assist people with disability who are victims of crime, a series of forums and professional development programmes are held annually in Victoria. The sessions ensure service providers have a better understanding of disability, know how to support people with disability in the criminal justice system, and know what other appropriate services are available.

Violence against women and children — Women and children with disability are at particular risk of becoming victims of violence. Victoria's Disability and Family Violence Crisis Response provides immediate access to funds to meet the disability support needs of women and children in a family violence crisis. This support enables them to remain safe in their homes or to access family violence crisis accommodation. The initiative also has significant benefits for strengthening collaboration across the disability and family violence sectors.

Queensland

Support for people with disability within the court system — In Queensland, people facing court with intellectual, cognitive or mental health impairments have been linked to appropriate and available support services.

Queenslanders appearing on charges who had a health or social problem were referred to short-term treatment or community support services to reduce the likelihood of re-offending. They were connected to support services through Queensland Courts Referral, a bail-based service that links defendants who come in contact with the criminal justice system with non-government organisations and government agencies to address the causes of their offending behaviour. Primary causes included drug or alcohol dependency, mental illness, intellectual disability, cognitive impairment and homelessness or risk of homelessness.

The service operates out of the arrest courts of the Brisbane, Beenleigh, Mount Isa, Cairns, Ipswich, Southport and Holland Park magistrate courts. It will be expanded to locations including Pine Rivers, Caboolture, Maroochydore, Bundaberg, Toowoomba, Gympie and Rockhampton.

Custodial, probation and parole training — Entry-level custodial officers and probation and parole officers were trained to deal with people who have intellectual or cognitive impairments and behaviour management problems. The training was arranged by Queensland's Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

All new custodial officers in Queensland receive specific training in working with and managing the behaviours of people with intellectual or cognitive impairment each year. They are trained on a rolling programme delivered through the Queensland Corrective Services Academy.

South Australia

New guidelines on how to support vulnerable witnesses in the giving of evidence were developed by the South Australian Government. These help investigative interviewers to provide support measures and to elicit evidence from people with disability in line with latest best practice.

Each step of the criminal justice process is covered — including the initial point of contact, interview, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and trial in court. The guidelines are intended to be used in conjunction with comprehensive training in disability awareness and investigative interviewing.

Details of other measures that have been implemented between 2011 and 2014 under Outcome 2 are provided in Appendix 1, Table 2.

Trend indicator summary

Baseline information that will be used to measure broad changes over the life of the strategy is set out in this section. It presents key baseline data on the trend indicators relating to rights protection, justice and legislation. Data for the first two indicators are from the 2006 and 2010 General Social Surveys — which is baseline data from before the strategy. Further data will help ascertain progress on these indicators from 2011 onwards. Data for the last indicator is available from the baseline year of 2008–09 until 2012–13.

2.1 Feelings of safety in different situations

In 2010, people with disability were less likely to feel safe or very safe in a variety of situations compared to people without disability, as shown in Table 2. Women with disability were significantly more likely to feel unsafe, compared to males with disability and to people without disability. For example: 21 per cent of women with disability felt unsafe or very unsafe at home alone after dark, whereas 8 per cent of men with disability and 4.5 per cent of people without disability felt unsafe or very unsafe in this situation. Similar trends in low-security concerns among people with disability were also observed in 2006.²⁴

Table 2 Proportion of people who felt safe or very safe, by disability status, in 2010

Situation	People with disability	People without disability
At home alone during the day	87 per cent	96 per cent
At home alone after dark	75 per cent	88 per cent
Walking alone after dark	29 per cent	53 per cent

Source: DSS analysis of ABS General Social Survey, Confidentialised Unit Record File, 2010.

2.2 Proportion of people with disability who take part in civic life

Between 2006 and 2010, the average level of civic participation for people with disability remained relatively steady between 3.1 to 3.4 per cent, although participation in certain types of groups fluctuated.²⁵ In both years, people with disability had lower rates of participation in trade unions, professional associations, civic groups and body corporates or tenants' associations, when compared to people without disability. This was particularly true for people with significant disability, who were restricted in core activities such as self-care, communication and mobility.

Encouragingly, people with disability had higher rates of participation in political parties, consumer organisations and other civil and political organisations, compared to people without disability in both 2006 and 2010.²⁶

²⁴ DSS analysis of ABS General Social Survey, Confidentialised Unit Record File, 2010

²⁵ DSS analysis of ABS General Social Survey, Confidentialised Unit Record File, 2010

²⁶ DSS analysis of ABS General Social Survey, Confidentialised Unit Record File, 2010

2.3 Proportion of complaints under the Disability Discrimination Act

Fewer complaints were received under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* in 2012–13 than in previous years. A total of 793 complaints were received that year by the Australian Human Rights Commission. There had been a higher rate in previous years — 1,057 complaints in 2009–10; 823 in 2010–11; and 955 in 2011–12.

Disability continues to be the leading reason for discrimination complaints received by the Australian Human Rights Commission. Disability comprised 37 per cent of these types of complaints in 2012–13²⁷. Most Disability Discrimination Act complaints in 2012–13 related to goods, services and facilities (34 per cent) or employment (33 per cent). Unlawful contravention of a disability standard was cited in 11 per cent of complaints. The major areas of complaints during the past five years are set out in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Top-five areas of disability-related complaints, proportions received by area between 2008–09 and 2012–13

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13
Total Disability-related Complaints	980	1057	823	955	793
Top five areas of complaints received*	2035	2354	2176	1249	1084
Goods, Services and Facilities	35%	37%	35%	36%	34%
Employment	40%	36%	31%	31%	33%
Unlawful to Contravene Disability Standard	8%	9%	11%	12%	11%
Access to Premises	2%	3%	6%	4%	6%
Education	9%	9%	9%	8%	6%

Notes: Each complaint can cover multiple areas, which is why there are more areas received than the number of complaints. In addition to the areas above, 1 per cent to 3 per cent of complaints related to Accommodation, Commonwealth Administration and Laws, Clubs and Incorporated Associations and Superannuation, between 2008-09 and 2012-13. There were none or less than 1 per cent of complaints relating to Land, Advertisements, Sport, Qualifying Bodies, and Registered Organisations in this period.

Source: Australian Human Rights Commission Annual Report: 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11, 2011–12 and 2012–13.

Further data on these trend indicators, including available information by gender, Indigenous status and other factors, appear in Appendix 2.

27 Source: Australian Human Rights Commission Annual Report: 2012-13

Stakeholder feedback

Rights protection, justice and legislation were identified by stakeholders as needing a high priority for further investigation and investment by governments. While stakeholders acknowledged the Australian Human Rights Commission's *Equal Before the Law Report* as a positive step forward, they also noted that the true value of the report would only become evident in the way governments respond to its insights and proposed actions.

Stakeholders also felt more investment was needed to develop self-advocacy materials and peer support. Importantly, these materials should be developed in consultation with people with disability and made available in accessible formats. They should target people with disability across disability types and throughout the socio-cultural spectrum, including by age and gender.

Stakeholders also sought to have government policies and legislation strengthened to better protect and uphold the rights of people with disability. Suggestions for this included tightening the terminology in the Disability Discrimination Act, integrating the strategy into key policies such as the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*, and removing the interpretive declarations within the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

Outcome 3



Economic security

3

People with disability, their families and carers have economic security, enabling them to plan for the future and exercise choice and control over their lives

This outcome has three policy directions:

- increase access to employment opportunities as a key to improving economic security and personal wellbeing for people with disability, their families and carers
- income support and tax systems to provide an adequate standard of living for people with disability, their families and carers, while fostering personal financial independence and employment
- improve access to housing options that are affordable and provide security of tenure.

Economic security has several important and often interdependent dimensions that include certainty, stability and choice of housing; where we live and who we live with. Our proximity to and accessibility of employment, education, family, social networks and other support services are similarly significant dimensions.

Economic security depends not just on having certainty of income and other tangible resources that determine living standards. It also depends on having a degree of certainty around things that enable people to plan for the future and to exercise choice and control in the other aspects of life that contribute to overall wellbeing.

Accordingly, the objectives of Outcome 3, Economic Security, are closely linked to those of the other five outcome areas under the strategy. However, Outcome 3 specifically focuses on strategies that aim to improve employment opportunities and access to affordable and accessible housing. Income-support policies that encourage and support people to optimise their individual potential and independence also feature in this policy outcome area.

In addition to the NDIS (covered in detail under Outcome 4), partners to the strategy have progressed a variety of measures under Outcome 3 to provide greater economic security for people with disability. Details of measures implemented between 2011 and 2014 under Outcome 3 are in Appendix 1, Table 3.

Employment initiatives

At a national level, the Australian Government has worked to increase employer demand for people with disability and to provide better support to assist people with disability to remain in employment. For example, the Department of Employment's Wage Connect initiative resulted in more than 13,700 people with disability being placed in jobs during the initiative. The Department of Employment also administered the Social Enterprise Development and Investment Funds, an initiative to help support social enterprises to develop, grow and sustain their work and impact by providing an avenue for tailored finance.

In May 2012, the Australian Public Service Commission launched the *As One — Australian Public Service (APS) Disability Employment Strategy* to improve the recruitment and retention rates of people with disability in the Australian Public Service (APS) between 2012 and 2014. As One was developed in consultation with existing employees and disability networks for employees.

The APS also successfully piloted the RecruitAbility scheme between June 2013 and December 2014. The scheme aims to attract and develop applicants with disability and also facilitate cultural change in selection panels and agency recruitment.

RecruitAbility has been available to all APS agencies since 1 January 2015 and provides agencies with the means to better support people with disability in APS selection processes without compromising the merit principle. It is not compulsory but all APS agencies are encouraged to adopt it. Under the scheme job applicants with disability are progressed to further stages of assessment — usually an interview — where they meet the minimum requirements of the job.

Department of Health committed to employing people with disability

A total of 4.4 per cent of Australian Government Department of Health staff self-reported as having one or more disabilities in September 2014 — significantly more than the 3.7 per cent who reported this in 2008. Higher representation tends to be reported more regularly in staff survey results, with 7.9 per cent of employees recently anonymously disclosing their disability in the 2014 Australian Public Service Commission staff survey.

The Department of Health is committed to reflecting the diversity of the Australian community in its workforce and actively encourages people with disability to apply for roles by participating in the commission's RecruitAbility pilot. The department also works to increase staff retention through its internal Staff with Disability Network, senior executive disability champions, an annual diversity conference and initiatives and events to build an inclusive culture.

The benefits of employing staff with disability include attracting new skills and adding valuable perspectives to the department. In return, the department gains loyal and committed employees with typically low turnover rates who will support the department in its vision to 'create better health and wellbeing for all Australians'.

The department's commitment to creating an inclusive workplace through employing and supporting those with disability was recognised by the APS Disability Council. In November 2014, the Department of Health won the inaugural 2014 APS Diversity Council Award in Disability Employment.

The Australian Government has introduced measures to improve the quality of assessment for the Disability Support Pension and to better support into employment people with disability who have some work capacity. This included a review of the tables used to assess work-related impairment for the Disability Support Pension — to bring them up to date with current medical and rehabilitation practice. Revised impairment tables were introduced in January 2012 after an expert advisory committee oversaw the review. The advisory committee included medical, allied health and rehabilitation experts, representatives of disability peak bodies, mental health advocates and relevant government agencies.

The Australian Government also introduced and enhanced programmes to help people with disability to gain suitable employment. They include:

- Disability Employment Services, which tailors assistance to address barriers to employment and works with employers to support individuals with disability in the workplace. The Government invested more than \$3 billion over four years to uncap access to Disability Employment Services, ensuring people get the support they need. Previously, access to these services was capped and people had to wait up to a year for support from the services.
- Disability Employment Assistance, which funds Australian Disability Enterprises. The enterprises are commercial businesses that provide supported-employment assistance to people who are able to work for at least eight hours a week in a supported environment. Their clients have moderate to severe disability and face barriers to working in the open labour market.
- Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) Employment Services, which have helped people with a mental illness who are receiving government income support payments to engage with employment services since 2012–13.
- The services work closely with employment providers such as Disability Employment Services and Job Search Australia to help PHaMs participants address non-vocational issues that are barriers to finding and maintaining employment, training or education.
- Employment-oriented Mental Health Respite: Carer Support Services have been trialled in four sites since 2013–14; locations included Fraser Coast, Queensland; Randwick/Botany Bay, New South Wales; Casey/Cardinia and Hume, Victoria. The services give intensive support to carers of people with mental illness so they can address the non-vocational barriers that prevent their workforce participation.
- Subsidies have been provided to employers to assist them with the costs of employing people with disability in long-term, sustainable jobs.
- The Employment Assistance Fund has been providing financial assistance for workplace modifications, special-work equipment, Auslan interpreting and disability awareness training.
- The JobAccess advisory service has been providing individualised information to employers and job seekers with disability. The service provides information on workplace adjustments, job design and government services and programmes that assist people with disability to obtain and maintain employment.

Since 2012, Disability Support Pension recipients have been allowed to work up to 30 hours a week without their payment being cancelled or suspended — providing them greater incentives to work. Disability Support Pension recipients can also receive a part-pension while they work, subject to income testing arrangements. Such changes removed employment disincentives for Disability Support Pension recipients and addressed the low workforce participation rate of people with disability.

In 2014, the Government also introduced compulsory, work-focused activities for Disability Support Pensioners aged under-35 who were assessed as capable of working at least eight hours a week. Activities will concentrate on support to prepare for, find and maintain their employment and could include connecting with an employment service provider, work experience, education and training, or rehabilitation activities to overcome individual barriers.

State, territory and local governments also set out to improve access to employment of people with disability. This included removing barriers to employment in the public sector, and creating employer incentives and job opportunities in both the community and private sectors.

Prospective employers have also been encouraged by governments to focus on ability, rather than disability, when recruiting staff through educating them about the contribution people with disability can make, with or without reasonable adjustments. For example the ACT Government introduced a payroll tax concession to encourage the Territory's largest businesses to benefit from the skills of school leavers with disability aged between 17 and 24 years.

Another innovative approach was the production of a DVD by the Tasmanian Government to encourage the state's businesses to employ people with disability. While, in NSW, the Department of Family and Community Services' *Transition to Work* (TTW) programme supports young people with disability to develop the skills necessary to secure employment. In 2013–14, 68.6% of TTW graduates achieved employment or further education, exceeding the target set under Goal 14 of the State Plan *NSW 2021*.

Victoria encouraging employment of people with disability

Employ Outside the Box was an eastern Melbourne initiative to promote employment of people with disability. Local and regional businesses attended a breakfast forum on busting the myths of employing people with disability by having local, national and international businesses share their stories. As part of this project, Deakin University conducted evaluative research which identified that an employer's past experience was the best predictor of their intent to employ people with disability.

The event was led by Knox Council in partnership with other eastern metropolitan councils, as well as Local Learning and Employment Networks, Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the National Disability Coordination Officer.

In March 2013, the Victorian Public Sector Commission and the Victorian Department of Human Services published a guide called *Recruiting people with disability — getting recruitment right*. Widely promoted to all departments, the guide will help state government departments employ and retain people with disability.

Paid internships have also begun for university students with disability at the Victorian Department of Human Services. The internships allow students to showcase their skills and knowledge and gain valuable work experience. It also helps foster a workplace culture that values and promotes the employment of people with disability.

Western Australia Disability Enterprise Initiative

The State Supply Commission's Open and Effective Competition policy allows State Government agencies to engage an Australian Disability Enterprise (ADEs) directly, without undertaking the usual competitive quote or tender process. The State Government has long recognised the value of employment to everyone, including people with disability and the initiative has proved very successful. More than 70 contracts have been secured from State and Local Government representing approximately \$21 million of government business.

Engaging an ADE gives access to quality work while contributing to social outcomes to the community, creating a win-win situation. Engaging an ADE makes good business sense. In Western Australia, there are seven disability enterprises who provide meaningful, supported employment for more than 2,100 people.

The ADEs have an all-encompassing commitment to quality and adopt national and international standards of best practice.

Creating secure and affordable housing

Increasing availability of secure and affordable housing makes a significant difference in providing people with disability a greater degree of economic security. Having more public and private housing stock that incorporate principles of universal design will ensure people with disability have a greater choice of suitable properties and locations. One of the actions under the strategy is to include universal design elements in the majority of new dwellings built through stage two of the Social Housing Initiative.

Several jurisdictions are trialling new community housing developments, where housing tenants within the same small complexes provide friendship and support to their neighbours with disability. Informal support like this helps complement the support provided to people by their families, as well as funded assistance. People with disability in such housing complexes maintain choice and control over whom they invite into their homes.

In Queensland, projects funded from the first two rounds under the Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Trial tested innovations in living arrangements. These included use of assistive technologies, accessible and affordable design, use of income streams created from rents paid by tenants without disability to purchase disability supports and services for the tenants with disability. The trial's funding round required the *Livable Housing Design Guidelines* to be addressed to gold standard. If adults with disability were identified, it was expected some platinum standards would also apply.

In Western Australia, universal design principles were a key contractual requirement for any social housing delivered under the Community Disability Housing Programme. For example, the state's Liveable Homes criteria were applied to a social housing initiative that resulted in 319 people being provided accessible accommodation through the purchase of 197 new or established accessible homes. Changes to planning rules in Western Australia meant auxiliary housing was an emerging option. Smaller properties were considered for construction on existing housing blocks with existing dwellings. Consequently, people with disability could live independently, but with people nearby — such as family members.

In South Australia, the state government set up Access 2 Place, a new disability housing organisation, to supply and maintain appropriate housing for South Australians with disability. This included specialist housing and tenancy management services. Traditionally, housing and disability service provision were delivered as part of a package by the same providers. The new disability housing organisation separated provision of housing from disability support and gave its tenants — people with disability — more choice and independence in their day-to-day lives.

Access 2 Place is an independent, not-for-profit organisation funded by the South Australian Government to build 135 new properties. A significant number of these were to be completed by the end of 2014 in metropolitan and regional areas. The new homes included design features such as step-less entries, widened doorways and passages and a six-star energy rating. Meanwhile, a particular feature of the Smart Living Project at Woodville West in Adelaide has been the use of innovative technology and concierge services. These include, for example, the provision of 24-hour, 7-day-a-week assistance, emergency and after-hours support.

Homeshare ACT — Doria's story

Disability ACT funded the Homeshare ACT programme to assist 17 people with disability in sharing a home with people without disability. Under this assistance, the person without the disability received subsidised rent in exchange for supporting the person with disability.

Louise, a well-known Canberra Para Olympian and medallist in the 2012 London Olympics, shared a home with Doria who came to Canberra to study at ANU. 'I wanted some company in my new home,' Louise said. 'Having a Homesharer gives me that, plus some support to lead the independent life I want.'

Louise said it felt different from when she had support workers helping her. She felt enabled through this relationship, rather than being looked at as a client or feeling patronised. Doria and Louise said they liked to support and look after each other.

Trend indicator data

Baseline information that will be used to measure broad changes over the life of the strategy is set out in this section. It presents key baseline data on the trend indicators relating to Economic Security. The available data relates to the first and second years of the strategy and is presented alongside 2009 data from before the strategy was introduced. In other words, the current data represents baseline information from which to measure broad changes over the life of the strategy.

3.1 Proportion of people with disability participating in the labour force

Eighty-three per cent of people without disability were participating in the labour force²⁸ in 2009 and 2012, compared to just over half of people with disability (55 per cent in 2009; 53 per cent in 2012). Women with disability were less likely to be in the labour force compared to men with and without disability and compared to women without disability, as shown in Figure 2. In 2012, labour force participation was lowest when a person's level of disability was severe or profound, down to 29 per cent for men and 31 for women.

²⁸ 'Participating in the labour force' includes people who are employed and people who are unemployed but looking for work (engaged in the labour market).

Figure 2 Proportion of people in the labour force, by disability status and by sex, 2012



Source: ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2012.

3.2 People with disability in employment — by private or public sector

In 2012, about 85 per cent of people in the workforce were employed in the private sector, regardless of whether or not they had a disability. But between 2003 and 2012, people with disability in the workforce became less likely to work in the public sector, with the proportion decreasing from 19 per cent to 15 per cent. This change appears to be driven by the rate of employed females with disability shifting to the private sector (75 per cent in 2009 to 83 per cent in 2012).

3.3 Average income of people with disability, compared with all Australians

The median gross weekly personal income for people with a reported disability has been about half that of people without disability throughout 2003, 2009 and 2012, as shown in the Figure 3.

Figure 3 Median gross weekly personal income — people aged 15 years and over living in households

	2003 (\$)	2009 (\$)	2012 (\$)
All people with reported disability	225	306	380
All people without disability	480	614	700
All Australians	397	510	580

Source: ABS 2012 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings. ABS 2009 SDAC, Australia: Summary of Findings.

3.4 Proportion of people with disability experiencing housing stress

Households experiencing housing stress were defined, in Australian Bureau of Statistics surveys, as those spending more than 30 per cent of their income on housing costs, and where the household was in the bottom 40 per cent of Australian incomes. In 2009-10, 13 per cent of households with a person with a disability or long term health condition experienced housing stress. Meanwhile, less than 10 per cent of other households (with no reported person with disability) experienced housing stress.²⁹

Further data on these trend indicators, including available information by gender, Indigenous status and other factors, appear in Appendix 2.

Stakeholder feedback

Stakeholders felt there was still some way to go before people with disability enjoyed the same degree of economic security that many other Australians were able to achieve. Improving economic security for people with disability was one of the areas where stakeholders felt all levels of government could demonstrate greater leadership — not only ensuring greater representation of people with disability in public sector jobs, but also by providing information and incentives to private employers to encourage them to consider the value of employing people with disability.

Feedback suggested that governments could play a role in assisting schools to provide targeted careers advice and school-to-work transition programmes for students with disability. This would encourage and inspire students to ‘think big’ about what they could achieve post-school. Mentoring programmes initiated at school were also seen as a role for government.

Stakeholders noted the inconsistency in the reported success of some employment brokers in securing jobs for people with disability. They suggested some investment was needed to evaluate the success factors and facilitate the sharing of best practice models. This was another area where stakeholders felt better and more transparent data collection would help to inform progress. It would lead to continuous improvement and allow people with disability and their representative organisations to engage more effectively with governments, industry and business to achieve greater economic security for people with disability.

²⁹ DSS analysis of ABS Household Expenditure Survey 2009–10 Basic Confidentialised Unit Record Files.

Outcome 4



Personal and community support

4

People with disability, their families and carers have access to a range of supports to assist them to live independently and actively engage in their communities

This outcome has four policy directions:

- a sustainable disability support system which is person-centred and self-directed, maximising opportunities for independence and participation in the economic, social and cultural life of the community
- a disability support system which is responsive to the particular needs and circumstances of people with complex and high needs for support
- universal personal and community support services are available to meet the needs of people with disability, their families and carers
- the role of families and carers is acknowledged and supported.

In many ways, this outcome — to provide personal and community support — embodies the overarching aims and purpose of the strategy. Outcome 4 aims to build a steady momentum towards a point where people with disability will be able to exercise choice and control in all spheres of their lives in the manner other Australians do.

The right to equality and the desire for greater choice and control across all aspects of their lives is at the heart of what people with disability want. This was reported back to governments in *Shut Out: The Experience of People with Disabilities and their Families in Australia* — the 2009 consultation feedback report to government from the former National People with Disabilities and Carer Council. People with disability said in the report “we want our human rights recognised and realised. We want access to the things everyone else in the community takes for granted ... somewhere to live, a job, better health care, a good education, a chance to enjoy the company of friends and family, to go to the footy and the movies”.

All levels of government committed to implementing actions under this outcome. Actions taken under Outcome 4 focused on promoting and enabling self-determination, choice and control for people with disability who need personal and community supports. Such consumer power was expected to have a positive impact on driving mainstream reform across many services within and across government, community-based services and the private sector. Details of measures implemented under Outcome 4 between 2010 and 2014 are in Appendix 1, Table 4.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

Without doubt, the greatest and most influential single achievement supported by all levels of government under this outcome, and arguably under the strategy as a whole, was development of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The extent to which the NDIS has engaged people with disability, their families and the wider community presented minor challenges to the implementation of the strategy. Not only were the NDS and NDIS acronyms mistakenly used interchangeably, but the mainstreaming objectives of the strategy were sometimes overshadowed by the individualised focus of the NDIS. Both, however, are important, essential and interdependent elements of COAG's disability reform agenda.

The NDIS will drive mainstream reform by encouraging mainstream services to meet the broader needs of people with disability. Conversely, mainstream reforms under the strategy will provide people with disability more choice in the services, activities and opportunities they seek.

The NDIS represents a very significant change to the way people with disability are supported. It is a pioneering piece of economic and social reform that will provide fairness, security and opportunity to more than 460,000 Australians and their families who, for too long, missed out on a fair go. Consistent with Productivity Commission recommendations, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) was established in March 2013 to implement and operate the NDIS. The NDIA combined the principles of insurance and market competition with the best expertise from the disability sector to build a world-leading scheme.

Notable outcomes were achieved in a relatively short time:

- 8,585 participants were found eligible for the scheme and 7,316 had an approved plan by the end of June 2014
- most participants were very satisfied, with a satisfaction rating of 1.66 on a scale of -2 (extremely unsatisfied) to +2 (extremely satisfied), at 30 June 2014
- on 1 July 2014, the scheme expanded trial sites across the whole of the Australian Capital Territory, the Barkly region in the Northern Territory, the Perth Hills area in Western Australia, the Lake Macquarie area in New South Wales and, in South Australia, the age cohort increased to 13 years of age
- these sites joined the four that began on 1 July 2013 — in the Hunter (New South Wales) local government areas of Newcastle and Maitland; Barwon (Victoria); South Australia (for children aged from birth to five); and in Tasmania (for young people aged 15 to 24 years)
- through a two-year National Partnership Agreement, the Commonwealth and Western Australian Government will share the costs — using two contrasting approaches to deliver disability services in different parts of that state.

The NDIA is committed to learning, building and reflecting on what has been undertaken to date. Evidence given to the Joint Standing Committee of the Australian Parliament early in 2014 showed aspects of the scheme need to be improved. The internal review processes of the NDIA also identified areas to be refined and strengthened.

The agency has implemented several changes to respond to the lessons learned so far. This included working to ensure that choice and control remain paramount and that people with disability are supported to participate in the community and to build up their social and economic independence.

The agency is committed to managing the NDIS on sound insurance principles. The insurance framework needs to ensure the scheme's sustainability, as well as drive efficiency and effectiveness. The insurance approach is about ensuring lifetime support — once a participant is in the scheme — and it is intended to meet their lifetime costs.

The NDIA is committed to basing decision making on rigorous actuarial advice and the best-available evidence. It is also clear that all work needs to be underpinned by robust data — both quantitative and qualitative. Of course, an enormous amount of hard work, listening, learning and building still lies ahead as Australia moves from the trial to the full roll out of the scheme.

The progress made, by state and territory, in building personal and community support up to October 2014 included:

New South Wales — Ready Together

Ready Together continues the NSW Government's *Stronger Together 2* reforms for disability services from 2011–12 to 2015–16, to deliver 47,200 new places for people with disability to access support. Ready Together focuses this investment on what people say they most want — more flexibility, more choice and more control — implemented through the *Living Life My Way* framework. The investment and reforms in *Ready Together* are critical to meeting the growing demand for disability supports. *Ready Together* also prepares NSW for transition to the full National Disability Insurance Scheme, which will commence on 1 July 2016 and continue until June 2018.

Ability Links, the NSW approach to local area coordination, is providing information and planning support for people with disability and their families and carers. It commenced in 2013 and was fully operational across NSW from 1 July 2014. Ability Links is improving pathways to mainstream supports and strengthening community inclusion. It has supported 1,327 people directly and made over 44,500 community contacts.

The trial of the NDIS is already underway in the Hunter area and plans are being made for how NSW as a whole will transition to the NDIS over the coming years. *Ready Together* places people with disability, providers, and the disability service system across NSW, in the best position to transition seamlessly to the NDIS. As part of this process, there are two new laws in NSW. The *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* protects the rights of people with disability and promotes community inclusion now and into the future. *The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NSW Enabling) Act 2013* enables government services to transfer to the non-government sector.

Joint NDIA-National Disability Services training in shared accommodation quoting

National Disability Services and the NDIA national office in NSW developed an accommodation-quoting template in 2013. This now supports providers in meeting the agency's quoting requirements.

NDIA's Hunter trial site, in partnership with National Disability Services, ran a well-received workshop on the template early in 2014 and it covered the new approach to quoting requirements. This quoting approach changes the pre-existing block-funding-by-tender system to a model of service built around the participant. It requires a change in business practice and thinking.

The workshops increased providers' understanding of accommodation quoting. National Disability Services continues to provide one-on-one support to service providers, where required. It also delivered training in Tasmania and ACT, setting a good example of positive collaboration between the agency, industry peak bodies and service providers to the benefit of participants who live in group or shared-living arrangements.

Victoria supporting complex needs

The Barwon trial site in Victoria focused on supporting best practice in services provided to those with exceptionally complex needs.

The site worked with participants and their families and providers to innovate, trial and adapt service responses that respect choice and dignity of risk. The outcomes revealed an exciting journey of change for participants towards independence, inclusion and opportunity to participate as valued members of the community.

Queensland getting ready for 2016 rollout

Planning and preparations are underway for the rollout of the NDIS in Queensland from July 2016. The Queensland Government signed a heads of agreement in May 2013 with the Australian Government for full implementation of the NDIS.

Planning began between the Australian and Queensland governments for an agreement that sets out arrangements for eligible people with disability to transition between 2016 and 2019 to the NDIS. Joint planning on the agreement will continue during 2015.

The Queensland Government also rolled out initiatives to prepare for the NDIS people with disability, families, carers and providers. These will:

- support people with disability and communities so they are well informed and confident about what the NDIS means for them
- support people with disability, families and carers in making choices and taking up opportunities
- support non-government service providers in operating in a competitive, market-based environment
- support small rural and remote and discrete and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in working toward local approaches to delivering disability services under the NDIS.

The Queensland Government signed a memorandum of understanding in 2014 with the NDIA to set up NDIA bases in Townsville and Brisbane to get a head-start on preparing the Queensland community to be as NDIS-ready as possible. Two staff started work in Brisbane and one in Townsville.

WA trialling two models

Western Australia was the only state to trial two models, following a national partnership agreement with the Australian Government, which enabled a two-year trial of the NDIS to start in the state in July 2014. The two models underway were:

- The WA NDIS My Way trial, delivered by the WA Disability Services Commission. This had a trial site in the state's Lower South West, which began in July, 2014, and another that will start in July 2015 in the Cockburn/ Kwinana region
- A trial began in the Perth Hills of the NDIA agency model, which the Australian Government implemented.

A state-wide reference group of key stakeholders, the WA NDIS My Way Reference Group, which includes people with disability, families, and service organisations, provides advice to the Joint Steering Committee overseeing the trials on the implementation of the WA NDIS My Way trial. A local advisory group in the Lower South West provides input to the WA NDIS My Way Reference Group and a similar local advisory group will be established in Cockburn/ Kwinana reflecting the decentralised approach of the trial.

My Way trial — This was well received and supported local, person-centred planning and individualised approaches. These included decentralised, local decision-making. A solid foundation was provided for the trial by Western Australian experience in working with people with disability and commissioning service providers to deliver community services in partnership.

Perth Hills trial site — This set up two local advisory networks to guide implementation of the scheme. Network members had good local knowledge of the disability sector and, in many cases, were people with disability or had a lived experience of disability.

The advisory network had more than 80 members who represent people with disability, families, service providers, local government representatives and consumer and service peaks. The network was the trial site's own initiative and proved an important forum to share information, gather ideas and discuss the scheme's implementation.

The second local advisory group fulfilled an advisory requirement outlined in the bilateral agreement between the Australian Government and the Western Australia Government. This group provided advice to a joint steering committee that oversaw both state and federal trial sites in Western Australia, and also advised the NDIA Board regarding preparations for commencement of trial sites.

Both trial sites encouraged community ownership and interest in the scheme.

South Australia working with remote communities

The South Australian trial site worked with local organisations and Aboriginal communities in Yalata and Oak Valley in the Maralinga Tjaruta Lands to explain the NDIS and how it can be accessed. Early work in these areas helped develop a service response and strengthen the NDIA's relationship with these communities.

NDIA staff also worked with the staff and senior members of the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (NPY Women's Council). This is a community-based organisation formed to assist people who live in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands in South Australia.

A three-day workshop enabled NPY Women's Council and NDIA representatives to talk about and translate the scheme's principles and processes into Aboriginal languages and artworks. Their partnership will enable information dissemination about the scheme and its implementation in the community in culturally appropriate and accessible ways.

Tasmania helping students into jobs

4

Employment is a critical outcome for the NDIS and the agency took a proactive and innovative approach to help people with disability find work. The Tasmanian site trialled a pilot on the pathway from school to work for Year 11 and 12 NDIS participants who used Disability Employment Services.

The state's School Leaver Integrated Transition Pathway to Employment project trialled ways for school transition officers and agency planners to work alongside the school participants to streamline and simplify the planning process for them. Disability Employment Services and Australian Disability Enterprises, higher education bodies and community based service providers also collaborated in this integrated model. Their approach will be evaluated to find evidence of improved and sustained employment results for these school leavers.

ACT co-locating at a single gateway

The ACT was the first site to transition the entire eligible population into the scheme over two years. The ACT trial site was also the first in Australia to co-locate with another government service. It co-located with the ACT Government's One Human Services Gateway (1HSG), which is delivered by leading community sector agencies in a partnership with the Territory's Community Services Directorate.

The 1HSG project provides a single gateway for numerous human services in the Territory. It is a single entry point for the Territory's individuals, families, community and government services to improve services for members of the community who need to access support services and information. Under the ACT trial, a small team of NDIA staff located at the 1HSG site in Belconnen. The ACT site held community forums and targeted information sessions that paid attention to smaller and specific-needs groups.

NT working with communities in Tennant Creek

Linguistically diverse and geographically dispersed communities were reached through NDIA's trial site in the Barkly region of the Northern Territory. NDIA staff coped with the local diversity by working closely with the Aboriginal Interpreters Service, local Indigenous engagement officers and mainstream community service providers. Together, they found ways to provide meaningful, two-way communication with local people.

NDIA in the Territory explored creative approaches to meeting the challenges of providing services and infrastructure in remote areas and succeeded in registering 13 service providers. It is also developing a Rural and Remote Service Delivery Strategy to encourage Indigenous people to access the scheme. This will draw on the experiences of other territory, state and federal departments to develop best practice.

Other measures to improve personal and community support

Support for the rollout of the NDIS was a key achievement under Outcome 4. The Australian Government and state and territory governments carried out many activities additional to these that also aligned with Outcome 4 of the strategy. Some were tangible, such as investments in aids. Other programmes provided equipment for independent living and developed more housing options for people with disability.

Improving access to assistive technologies in Victoria

Many people with disability require aids and equipment to get to work or stay involved in the wider community. In the past, they often needed to contact multiple programmes to get the assistance they needed. But now, in Victoria, the State-wide Equipment Programme has been centralised and provides subsidised aids, equipment and home and vehicle modifications to Victorians who have a permanent or long-term disability. The programme also includes 24/7 emergency after-hours assistance for equipment breakdowns.

In the past year, the programme provided more than 36,000 items to nearly 29,000 people across Victoria. Administered by Ballarat Health Services, the programme has improved independence and facilitated community participation. In September 2014, the Victorian Government committed to providing 2,000 more people with disability immediate support to purchase aids and equipment.

Queensland — meeting communication and mobility needs

In Queensland, the Vehicle Options Subsidy Scheme commenced in February 2012 to increase the independence of people with disability and help them to be more active in their communities. The scheme provides subsidies for a range of transport options including vehicle modifications and driving lessons.

In March 2013, the Community Aids Equipment and Assistive Technologies Initiative provided eligible applicants with aids and subsidies for equipment to help them participate in their communities of choice. The equipment helped people with their communication and mobility needs.

Outcome 4 also progressed through training educators, health professionals and others who work with people with disability. Relevant activities were backed by mechanisms to promote sharing of best-practice ideas, together with improving linkages across agencies to streamline their administration of services for people with disability.

Queensland — helping elderly parents who care for adult children

Long-term, sustainable living arrangements for adults with disability aged over 25 years who are in the care of parents aged over 60 were provided in Queensland under the Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Trial. The three-year trial, which also catered for Indigenous parents aged over 50, began in 2012–13. Eight organisations were funded to create up to 61 places for adults with disability.

Trialled innovations included leveraging funds from other sources such as private social investors; buying additional supports for tenants with disability by using rent from tenants without disability; using models of support other than rostered staff; and using assistive technologies such as lighting and temperature control activated by smart phones and other remote devices.

Victorians with disability can now directly employ their carers

Victorians with disability who had an individual support package and were able to make direct payments on the internet could choose to employ their support worker directly — using money under the Direct Employment initiative. Being a direct employer meant people became responsible for all the legal, financial and human resource management obligations involved and, therefore, the Victorian approach did not suit everyone. However, those who opted to be direct employers said it gave them many benefits, including having more control over how they organised their supports to suit their lifestyle, better quality of support because they had control over the employment process. The approach gave them happier, more dignified lives and improved value for money.

NT listening to break down the barriers

The Northern Territory's Individual Transition Plan has given all potential service providers opportunities to meet students and discuss their access barriers and the potential solutions. Departments in the Territory have found listening to family stories and situations can help them improve the access people with disability have to all areas of life. This includes post-school, during their school years, as well as their access to technology and programmes.

New insights have been found through such discussions involving the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Health. The resulting learning and benefits included more-open communication, raised awareness of individual needs and early intervention to possible barriers. In turn, the approach gave students new opportunities to have their voice and needs heard.

Better outcomes from this process included improved access to work sites, more participation in programmes, assistive technology for everyday living, as well as improved educational skills and more collaboration to extend, develop and amend essential access provisions for people. Introductions made through the Individual Transition Plan process enabled families and agencies to ensure there was more follow-through with programmes and support.

WA — families helped to improve their caring role

Western Australian families were given more help by organisations to plan and manage the resources they need to support the wellbeing of their disabled family member. A Partners in Change package that provided training for this kind of support was completed by 20 disability sector organisations.

Each participating organisation developed an action plan to guide person-centred approaches and community inclusion in their work with people with disability and their families. The package explored contemporary values, attitudes and models of services that support inclusion and individualised supports and services. As a result, Western Australian families received more support in their caring role which, in turn, helped more people with disability lead a good life with help from their families.

Emerging technology — Significant gaps were found between the potential and actual use of six types of potential technologies for people with disability. These included assistive technology, environmental controls, communication technologies, technology for safety and health, technologies for assessment, training and evaluation and workforce management. The findings emerged from a workshop into the potential use of emerging technologies for people with disability, their families, carers and disability services.

The workshop was convened in 2012 by the Disability Services Commission and the Independent Living Centre. It was attended by Western Australian disability sector organisations, advocacy groups, technology engineering groups and academics. As a result, a partnership of sector and industry stakeholders led by the Independent Living Centre developed strategies to address the identified gaps in understanding and application of technology across the disability sector.

ACT sector development for NDIS

The capacity of ACT people with disability to exercise more choice and control under an NDIS were boosted in 2013–14 through sector-development activities. These helped service providers to transition from block funding to individualised funding, and increased their market options in the ACT.

Sector-development activities included community conversations, capacity building workshops, digital stories, supported decision-making pilots and sponsoring individuals to take part in family leadership activities and conferences. These activities helped people with disability and their families prepare for the introduction of the NDIS.

The mental health sector was supported through the Connecting Communities initiative via the expansion of an information and referral service, supported decision making, and a peer workforce education module. The NDIS Organisational Readiness Toolkit, developed by National Disability Services, helped more than 60 providers to assess their level of readiness for the NDIS. The toolkit enabled many organisations to identify which areas they needed to strengthen to be market-ready for the NDIS.

Organisations could also apply for a sector development grant to further assist their readiness for the NDIS. The ACT Government offered 25 organisations a governance and financial management package, and 20 organisations were offered a business investment package.

Trend indicator summary

Baseline information that will be used to measure broad changes over the life of the strategy is set out in this section. It presents key baseline data on the trend indicators relating to personal and community support. The available data relates to 2010–11 and 2012–13, the first and second years of the strategy. It is presented alongside data from years before the strategy was introduced. In other words, the current data represents baseline information from which broad changes will be measured over the life of the strategy.

4.1 Potential population accessing disability services

A comparison of the proportions of the estimated potential population accessing disability services in 2010–11 and 2012–13 is presented below in Table 3, by level of government and by service type.

Table 3 Proportions of estimated potential population accessing disability services, by level of government and by service type, 2010–11 and 2012–13³⁰

Disability service type	2010–11 (per cent)	2012–13 (per cent)
State- and territory- delivered disability services		
Community support services	25.9	25.3
Respite services	14.9	16.4
Community access services	9.0	8.7
Accommodation support services	6.2	6.5
Australian Government- delivered employment services		
Disability Employment Services – Employment Support Services	7.2	7.3
Disability Employment Services – Disability Management Services	7.1	8.4
Australian Disability Enterprises	8.2	7.5

Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, Report on Government Services 2015, Productivity Commission, Melbourne.

Although 2012–13 and 2013–14 data for most disability services as a proportion of the potential population were not yet available, more than 7,300 eligible people with disability were known to have received an approved plan with the National Disability Insurance Scheme during 2013–14.³¹

4.2 People with disability reporting a need for more formal assistance

In 2012, 34 per cent of people with reported disability stated they did not receive the full amount of assistance they required, compared to 32 per cent in 2009. People with more significant levels of disability were less likely to report their needs as being fully met.³²

³⁰ It is not possible to analyse whether some people used more than one of these disability service types.

³¹ Source: National Disability Insurance Agency, Report to the Disability Reform Council, June 2014.

³² Source: ABS SDAC, 2009 and 2012. Note DSS has decided to use the SDAC data on all people with disability because the National Disability Strategy is broader than the NDA potential population.

4.3 Carers of people with disability reporting a need for further assistance

In 2012, 27 per cent of primary carers of people with disability reported a need for further assistance in their caring roles, compared to 23 per cent in 2009. Female carers were more likely than males to report a need for further assistance in 2012 (29 per cent compared to 23 per cent).³³

Further data on these trend indicators, including available information by gender, Indigenous status and other factors, appear in Appendix 2.

Stakeholder feedback

When stakeholders were invited to comment on the implementation of Outcome 4 of the strategy they said the NDIS promised to be the greatest achievement under the strategy and a historically significant social policy for all Australians. They acknowledged that once the scheme was fully implemented people with disability should begin to experience greater control and choice in their lives.

They believed they would become more visible and empowered in society and contribute in a positive way to changing attitudes about the contribution that people with disability make. However, stakeholders also noted that the focus and reach of the strategy was always intended to be considerably wider than the NDIS and cautioned against governments becoming too distracted or self-satisfied by this single, but significant, initiative. They were concerned that the commitment and momentum for mainstream disability reform should be maintained with vigour, by all levels of government.

³³ Source: ABS SDAC, 2009 and 2012.

Outcome 5



Learning and skills

5

People with disability achieve their full potential through their participation in an inclusive high quality education system that is responsive to their needs. People with disability have opportunities to continue learning throughout their lives

This outcome has four policy directions, to:

- strengthen the capability of all education providers to deliver inclusive, high-quality educational programmes for people with all abilities from early childhood through adulthood
- focus on reducing the disparity in educational outcomes for people with disability and others
- ensure that government reforms and initiatives for early childhood, education, training and skills development are responsive to the needs of people with disability
- improve pathways for students with disability from school to further education, employment and lifelong learning.

High-quality education and targeted training are universally recognised as essential prerequisites for gaining independence and confidence and for developing the competencies that enable people to reach their full potential in life. The aspiration and capacity for reaching the highest level of personal achievement is no different for a person with disability than it is for any other Australian.

The strategy acknowledges the economic, social and human rights imperative to providing people with disability access to quality education and vocational training that enables them to optimise their potential throughout their lives. It aims to ensure that people with disability are not disadvantaged in their pursuit of personal growth and self-reliance by addressing the physical, organisational and attitudinal barriers that people with disability may experience.

The Australian Government and state and territory governments, as parties to the strategy, set out to improve access to a quality education and appropriate training and support for people with disability through both mainstream and disability-specific policies and programmes. Under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*, education and training providers (including universities) are required to ensure students with disability are able to access and participate in education and training on the same basis as those without disability.

Removing barriers to education

The Higher Education Disability Support Programme assisted in removing barriers to education for domestic students with disability by:

- providing funding to eligible higher education providers to assist with the cost of providing educational support services and equipment to students with disability
- encouraging providers to implement strategies to attract and support students with disability
- funding the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training website, which provides information and other resources designed to promote inclusive teaching and learning practices for people with disability.

The National Disability Coordination Officer Programme (NDCO) also assisted people with disability to access and participate in tertiary education and subsequent employment. It funded organisations like universities and TAFEs, as well as non-government organisations, that employed a national network of 31 full-time NDCOs. The NDCOs helped reduce barriers, while helping people with disability make smooth transitions from school to tertiary education to employment.

The Australian Government is committed to improving school and education outcomes for all students, including students with disability. Under its *Students First* approach, the Australian Government worked with states and territories to make a real difference for all students by focusing on the key areas of school autonomy, quality teachers, an effective curriculum and more parental engagement.

The Australian Curriculum was also developed to ensure the curriculum establishes high expectations for all students. It provides flexibility for teachers to take into account the different rates at which students develop, as well as tailoring the content and context for learning in ways that cater to various levels of student ability.

Details of measures taken between 2010 and 2014 under the National Disability Strategy by the Australian Government and state and territory governments under Outcome 5, are provided at Appendix 1, Table 5.

Improving outcomes for students with disability

At the national level, the Department of Education and Training introduced measures to improve educational and training outcomes for students with disability. These included the Inclusion and Professional Support Programme, the More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative, the National Disability Coordination Officer Programme, and the Early Years Learning Framework.

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability is underway from 2013 to 2015. This provides important data to enable governments to better target support for students with disability.

Support for students with disabilities

The capacity of Australian schools and teachers to educate students with disability grew under the Australian Government's More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative. This invested \$300 million over the 2012 to 2014 school years.

High-quality support for the professional development of school leaders, teachers and paraprofessionals was provided by the initiative. This included using disability-specific online training modules and more use of assistive technology.

Other support included setting up support centres-of-expertise; making more effective use of allied health professionals in schools; guidance, documents and resources to differentiate the curriculum to support learning for students with disability; and fostering more collaboration between schools and parents.

State and territory governments similarly introduced measures to respond to the needs of students with disability. These included better training and teaching resources for educators so they could work more effectively with students with disability. Some jurisdictions explored expanding learning opportunities through finding innovative uses for assistive technologies, web-based teaching and learning resources that could be adapted for students' abilities.

The states and territories also ran transition programmes to support students from primary to secondary school, and from school to post-school. These included providing careers advice, vocational training and support in tertiary institutions. In addition, they worked to bring about attitudinal change towards people with disability through leadership programmes for people with disability and their families, and disability awareness programmes in schools.

ACT improving education outcomes

Several initiatives were carried out in the ACT to achieve better learning outcomes for people with disability. These were under the ACT Education and Training Directorate's strategic plan for 2014–2017 — *Education Capital: Leading the Nation*.

The directorate worked with the extension into the Territory of the More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative. This work helped create sustainable processes to ensure positive learning outcomes for students with disability into their post-school life.

Victorian schools supporting students with ASD

Fifteen Victorian schools began inclusion-support programmes for students with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) — who benefit from being in ASD-friendly learning environments. Teachers were trained to meet their needs and the schools provided additional resources to assist the training.

They also increased their staff to help the teachers meet the learning and development needs of children and young people with an ASD. The state's programmes were part of a joint initiative between the Victorian Government and the Australian Government.

Every Student, Every School making local decisions in NSW

Disability reforms helped give NSW public schools more authority to make local decisions about how best to meet the needs of their students with disability. They also strengthened education provision in schools in remote and rural areas.

The Department of Education and Communities reform strategy of 2012, *Every Student, Every School*, increased the capacity of more than 2,240 NSW public schools to better meet the learning and support needs of students with disability, regardless of where they enrol. The strategy introduced an extensive variety of projects that provided a strong focus on strengthening and expanding professional learning and support for teachers. This enabled teachers to provide quality learning experiences and outcomes for students with disability at all stages of schooling.

Every Student, Every School complemented and supported other significant education reforms to benefit all students in NSW public schools. NSW also increased opportunities for students with disability through extensive work to develop:

- a new assessment tool to help teachers provide personalised learning and support for students in collaboration with parents — more than 24,000 students in 556 schools were involved in a trial of the tool in 2013
- a new website to improve information for school communities about supporting the educational needs of students with disability.

Trend indicator summary

Baseline information that will be used to measure broad changes over the life of the strategy is set out in this section. It presents key baseline data on the trend indicators relating to Learning and Skills from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.³⁴ The available data should be viewed as baseline information from which we will measure broad changes over the life of the strategy. This is because the available data relates to 2011 and 2012, the first and second years of the strategy, as well as to the years prior to the strategy.

5.1 Proportion of people with disability in mainstream schools

Most people with disability (67 per cent of those aged 5 to 20) took part in regular classes at mainstream schools in 2012. This rate increased slightly from 65 per cent in 2003. A further 20 per cent attended special classes at mainstream schools in 2012, while 13 per cent attended special schools.

Exploring school attendance rates for children and young people (5–20) with and without disability will help put this data in context. Young people with disability were more likely to attend school than their counterparts without disability. In addition, young people with disability stay at school for longer than children without disability.

³⁴ Sources for all data in this section are the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2003, 2009 and 2012 and the DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2003, 2009 and 2012.

5.2 Proportion of people aged 19–25 years with a disability who have attained at least Year 12 or equivalent qualification

In 2012, about 61 per cent of people with disability had attained Year 12 or equivalent qualifications; an increase from 37 per cent in 2003 and 56 per cent in 2009. Understandably, Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates varied across disability type, with the rates in 2012 being:

- 57 per cent for people with a severe or profound core-activity limitation
- 60 per cent for people with a schooling or employment restriction
- 62 per cent for people with a mild or moderate core-activity limitation.

These rates of Year 12 attainment continue to lag behind the rate for people without a reported disability (78 per cent in 2012).

5.3 Proportion of people with disability with post-school qualifications

People with disability in the working-age population (15–64 year olds) are increasingly completing post-school qualifications. Forty-five per cent had post-school qualifications in 2003 and this grew to 50 per cent in 2012. People without disability were still more likely to hold a post-school qualification (58 per cent).

Further data on these trend indicators, including available information by gender, Indigenous status and other factors, appear in Appendix 2.

Stakeholder feedback

Stakeholders reported some improvements and positive initiatives that aligned to the objectives of Outcome Area 5. They specifically noted the value and importance of funding to the Australian Human Rights Commission that enabled people with disability to participate in international conferences. The growing exploration of and investment in online learning tools and resources, both for educators and people with disability, were also recognised as a positive outcome in recent years.

Some stakeholders noted improved access to TAFE and tertiary education, but this was not a universal view. Stakeholders also identified where, with more consideration and targeted investment, learning and skills development for people with disability could be improved. This was by making better use of the resources, structures and networks in schools and other institutions to drive attitudinal change about the potential and rights of people with disability. The attitudinal issues that need to be addressed included the tendency to respond to disability as a medical issue, and the need for a greater commitment at all levels to eliminate bullying and the indirect discrimination of students with disability.

Better teacher training was required to increase expertise in educating children with disability including, for example, giving more teachers basic skills in signing for the deaf and hard of hearing. More expert and specialised staff were also needed to better support students with disability in transitioning through school and into tertiary studies, vocational training and employment.

Stakeholders noted a need for greater national consistency in the opportunities and outcomes experienced by students with disability, their families and carers. Better, more systematic, mechanisms to share best practices across learning and teaching institutions and jurisdictions were also identified by stakeholders as an area for future action.

Outcome 6



Health and wellbeing

6

People with disability attain highest possible health and wellbeing outcomes throughout their lives

This outcome has four policy directions:

- all health service providers (including hospitals, general practices, specialist services, allied health, dental health, mental health, population health programmes and ambulance services) have the capabilities to meet the needs of people with disability
- timely, comprehensive and effective prevention and early-intervention health services for people with disability
- universal health reforms and initiatives to address the needs of people with disability, their families and carers
- factors fundamental to wellbeing and health status, such as choice and control, social participation and relationships, to be supported in government policy and programme design.

It was recognised when the strategy was being developed that people with long-term disability experienced comparatively poorer health than the average population. The extensive consultations with people with disability that took place to inform the strategy revealed possible reasons for this. For instance, barriers to health care were linked to physical access to both acute and chronic or preventive health care services. Access to buildings and transport services were another issue for people with disability. In addition, many information sources related to public health notices or better health strategies were not accessible to some people with disability. These were seen as contributing to poor health outcomes. Measures were set out under Outcome 1 Inclusive and accessible communities to address these issues.

Another factor seen to contribute to poor health outcomes and negative experiences with the health sector was the inadequate level of education and training for health and allied professionals in how they should interact with people with disability. Lack of adequate training can impact on issues as fundamental as establishing trust and rapport in the patient-doctor relationship, without which patients may not be comfortable disclosing more complex health issues.

People with disability also reported that some healthcare professionals tended to focus on their most apparent disability, but often missed or dismissed other complaints or symptoms that

were causing greater distress or concern. Identification and appropriate treatment of unrelated mental health issues and appropriate responses to sexual and reproductive health issues were noted examples of this tendency.

Actions under the strategy to improve health and wellbeing sought to address access to health services and support for people with disability across many fronts. These included attention to appropriate training and education for medical and allied health professionals; improved assessment tools to identify complex needs; increased representation of people with disability in health-advisory roles; better data collection; and improved networking, leadership and sharing of best-practice models across and within health and lifestyle services.

Details of measures taken under the National Disability Strategy by the Australian Government and state and territory governments under Outcome 1 between 2010 and 2014 are at Appendix 1, Table 6.

6

Medicare Locals representing people with disability

The Australian Government Department of Health continued working with Medicare Locals to ensure their board membership represented the broader community demographic. This included increasing the representation of people with disability on universal health bodies.

In 2014–15 all Medicare Locals were required to complete a comprehensive annual needs assessment of their communities. This involved consulting with a broad variety of primary healthcare providers and the community — including people with disability and their sector representatives. The annual needs assessment explored opportunities for joint service planning with other local primary healthcare providers, Local Hospital Networks, and provider sectors.

The 61 Medicare Locals are being replaced with 30 Primary Health Networks, as announced in the 2014-15 Federal Budget and following the Government's review of Medicare Locals. The networks will be efficient, corporate organisations responsible for improving patient outcomes in their local areas. They will ensure services across primary, community and secondary health sectors align and work together in the interest of patients.

NSW raising clinicians' awareness of intellectual disability

The NSW Ministry of Health, in partnership with local health districts, ran pilot projects to improve access to medical and allied health care for people with intellectual disability. The pilots set out to improve the awareness and capacity of clinicians to respond to the specific needs of people with disability, including people with complex health needs and high-support needs. The state's pilots were supported by the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation's Intellectual Disability Network, which includes clinicians, consumers and NSW representatives.

Victoria — encouraging cancer screening for women with disability

In Victoria, an awareness-raising project set out to increase awareness of the need for cancer screening among more than 7,000 women with an intellectual disability. Cancer-screening rates are lower among women with an intellectual disability than women in the general Victorian population. The women were encouraged to discuss health checks with their GP and to have mammography, Pap and faecal occult blood tests, as appropriate. In 2013, the project also included training for disability services staff to support the women during the process, and an online directory for GPs.

Rehabilitation for people with acquired brain injury in Victoria

The recovery process for people with an acquired brain injury can be slow and specialist care may be needed. In 2011–2012, the Victorian Government, through the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services, and in conjunction with the Transport Accident Commission, funded a new 42-bed rehabilitation unit at Caulfield Hospital for people with an acquired brain injury. This provided the support and specialist care these people needed in order to return to and participate in community life. Victoria's acquired brain injury rehabilitation service opened in September 2014.

Queensland — meeting the health needs of people with intellectual disability

The attention paid by GPs to the health needs of adults with intellectual disability increased substantially in Queensland through the use of the Comprehensive Health Assessment Programme (CHAP). The programme was made available by the state government (since late 2007) to every adult with an intellectual disability who received a Disability Services delivered or funded service.

The programme enables improved identification and documentation of the health needs of adults with an intellectual disability, and resulted in more disease detection.

The programme was developed by the Queensland Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disability as a two-part book, which can be downloaded from a website by people who register. The book is completed by individuals, family members, carers, general practitioners and staff of government and funded non-government service providers on behalf of people with an intellectual disability.

Evaluations of the programme showed positive benefits in using a health assessment tool for adults with an intellectual disability. These individuals often have a reduced lifespan and several unrecognised or poorly managed medical conditions, inadequate health promotion and disease prevention.

South Australia — improving life skills, connectedness and wellbeing

The life skills, connectedness and wellbeing of up to 90 young South Australians who are deaf and have additional disability were boosted through the

WHISPA Life Skills project delivered by the Cora Barclay Centre in 2013. The project was supported by a South Australian Government *youthconnect* grant. The WHISPA Life Skills project particularly targeted young people with hearing impairment who were geographically isolated, disengaged and who had poor social and emotional wellbeing.

6

Western Australia — improving public health outcomes for people with disability

Western Australia is building on inclusive approaches to health services through the establishment of the Western Australian Disability Health Network. The network improves the health experience for people with disability by informing and influencing the development of a Western Australian health system that supports people with disability to enjoy the best health possible throughout their life.

Currently 3,237 people are registered as members of the Disability Health Network, including health and disability service professionals as well as people with disability, their families and carers.

The Disability Health Network is driving:

- a WA Health Disability Health Care Coordination Framework to identify best practice and any gaps in care coordination in the health and disability sectors
- a WA Health Disability Health Hospital Stay Guide to improve the disability sector capacity to support people with disability transitioning into and out of hospital
- a WA Health Workforce Development Disability Health Capability Framework which describes the health workforce capabilities that are expected when providing services to people with disability, families and carers.

Trend indicator summary

Baseline information that will be used to measure broad changes over the life of the strategy is set out in this section. It presents key baseline data on the trend indicators relating to the Health and Wellbeing outcome. Data for these indicators are from sources that dated from 2006 to 2012. As a result, it should be interpreted as baseline data from before the strategy was introduced and from the year the strategy was introduced. Further data is needed to ascertain progress on these indicators from 2012 onwards.

6.1 Proportion with disability who report their health status as 'good or better'

People with a reported disability were less likely to report that their health was “better than good” than people without disability. Data from 2006 and 2010 is presented in Table 4.

Table 4 Self-reported health status of people 18 years and over, by disability status

	2006 — People with a reported disability	2006 — People without disability	2010 — People with a reported disability	2010 — People without disability
Better than Good	30.2%	67.8%	32.7%	74.0%
Good	34.6%	27.7%	32.3%	22.8%

Source: ABS unpublished, General Social Survey 2006, General Social Survey 2010.

6.2 Access to GPs, dental and other primary healthcare professional

6

Proportions of people with disability who accessed selected health services in 2012, are presented in Table 5. Data from the patient experience survey shows the general population had lower or equal rates of visits to health professionals in comparison to people without disability. However, this comparison should be treated with caution because the two surveys were undertaken using different methods.

Table 5 People with disability aged under 65 years who accessed health services in the last year, 2012

Health Service accessed	%	Health Service accessed	%
Saw a general practitioner	93%	Saw a dental professional	49%
Saw a medical specialist	55%	Admitted to hospital	21%
Visited hospital emergency department	27%	Saw 3 or more health professionals for same condition	33%
A health professional helped to coordinate care	23%	-	-

Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2012.

6.3 Risk factors for preventable disease in people with disability

People with disability appear to have more health-risk factors than the general adult population. The Australian Health Survey 2011–12 revealed that people with profound and severe disability are more likely than the general population to:

- smoke on a daily basis (19 per cent compared to 16 per cent)
- have low exercise levels or be sedentary (87 per cent compared to 68 per cent)
- have a body mass index classified as overweight or obese (76 per cent compared to 63 per cent).

However, people with disability were less likely to consume alcohol at risky levels, as set out by the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2009.

Further data on these trend indicators, including available information by gender, Indigenous status and other factors, appear in Appendix 2.

Stakeholder feedback

Stakeholders reported that this outcome should remain a priority for governments and that more work was needed to achieve nationally consistent outcomes. They expected the delivery of health services for people with disability should be at least equal to the standard and availability of health services provided to most other Australians.

Nevertheless, stakeholders reported positively on the increase in online health services and the potential for this delivery model to assist people with disability who had a preference for online support, or for people with disability who live in rural and remote locations. However, they also cautioned against an over-reliance on online health services as a cheap alternative to comprehensive face-to-face health and medical assessments and services. Both options should remain open to people with disability.

6

Stakeholders maintained that more training and education of health and allied professionals was needed. This was to ensure people with disability are treated holistically and with dignity and respect when they present at public and private healthcare facilities. They also felt that more effort was needed to ensure all health and health-promotion material is accessible to people with disability, and that better data collection was needed to monitor the overall health outcomes of people with disability.

Appendix 1

Achievements and outcomes under the National Disability Strategy 2011–2014 by jurisdiction

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Table 2: Rights protection, justice and legislation	103
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Table 1: Inclusive and accessible communities

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Commonwealth</p>	<p>In consultation with states and territories, and the arts and disability sector, the first triennial evaluation of the <i>National Arts and Disability Strategy</i> was finalised in October 2013. Some key findings from the evaluation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There has been an increase in physical access for people with disability as well as an increase in programing, training, exhibitions and information available on websites about access. ■ There has been a noticeable increase in access to funding programmes and processes for people with disability. ■ There has been an increase in the opportunities for people with disability to present their work.
	<p>The Accessible Communities Initiative has achieved its aim of improving access to public buildings and spaces for people with disability in their local communities. The initiative was well received by local governments and demonstrated that the completed projects provided an immediate benefit to the local community. Qualitative feedback from local governments is that this initiative caused heightened awareness of disability access issues through the consultation processes.</p>
	<p>In 2012 the Australian Government completed the development of national inclusive playground design guidelines. This initiative will increase community awareness of the importance of accessible play areas.</p>
	<p>Implementation of the Increasing Accessibility Library Initiative was completed in 2012. This initiative resulted in 1,300 playback devices now being available in over 170 libraries (and their outlets) across Australia and has provided access for people who are blind to material available through public libraries.</p>
	<p>By the end of 2014 closed captions and audio description will be available in at least one screen in every one of the 132 cinema complexes run by the four major cinema chains. This initiative provides access for people who are blind, deaf and hard of hearing to the cinema experience.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Commonwealth</p>	<p>The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) provides support to National Sporting Organisations (NSOs). Under this arrangement, it is the responsibility of NSOs to develop and implement broader inclusive sport approaches.</p> <p>Additionally, the ASC runs the Play by the Rules resource, in collaboration with Australian Human Rights Commission, all state and territory departments of sport and recreation, all state and territory anti-discrimination and human rights agencies, the NSW Commission for Children and Young People and the Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Association (ANZSLA).</p> <p>It provides information, resources, tools and free online training to increase the capacity and capability of administrators, coaches, officials, players and spectators to assist them in preventing and dealing with discrimination, harassment and child safety issues in sport, and includes a <i>Sport for People with Disability</i> module aimed at helping clubs increase the participation of children with disability.</p>
	<p>In 2014–15, the Australian Sports Commission is providing \$16.88 million to NSOs for participation activities. In addition, \$1.365 million is being provided to eight National Sporting Organisations for people with disability (NSODs) to support participation for adults and children with disability to expand their choice of sport and recreation options. The funding provided to NSOs has also helped to raise the profile of the sporting abilities of people with disability in the broader community.</p>
	<p>In 2014–15 the Australian Sports Commission is providing \$3 million directly to the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) for high performance sport outcomes for people with disability. An additional \$8.72 million is being provided to 12 NSOs to support their Paralympic programmes, with an additional \$1.74 million retained by the APC to manage the programmes for Boccia, Goalball, Wheelchair Rugby and Winter Sports. Funding to the APC has raised the profile and helped to promote the outstanding achievements of elite sports people with disability in the broader community.</p>
	<p>The Australian Sports Commission continues to support elite athletes with disability. The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) is formally recognised as a Centre for Paralympic Excellence through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Paralympic Committee. This arrangement ensures that elite athletes with disability have access to the world-class facilities at the AIS.</p> <p>Further, the Australian Sports Commission has recently announced a more comprehensive system of direct financial support to athletes. Under the new Direct Athlete Support (dAIS) scheme eligible world champions in Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games disciplines are eligible for equitable amounts of funding support. Further, for the first time, the new scheme will also be supporting emerging Paralympic athletes with the potential to win medals at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>In June 2013 the Australian Government Department of Communications introduced a Television Captioning Quality Standard for all television broadcasters. This followed a 13 week trial in 2013 that raised industry and community awareness of audio captioning and identified technical issues to be remedied. The standard requires all captions to be readable, accurate and comprehensible for deaf and hard of hearing viewers.</p>
	<p>Under the strategy, the Commonwealth Government provided seed funding of \$1 million from May 2013 to June 2014 to enable the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) to build and host the website Ramp Up which provided a range of source material and worked to increase community awareness of people with disability.</p> <p>Following the launch of Ramp Up in December 2010, the editor worked on building relationships within the ABC and across other mainstream media networks to raise the profile of people with disability. Significant media appearances for the editor during this seed funding period included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Project — Channel 10 ■ The Drum — ABC ■ ABC News 24 ■ The Guardian Australia.
	<p>The Australian Government is currently considering the Review of the <i>Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002</i> (Transport Standards) final report and Government response. The draft report publicly released on 9 May 2014 indicated that the Transport Standards continue to be effective in making public transport systems more accessible to people with disability. However, the report also suggested that governments and public transport providers will need to continue to make a concerted effort to address the gap between what is currently provided and what is needed to ensure that public transport is accessible to people with disability. The final review report and Government response are anticipated to be released in mid-2015.</p>
	<p>The Australian Government Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (Infrastructure), in consultation with the Aviation Access Forum (AAF), has encouraged the development and publication of 43 Disability Access Facilitation Plans (DAFP), which cover all major Australian airlines and capital city airports. The DAFP provide detailed information about individual airline and airport facilities and services for passengers with disability, ideally covering the total travel experience from making a reservation through to arriving at the intended destination. Disability access issues are discussed regularly among disability advocacy organisations, airline and airport operators and governments to inform the DAFP through the AAF. Infrastructure, in consultation with the AAF, is conducting a review of the DAFP initiative with the aim of improving and refining the effectiveness and accessibility of plans; to be completed by 30 June 2015.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>States and territories continue to undertake work to support the inclusion of liveable design features (such as scoping the cost). Livable Housing Australia continues to work with the ageing, disability community and residential building and construction sectors with the aim of ensuring that all new homes are of an agreed Livable Housing Design standard by 2020. (See individual state and territory disability action plan reports for current data).</p> <p>The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed that public housing and community housing providers will ensure that new publicly funded housing stock, where the site allows, will incorporate liveable design features.</p> <p>Delivery of housing to these standards is leading to improved awareness of universal design requirements and an increased number of dwellings that comply with universal design principles.</p> <p>Over time, this measure will increase familiarity within the building industry of liveable design. This will lead to a better understanding of the benefits of incorporating these design principles into all types of housing, increasing community acceptance of the need for accommodation to be suitable for use by all members of the community, including those with disability.</p>
	<p>Livable Housing Australia has developed a comprehensive voluntary accreditation system to raise community and industry awareness of universal design. This is contributing to improved awareness of universal design requirements and construction of an increased number of dwellings that comply with universal design principles for the benefit and independence of people living with disability and the elderly.</p> <p>The related accreditation process has also raised awareness and provided an incentive for the construction of more private accommodation suitable for people with disability.</p>
	<p>The Australian Government continues to support the incorporation of universal design in procurement processes where appropriate.</p> <p>For example, the Australian Government, state and territory governments support universal design as a relevant condition in the procurement of dwellings as part of the Social Housing Initiative. Applications under the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) incorporating universal design features were given preference through the assessment process.</p> <p>The incorporation of universal design principles into NRAS has resulted in the construction of a significant number of new dwellings, suitable for people with disability that would not otherwise have been built. This has increased the range of choice for people with disability in the private rental market.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Commonwealth</p>	<p>The introduction of a national high speed broadband is progressing. As at November 2013 the National Broadband Network (NBN) covered around 354,793 premises, providing 109,862 services. The Australian Government is reviewing the most favourable options for future highspeed connectivity. High speed broadband provides people with disability with access to a range of experiences and opportunities to access mainstream services online services in the areas of health, education, training, digital economy and telework and improved access to information in various accessible formats.</p>
	<p>Implementation of remote vision and hearing services for children has resulted in an increase in the number of children able to access allied health and education services through internet technologies. VidKids were awarded \$4.1million in funding over three years (201114) to enable up to 159 children with hearing and/or vision impairment in regional and remote Australia with access to specialist education and allied health services via remote technology. This funding is provided in addition to funding of approximately \$600,000 per year provided by the Australian Government to the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC) for their existing Teleschool initiative.</p>
	<p>In May 2013 the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) commenced a High Definition Videoconferencing (HDVC) Pilot. Two of the six core customer groups selected for the proof of concept included people being assessed for Disability Support Pension (DSP) and those with hearing impairments. The pilot formed part of a shared delivery agreement with the Department of Communications.</p>
	<p>The pilot allows new DSP claimants to undertake a Job Capacity Assessment using highdefinition videoconferencing either at a DHS Service Centre, from their home or a third party site. By providing access to a suitably qualified Assessor regardless of geographic location DHS customers, including those with disability, can receive the same level of service as metropolitan customers. A total of 3,110 Job Capacity Assessments have been conducted via videoconference as at 30 October 2014.</p> <p>Participants reported improved outcomes such as increased rapport with department officers and increased flexibility of appointments in relation to venue and time.</p>
<p>New South Wales</p>	<p>The NSW Government Department of Premier and Cabinet is leading the introduction of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 to improve access to all NSW Government websites and make information accessible to people with disability, their families and carers. All NSW government websites aim to achieve AAA accessibility rating.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>New South Wales</p>	<p>The NSW Government Departments of Education & Communities and Sport & Recreation: The NSW Rugby League programme — ‘the game for all’ is a great initiative that provides ongoing mentoring support to individuals to achieve their goals in the game of rugby league, be it playing, coaching, officiating or just being involved.</p> <p>The programme also offers people with disability the opportunity to participate in modified versions of the game to provide a safe playing environment to include physical disability, intellectual disability and wheelchair rugby league.</p>
	<p>Arts NSW and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services have provided joint funding for a NSW Arts and Disability Partnership. The partnership has supported 55 programmes to date, including 25 professional development grants to NSW artists with disability for training and mentoring. Another 27 arts projects, run by NSW arts and disability organisations, are increasing access to a variety of professional arts workshops for people with disability.</p>
	<p>The NSW Government Departments of Education & Communities and Family & Community Services have funded nine state sporting organisations to increase access to some of the most popular sporting choices for people with disability at the grass roots level.</p>
	<p>The NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services commissioned research into the issues and barriers facing people with disability in respect to private vehicle use. Resources have been developed on a range of topics to provide practical information for people with disability.</p>
	<p>The Events Access and Inclusion Project aims to ensure that people with disability are able to attend and enjoy a quality experience at popular and iconic NSW events and community activities. Australia Day, New Year’s Eve fireworks and the International Fleet Review were some large events which were planned from the start with people with disability in mind.</p> <p>Planning with a disability focus ensures that adequate access, trained venue staff, viewing areas and accessible amenities are available to support the attendance of people with disability along with their friends and family. The project has targeted and involved venues, event planners and government agencies across the State.</p> <p>Two successful conferences were held in Sydney and in the Hunter region highlighting the benefits to the community and business of inclusive planning. The project has developed specific resources such as customised access plans, registration systems and equipment recommendations to support accessible events.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>New South Wales</p>	<p>The result has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ improved public and private transport options ■ better communication between event organisers and participants with access requirements ■ more accessible event viewing areas for major public events such as New Year’s Eve ■ improved disability awareness training for event organisers and staff.
<p>Victoria</p>	<p>Information services were developed and launched to assist people with disability to find out about sport and recreation activities. The new service is called the Access for All Abilities Play. It helps people find out about what is offered by regional sporting assemblies, state sporting associations, disability organisations and community groups. Eight state sporting associations have completed disability action plans and a further 17 received project funding through the Access for All Abilities programme.</p> <p>An online resource about the benefits of the <i>Disability (Access to Premises — Buildings) Standards 2010</i> and its links to good design is available to architects and building designers.</p> <p>In December 2013 the <i>Accessible Public Transport in Victoria action plan 2013–2017</i> was released. The action plan adopts a whole-of-journey approach that recognises the need for people with disability or who have mobility restriction to have barrier-free access to public transport facilities and services, high-quality customer service, and information to help plan their journey.</p> <p>The <i>Accessible Public Transport in Victoria action plan 2013–2017</i> uses universal design principles and compliance with the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i> transport standards to improve access to public transport.</p> <p>More than 450 builders, architects and designers attended ten information seminars on how to design and build homes that meet the needs of older people and people with disability. These were run by the Victorian Building Authority.</p> <p>The universal design awareness strategy has been developed. This included an industry manual, video and website to inform industry about universal design. These were launched in September 2014.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
Victoria	<p>Many Victorian local councils have made a significant contribution towards improving access and inclusion of people with disability in their communities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The City of Yarra have encouraged local businesses to consider and implement access features such as ramps, accessible change rooms and provision of accessible menus by employing and training people with disability to conduct access appraisals of local businesses in a key shopping precinct. Accessible businesses received a sticker indicating their level of accessibility. This project has been commenced in a second shopping precinct. ■ In 2013 Warrnambool City Council Rural Access Programme staff organised an inclusive Community Surf Day in collaboration with Warrnambool Surf Life Saving Club, disability agencies, South West Sport and the Active Oceans Programme. The 45 participants included eight wheelchair users and Christiaan ‘Otter’ Bailey, the world’s only paralysed professional surfer. This is now an annual event. ■ In 2013 Whitehorse City Council developed the <i>Building in Whitehorse</i> document to promote council’s role in building and planning and to raise awareness of relationship between the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>, the <i>Disability (Access to Premises — Buildings) Standards 2010</i> and the <i>Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i>. ■ Changing Places design was introduced to Australia in 2012 with the establishment of a consortium led by Maroondah City Council (MetroAccess). The design allows major improvements and support on standard accessible toilets. In September 2014, the Victorian Government built six new Changing Places facilities in popular public spaces. A number of councils are in the process of building or planning a Changing Places facility. ■ The City of Whittlesea have developed templates and technical design drawings which incorporate accessibility as mainstream in the planning guidelines that are distributed to developers, planners and builders to ensure accessibility of the built environments in new suburbs. ■ The City of Whittlesea Council worked with local residents on designing the redevelopment of Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre to not only meet Australian Standards but to be a state of the art facility that redesigns how people with disability are supported in a public aquatic centre. The council developed specifications for the management contract which included a requirement to develop a Disability Action Plan, to provide disability awareness training for all centre staff and to develop inclusive programmes at the centre.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p>The Queensland Government Vehicle Options Subsidy Scheme provides subsidies for driving lessons, assistance with the purchase of a vehicle to be modified and vehicle modifications. This initiative enables people with disability to have greater opportunities to independently participate and become involved in activities outside their home.</p>
	<p>Disability Action Week is the major community awareness activity of the Queensland disability sector and is held in September each year. The Disability Action Week Awards recognise those people and organisations that exceed expectations, and demonstrate overwhelming passion and commitment to improving the lives of people with disability, including supporting more inclusive and accessible communities.</p>
	<p>The Arts for all Queenslanders strategy 2014–2018 was released in December 2013. Actions under the strategy will be progressed from 2014 onward, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ encouraging the development of disability action plans across the arts and culture sector ■ work with local government to support the inclusion of arts and culture in local government disability action plans ■ ensure participation of people with disability in arts and cultural policy formation and planning through commissioning and promotion of the Arts for all Queenslanders strategy ■ showcase best practice in disability arts practice on the Arts for All Queenslanders blog. Recent blogposts highlights the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Arts and dementia tours at QAGOMA ■ Further information is available at Queensland Government Arts for all Queenslanders Strategy website. <p>Access Arts was funded over three years (2014–2016) as part of Arts Queensland’s Organisations Fund programme to promote and deliver disability arts.</p>
	<p>The Queensland Government Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing has established partnerships with sport and recreation organisations through training and development supported by programmes such as Get Going and annual provision of Building Active Communities Workshops and the Get Active Queensland Accreditation Programme, to contribute to building capacity to manage inclusive participation strategies for people with disability.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p>Sport and recreation opportunities — from participation to enhanced facilities access — have been supported through funding provided under various programmes including Get Started and Get Playing, which commenced in January 2013, Get Playing Plus (2014), Young Athlete Assistance Programme (since 2006) and the Queensland Sport and Recreation Industry Development Programme (2014–2016). Further information on the range of programmes and grants is available at Queensland Government Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing website.</p>
	<p>Ensuring Queensland’s building laws are aligned with the <i>Disability (Access to Premises — Buildings) Standards 2010</i>. On 1 May 2011, the <i>Building Code of Australia (BCA)</i> was amended to mirror the <i>Disability (Access to Premises — Buildings) Standards 2010</i>. The BCA is given effect in Queensland through the <i>Building Act 1975</i>. The amendments to the BCA are ensuring that over time public buildings are becoming more accessible and more useful to people with disability.</p>
	<p>In June 2014, the Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads released the <i>Disability Action Plan — Improving Access to 2017</i> (the plan), the purpose of which is to assist people with disability to participate in community life by improving the accessibility of the passenger transport network in Queensland. The plan is available at Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads website.</p>
	<p>The Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads continues to improve the accessibility of Queensland’s passenger transport network which supports community and economic participation for people with disability through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provision of funding assistance to local governments across Queensland to assist with meeting their obligations under the <i>Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002</i> and the <i>Disability (Access to Premises — Buildings) Standards 2010</i>. ■ Provision of subsidies to members of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme to ensure they have access to affordable taxi travel. ■ Queensland maintains the highest proportion of wheelchair accessible taxis in the taxi fleet, across state jurisdictions in Australia. As at 2 September 2014, 646 Wheelchair Accessible Taxis in a total taxi fleet of 3,264 (or 19.8 per cent) were wheelchair accessible. ■ Facilitating the provision of transport assistance for students with disability. ■ Producing information booklets for the South East Queensland Bus Network Review in an audio version so that people with vision impairment can more easily access information about the changes. ■ Expanded the public transport concessions framework to provide free public transport to approximately 439 Extreme Disablement Adjustment Veterans (as at 31 August 2014).

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Queensland</p>	<p>The Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works, promotes awareness and use of universal design in private and public built environments. Design standards for social housing are aligned with <i>Livable Housing Design Guidelines</i> (LHDG), referencing LHDG gold and platinum levels.</p> <p>Social housing apartment projects are designed to ensure that the maximum possible number of ground floor and lift served apartments are designed to the <i>Livable Housing Design Guidelines</i>. Up to 30 per cent of social housing apartments in any new multi-unit project are designed to LHDG platinum level, with all remaining ground floor and lift-served apartments designed to LHDG gold level.</p> <p>The minimum standard for houses is LHDG gold level. The LHDG platinum level standard is applied in response to identified portfolio or client need.</p>
	<p>Multicultural Affairs Queensland led the development of a Queensland Cultural Diversity Policy Action Plan aimed at providing equality of opportunity for all Queenslanders, including people with disability so that every person can participate in the state’s strong economy and enjoy its vibrant society. The policy and action plan released in 2014, aims to drive improvements across four key outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ language independence ■ education participation and attainment ■ economic independence and participation ■ community participation.
	<p>Many Queensland local councils have or are developing a disability access and inclusion plan. While some councils may not have a current disability plan they have clearly worked closely their communities to remove barriers and improve access for people with disability. Initiatives include improving physical access to public buildings, toilets and high-spec recreational, sporting and cultural amenities, the engagement of access consultants to advise on infrastructure, building and programme design for people with disability including the construction of accessible ‘all ability’ playgrounds across the state.</p> <p>Other initiatives include the production of local accessibility information for residents and visitors such as the <i>Accessing Townsville Guide</i> and the Mackay Regional Council’s <i>Good access is good business</i> guide. Local councils have also given consideration to improving the accessibility of the wide range of community service information they produce.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
Western Australia	<p>The Liveable Homes initiative included the development of a resource pack and website to assist builders and architects to use universal access features in new house design and home renovations. State Housing Industry Association and Master Builders Association industry awards now recognise the inclusion of liveable homes essential features in contemporary houses and regular articles are included in the homes sections of state wide newspapers as well as industry magazines.</p> <p>Building and design programme students at the Central Institute of Technology are also learning about designing liveable homes, and house design examples are available at the Central Institute of Technology's website.</p>
	<p>Twenty Western Australia local governments have commenced diverse inclusive projects as part of the Count Me In Local Government Inclusion Grants including recreation, arts and culture and skills development. Grants were awarded for projects that focus on one or more of three areas for sector improvement: advancing self-direction, self-design and management, or improvements designed to meet the specific needs of people in regional, rural and remote areas.</p>
	<p>The Western Australia Government Department of Culture and the Arts and the Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission have developed a Memorandum of Understanding to work towards achieving a creative, inclusive and welcoming community which offers opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in everyday arts and cultural activities in Western Australia.</p>
	<p>The Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission has developed a booklet to assist people with disability when they are travelling by air, liaising with airlines and negotiating airports. The booklet was developed following consultation on the experiences of air travel for people with disability, their families and carers.</p>
	<p>The Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission and Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts Australia (WA) have implemented the Lost Generation Project to raise awareness of the social exclusion felt by people with intellectual disability living in supported accommodation in the Perth metropolitan area. The project produced 186 short films and 155 screenings in a range of community locations, reaching both local and national audiences. Evaluation of the project has indicated positive life impacts for participants, their families and carers and effective inclusion in the community.</p>
	<p>The Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission website was redeveloped to improve access to information and make the navigation more user friendly. It was in direct consultation with people with disability who also participated in the user acceptance testing of the site. Information is now sorted by stakeholder group as well as topic heading with dedicated areas explaining the reforms that are occurring with the disability sector at a state and national level.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Western Australia</p>	<p>In 2011 the Western Australia Government Department of Sport and Recreation engaged consultants to review the disability sport and active recreation sector to identify good practice in helping people with disability to get involved in and to identify areas for improvement. The Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission is working with the Department to implement recommendations to improve the coordination of services for people with disability.</p>
<p>South Australia</p>	<p>South Australia is working across state and local government to implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans. Disability Access and Inclusion Plans aim to address barriers to full citizenship for people with disability. The Steering Committee met for the first time in November 2013 and is comprised of state and local government representatives, Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, people with disability and National Disability Services.</p> <p>Local government councils consult extensively with people with disability, their families and carers, and other stakeholders in the development of Disability Access and Inclusion Plans. Councils with established plans have committees or reference groups which include people with disability and their families/carers. These groups monitor the Council's Access and Inclusion Plans and provide a consultation and advocacy role for people with disability.</p> <p>Extensive work has been undertaken by South Australian councils to improve access to public spaces and facilities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ involvement by some councils in the South Australian Age Friendly Environments and Communities pilot project, which has created a standard of access for persons of all ages and abilities. ■ revision by some councils of Infrastructure Asset Management Plans to ensure sustainable provision of continuous accessible paths of travel within communities. <p>One local government council received the Public Engagement and Community Planning Award from the Planning Institute of Australia (SA) in November 2013 for its networking consultative approach with people using mobility aids, resulting in significant improvements to kerb ramp and footpath accessibility.</p> <p>The South Australian Government's Disability Engagement Strategy connects people with disability, their carers and families, the broader community and the non-government sector to the development of government policy, programmes and service delivery. As part of this strategy, the Disability Register has operated since 2011, providing an independent contact list of people with lived experience of disability who provide advice on issues relating to disability. Early in 2015 South Australia will also release <i>Talk to the person</i> an interactive website that will serve as an ongoing mechanism for engaging people with disability and other key stakeholders.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>South Australia</p>	<p>Announced in May 2013, Housing South Australia’s Disability Project, funded under the Nation Building — Economic Stimulus Plan, is increasing the supply of accessible supported accommodation to meet the current and future needs of people with disability. The Disability Project is on track to deliver 90 houses for people with disability across metropolitan and regional areas by December 2014.</p>
	<p>The Community Disability Programme was announced in June 2012 to fund an ongoing programme that aims to deliver accommodation for people with disability. Progress to date includes the completion and opening of the first respite care facility on Kangaroo Island in December 2013 and the refurbishment of 25 Disability SA houses for transfer to the community housing sector to support sustainable community housing for people with disability.</p> <p>In 2013, the Community Living Programme commenced. This programme is providing flexible, individualised support packages for people with disability to move from family homes into their own home in the community. Of the 15 people who commenced the programme, 13 have moved into their own accommodation. A further eight participants are currently undertaking planning with plans for the programme to be expanded in 2015.</p>
	<p>South Australia is primarily implementing universal access design principles through the Think Design Deliver Project. Announced in February 2013, the project will result in significant reform of South Australia’s planning system and will promote greater access to community facilities and public spaces for people with disability. The project is being overseen by the South Australian Government Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and its expert panel is due to deliver their final report in December 2014.</p>
	<p><i>Sit Down, Shut Up and Watch!</i> — the first learning disability led film and new media festival in the southern hemisphere was held on 31 October 2014 in the Barossa Valley, South Australia. Produced by Tutti Arts Incorporated, with the support of government and non-government partners, the festival showcased the filmmaking talents of artists with a learning disability. The festival aims to promote cultural change, an inclusive community and challenge society’s preconceptions surrounding people with a learning disability. More information is available at Sit Down, Shutup and Watch Film & New Media Festival website.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
South Australia	<p>South Australia is improving the accessibility of public transport for people with disability through the identification of accessible bus routes on the Adelaide Metro website and the implementation of Adelaide Metro's Passenger Information system app, which links more than 3,500 stops in real-time, to indicate whether a bus is wheelchair accessible. Eight six per cent of buses in South Australia are now wheelchair accessible, with the future rolling stock replacement programme including accessibility criteria. Accessible public transport features also include audio loops for automated onboard announcements that are also relayed visually, increased space for people with physical disability, priority seating for customers with guide dogs as well as CCTV and passenger emergency intercoms.</p>
Tasmania	<p>The Tasmanian Government, through its Arts and Disability Programme, has implemented the Open Captions for Performing Arts Initiative aimed at improving access to performing arts for people who are deaf or hard of hearing through captioning services.</p> <p>The aim of the initiative was to research ways of improving access to the performing arts for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The initiative also provided impetus for venues and arts organisations to consider ways in which they could make their services more accessible to members of the deaf community, thereby increasing their audience potential. Feedback from patrons attending theatres in which captioning was available suggests that as well as making such events accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing, the provision of captions enhances the overall experience of theatre performances for people without hearing impairments.</p> <p>The initiative enabled theatre performances to be captioned live via internet technology at five venues around Tasmania.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet engaged a consultant to deliver training in the use of Easy English for Tasmanian Government staff. This project generated a range of resources to assist in the development of accessible communication including an Easy English handbook, Easy English checklist and an Easy English audience analyser.</p> <p>The project has helped to improve awareness among government communications and project officers of the importance of accessible information, and methods of presenting written material in a format that is easy to read and understandable for people with cognitive and intellectual disability, as well as people with low literacy levels or non-English speaking backgrounds. The Tasmanian Government engaged a communications consultant to assist with policy setting and training in the use of Easy English for Tasmanian Government staff.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
Tasmania	<p>The Tasmanian Government is implementing the Tasmanian sport and active recreation framework for people with disability, which focuses on capacity building for sport and recreation clubs to include people with disability at a grassroots level and develops opportunities for athletes with disability to access state, national and international competition. The framework is available at Tasmanian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet website.</p>
	<p>The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) has undertaken work to ensure that people with physical disability have access to all levels of its buildings. Elevators, accessible toilets, sliding doors, and tactile indicators on all changes of elevation were installed as part of the upgrade of the site. This has considerably improved accessibility to TMAG buildings, and allowed TMAG to expand its gallery space into areas that previously had serious access limitations.</p>
	<p>The Tasmanian Government Department of Health and Human Services has developed a template for conducting disability access assessments for agency facilities, along with procedures and staff training. The agency has mandated use of the template for all major works and lease of private sector accommodation.</p>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>Accessible Housing</p>
	<p>Three symposiums were held in 2014 looking at responsive, sustainable and innovative housing options for people with disability and market and industry solutions to increase supply.</p>
	<p>The Real Estate Institute of ACT (REIACT) has made a commitment to engaging members to promote opportunities around leasing their property to people with disability. Housing ACT and Disability ACT are supporting REIACT in this initiative.</p>
	<p>Disability ACT and National Disability Services ACT have partnered in a housing subgroup to progress activities to engage the business sector in the provision of affordable housing.</p>
<p>The ACT Government has funded Volunteering ACT to deliver the Inclusive Volunteering programme that provides education to organisations about engaging vulnerable volunteers and assists people with disability to increase their social and economic participation through volunteering. At June 2014, the Inclusive Volunteering programme had received 119 referrals and succeeded in placing 42 vulnerable people, including people with disability in volunteering placements.</p>	
<p>The ACT Government continues to assist ACT sport and recreation providers and clubs to increase their capacity to provide participation opportunities for people with disability. In 2013, the ACT Government's Sports and Recreation Grants programme supported sailing boats for the Buoyed Up programme, table tennis tables for the developing Table Tennis ACT Disability programme and support for 25 para-athletes with disability in the Athletics ACT Junior Talent Squad.</p>	

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
Australian Capital Territory	<p>The ACT Government has implemented several new initiatives to improve access to information for people with disability, their families and carers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The launch of the Disability Information Support Hub (DISH) in February 2012. The DISH provides a place for community and government services to co-locate and collaborate, making locating and accessing information easier for clients and their families. In 2012–13, DISH service providers joined together at various community events including the Multicultural Festival, I-Day Expo and Post-School Options Expo to enhance access to information, as well as holding open days on money management and accommodation and support options. ■ The launch of the Housing Options Facilitator Service (HOF) in 2011. The HOF assists people with disability and their families to establish housing and support arrangements and to formalise pathways to social and community housing. To date the HOF has engaged with over 500 people in public information sessions and has provided individual planning assistance to over 100 people to progress their future accommodation and housing opportunities. ■ The funding and launch of a new Smartphone App by Nican that links people with disability to more than 4,000 sports, recreation, arts and support opportunities. The smartphone App is the first to link people with disability to Nican’s comprehensive database. <p>In 2014 the inaugural Connect and Participate Expo was held that aimed to create pathways to inclusion and participation for all Canberrans of all ages and especially those with disability. The expo linked the 6,000 attendees with up to 90 local groups and clubs. The event will be continued in 2015.</p> <p>The ACT Government has progressed a number of initiatives aimed at improving the accessibility of public and private transport for people with disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 62 per cent of ACTION’s bus fleet is now wheelchair accessible ■ 60 per cent of bus stops in the Territory have been upgraded to be accessible ■ A Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Centralised Booking Service has been introduced. This new Centralised Booking Service is a 24 hours a day, seven days a week direct telephone booking service for wheelchair accessible taxis in the ACT ■ ACTION has implemented a free pre-booked bus service, which is a localised and flexible transport option for seniors and people with disability who have limited access to other public transport options. The Flexible Bus Service provides a home pick up service throughout suburbs within localised zone areas. Then, travels onwards to a local shopping centre.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Northern Territory</p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government has succeeded in raising awareness of arts and disabilities through its allocation of funding to support Arts Access Darwin and Arts Access Central Australia. This has increased the quality and scope of work and encouraged collaboration across the wider sector to deliver stronger outcomes. In particular, there is an increase in physical access as well as an increase in accessible programming including development and training programmes, performances, exhibitions and improved access to information. It has also enabled the presentation of arts and disability works in high profile venues, national and regional tours and shows in major performing arts venues. The needs and aspirations of people with disability have been considered in arts and cultural policy and programmes.</p>
	<p>The Northern Territory's annual Arts Access Awards, established in 2009, promote integrated arts and disability practice in the Northern Territory. The awards provide recognition of quality work, collaboration, participation and increased activity. These awards assist in building the capacity of arts access programmes, supporting an increase in access to funding programmes for people with disability and raise awareness of the diversity and excellence of artists with disability.</p>
	<p>The Northern Territory Library and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory are progressing on-line and mobile devices to increase access including participatory projects with relevance to remote Northern Territory. This increases the opportunities for people with disability to present their work by improving audience access including on-line programming.</p>
	<p>The Northern Territory's original dance theatre work <i>Close To Me</i> has raised the profile of arts and disability practice. It involved established artists working with over 50 performers with disability aged from four to 50 years and the production of a documentary presented widely at international and national conferences. This theatre work has increased the profile of artists with disability over the last three years and increased collaboration, partnerships and networking across organisations supporting arts and disability.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 1 Achievements and Outcomes
Northern Territory	<p>In the Northern Territory, all new dwellings are constructed to <i>Australian Standard 4299-1995 (adaptable housing)</i> which enables houses to be adapted as required with minimal structural changes. The Northern Territory Government Department of Housing implements universal design principles where practical, including accessible light switches, grab rails and ramped thresholds. Under the National Partnership Agreement for the Nation Building and Jobs Plan — Social Housing Initiative, the Northern Territory Government Department of Housing achieved 100 per cent of the target for dwellings meeting the <i>Universal Design Principles – Commonwealth Guidelines</i>. The Department also undertakes modifications to public housing dwellings following assessment by Occupational Therapists, where alternative suitable housing options are not available. Generally the preference is to offer an existing modified dwelling or one that is accessible and can be more easily modified. In addition, the Department engages non-government organisations to deliver Tenancy Sustainability programmes to tenants.</p>

Table 2: Rights protection, justice and legislation

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>The International Day of People with Disability is an important awareness raising campaign that promotes disability issues across the community and supports the development of an inclusive Australian society.</p> <p>Australia’s annual celebrations include the National Disability Awards, which honour and recognise the outstanding achievements of individuals, teams and organisations that have improved the lives of people with disability and thereby contributed to increased recognition of equality and human rights for Australians. Nominees and finalists for the awards are nominated by their peers and associates and judged by an independent panel of sector experts. People with disability, their families, carers and advocates are involved in the planning and participation of national and local events associated with the day.</p> <p>The <i>National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022</i> (the plan) was released in February 2011. It brings together the efforts of Australian Government, state and territory governments and the community to make a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children. The plan is being delivered through a series of four three-year Action Plans. The First Action Plan is complete, and the <i>Second Action Plan: Moving Ahead 2013–2016</i> was released on 27 June 2014.</p> <p>The Second Action Plan contains 26 actions under five National Priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Driving whole of community action to prevent violence 2. Understanding diverse experiences of violence 3. Supporting integrated services and integrated systems 4. Improving perpetrator interventions 5. Continuing to build the evidence base. <p>In recognition of the fact that women with disability are more likely than other women to experience domestic and family violence and sexual assault; the violence is likely to be more severe and continue for longer; and these women can face considerable challenges in accessing services and justice, the Stop the Violence project, led by Women With Disabilities Australia was established under the First Action Plan. It aimed to investigate and promote good practice and improvements in service delivery for women and girls with disability who experience or are at risk of violence.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>Under the Second Action Plan, governments will work with expert organisations including Women With Disabilities Australia to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ bring together and disseminate good practice information on preventing violence against women with disability ■ train frontline workers to recognise and prevent violence against women and children with disability ■ provide accessible information and support in the plan communications. <p>As part of the Second Action Plan, governments will also explore options for improving the evidence base on women with disability who experience violence.</p> <p>The Australian Government Department of Human Services released a whole-of-department Family and Domestic Violence Strategy in August 2013. The strategy is targeted at customers and staff and aims to ensure all staff are better placed to help people — both customers and staff, including those with disability — with family and domestic violence issue by providing information, resources and support. The strategy was developed in consultation with a number of internal and external stakeholders including academics, service providers and specialist advisory groups.</p> <p>On 21 March 2014, the National Framework for Reducing and Eliminating the Use of Restrictive Practices in the Disability Service Sector was endorsed by the Disability Reform Council. The framework aims to enable jurisdictions to have a consistent approach to reducing and eliminating restrictive practices in disability services.</p> <p>Restrictive practices involve physical, mechanical or chemical restraint or seclusion (with appropriate safeguards) to prevent people harming themselves or others. The target group for this framework are people with disability who are supported by disability service providers and engage in challenging behaviours that are perceived to be harmful to themselves or others because they are at risk of being subjected to restrictive practices.</p> <p>People with disability, their families and carers, disability and carer organisations were consulted in the development of the framework.</p> <p>In November 2012, the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection responded to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration — Inquiry into the Migration Treatment of Disability: Enabling Australia. The response indicated that a number of the Committee’s recommendations had already been implemented, including the July 2012 introduction of a streamlined health waiver process for offshore humanitarian visa applicants. The Department undertook informal consultations in 2012–2013 with interested organisations to explore approaches for implementing the remaining recommendations.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>Through the Community Legal Services Programme the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department has funded nine centres to work on disability discrimination matters. In 2013–2014 these centres assisted 1,226 clients, providing case work support for people seeking remedies through the Australian Human Rights Commission and state based commissions, the Federal Court and Fair Work Australia. Under the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services, people with disability are a priority group for the grants of legal aid for Commonwealth legal matters.</p>
	<p>On 27 June 2013, the Australian Parliament amended the <i>Crimes Act 1914</i> to include special provisions for witnesses in Commonwealth criminal proceedings who require support or alternative arrangements to give evidence due to a particular characteristic, including disability.</p>
	<p>The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) is administering a programme under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Commonwealth (Department of Social Services (DSS)) that supports participation by representatives of people with disability in key international forums on human rights.</p> <p>To date, this has enabled 27 representatives of peak disability organisations, accompanied by 7 carers, to attend international events related to human rights since October 2011.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement between DSS and the AHRC, and between AHRC and peak representative and advocacy organisations is an ongoing commitment and has seen an increased representation of people with disability at international forums.</p> <p>Participants have reported personal benefits and benefits to their organisations. This includes network development, confidence building, broadening knowledge and understanding, and stronger representation and advocacy skills.</p>
	<p>The Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) has jurisdiction to review decisions made under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which commenced on 1 July 2013. The AAT has developed a case management model to ensure that review of decisions made under the NDIS is accessible, fair, informal and quick. This includes assigning a dedicated AAT contact officer for each NDIS applicant as soon as an application is received. The officer will contact the applicant to tell them about the review process and talk about any assistance they might need to make the process go smoothly. The AAT may also work with the applicant to prepare a written case plan about how the application would proceed.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>The Australian Government Department of Social Services is responsible for administering the External Merits Review (EMR) — Support Component for AAT appeals of National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) decisions. The EMR process will ensure NDIA decisions are fair and robust. The EMR – Support Component includes funding to selected National Disability Advocacy Programme agencies in the NDIS trial sites for an EMR support person. These support persons will assist applicants navigate the process of the AAT review and foster self-advocacy to the extent possible. Assistance may also be provided for legal support in matters deemed complex or novel.</p>
	<p>The National Disability Conference Initiative supports attendance of people with disability at disability conferences with a national focus within Australia. Thirty four organisations successfully applied for funding under the initiative in 2013–14. The initiative facilitates improved access and/ or participation for people with disability at national disability conferences.</p>
	<p>The Government funds the Australian Human Rights Commission to promote public awareness of the rights of people with disability and conciliate complaints of unlawful discrimination on the grounds of disability. In 2012–13, the Commission received 793 complaints under the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>.</p>
	<p>The National Disability Advocacy Programme (NDAP) provides people with disability access to effective advocacy that promotes, protects and ensures their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights. In 2014–15 the Australian Government will provide \$16.5 million under the NDAP to fund 59 organisations across Australia. The policy and implementation of the NDAP is guided by the principles and objectives of key legislation, conventions, agreements and frameworks, including the <i>United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</i>; the <i>National Disability Strategy</i>; the <i>National Disability Agreement</i>, the <i>National Disability Advocacy Framework</i>; and the <i>Disability Services Act 1986</i>.</p>
	<p>The Australian Law Reform Commission conducted an inquiry into legal barriers for people with disability — <i>Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws</i>. The Commission has released the final report in November 2014 which is available at the Australian Law Reform Commission website.</p>
	<p>On 23 June 2014 the Australian Government signed in Geneva the <i>Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled</i>. This significant copyright treaty is designed to increase the availability of accessible format works between treaty parties and will therefore benefit people with a print disability worldwide. The Australian Government announced it will now bring it forward for ratification. It will come into effect following ratification by 20 countries.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>New South Wales</p>	<p>The <i>Disability Inclusion Act 2014 and Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014</i> provides strengthened safeguards for people accessing NSW funded and operated disability supports and specialist services during the transition to the NDIS. These measures include the NSW Disability Service Standards which under the Act, will be used to improve the quality and consistency of supports and services provided to people with disability.</p> <p>All NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services funded providers continue to have their performance independently verified against the standards. The NSW Disability Service Standards are consistent with the National Standards for Disability Services.</p> <p>Principles which reflect a human rights approach which reaffirm that people with disability have the same rights as others and recognises the needs of particular groups such as, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse people with disability, women with disability, and children with disability.</p> <p>Employment screening for staff, volunteers and Board members</p> <p>From 3 December 2014, NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) and FACS funded disability service providers need to undertake checks when employing or appointing a person to work, or are likely to work, directly with people with disability in a way that involves face to face or physical contact. This applies to staff, volunteers, students, self-employed people, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or agency, Board members and NDIA registered providers of disability specialist supports operating in the Hunter NDIS trial site.</p> <p>Reporting abuse and neglect to the NSW Ombudsman</p> <p>The Disability Incident Reporting Scheme requires that reports be made to the NSW Ombudsman about serious incidents of abuse or neglect of people with disability living in supported group accommodation. All FACS and FACS funded disability services including supported group accommodation services and centre-based respite services must report incidents of abuse or neglect to the NSW Ombudsman and providers must ensure staff are aware of their reporting obligations.</p> <p>The NSW Ombudsman has published guidelines to assist service providers to understand their obligations under the reporting system.</p> <p>The Ombudsman can monitor the way FACS or a FACS funded disability accommodation provider manages a particular incident. The Ombudsman can investigate and report on individual incidents, and on the systems that a provider has in place to prevent, handle, and respond to, reportable incidents. This also applies to NDIA registered providers of supported accommodation and centre based respite services operating in the Hunter NDIS trial site.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>New South Wales</p>	<p>NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services has established a range of programmes to support rights of people with disability across NSW. A <i>Justice Services Policy and a Criminal Justice Resource Practice Manual</i> for agency staff and the non-government disability sector. The Community Justice Programme (CJP) has been operating within Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) since 2006 and focuses on juveniles and adults with intellectual/cognitive disability who are exiting custodial settings. The CJP provides a team of forensic case work and clinical specialists who undertake comprehensive risk and needs assessments, pre and post release planning, behaviour intervention and service coordination.</p> <p>The Integrated Services Programme (ISP) is a time limited, cross agency programme operated and led by ADHC in partnership with NSW Ministry of Health and Housing NSW. The ISP provides specialised accommodation and intensive behaviour support and case management services to identified individuals with complex needs and challenging behaviour.</p> <p>The Intensive Sector Development (ISD) project aims to develop the capacity of the disability sector to establish and maintain Restricted Practice Authorisation (RPA) mechanisms in NSW pre NDIS transition. It will focus on reducing the use of practices that involve restraint (including physical, mechanical or chemical) or seclusion and supports the commitment to the <i>National Framework for Reducing and Eliminating the Use of Restrictive Practices in the Disability Service Sector</i>.</p>
	<p>The NSW Government Department of Justice has introduced a programme of disability awareness training for policy and operational staff across the agency. Training recognises the specific support needs of people with disability who may come into contact with the justice system to ensure that they are not disadvantaged.</p>
	<p>Information on the NSW justice system is provided in a range of accessible formats, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NSW Police Force provides comprehensive information for victims of crime, including factsheets in Easy English, Auslan, captioned videos and accessible Word and PDF documents. ■ LawAccess NSW has developed a communications strategy which outlines a comprehensive plan to ensure their services are accessible to people with disability. ■ The Victims Services website includes a booklet on the <i>Charter of Victims Rights</i>, designed for people with a cognitive disability.
	<p>The <i>Capacity Toolkit</i> is a booklet produced by the NSW Government Department of Justice, which provides information for government, community workers, professionals, families and carers on responding when a person's decision-making capacity is in question.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
New South Wales	<p>In response to the NSW Law Reform Commission report on <i>'People with cognitive and mental health impairments in the criminal justice system: Diversion'</i>, the Government is developing a new diversionary legislative framework. The Government is also undertaking further work in response to the Commission's recommendations concerning expansion of support services.</p>
	<p>The NSW Government Department of Justice promotes the principles of flexible service delivery when interacting with people with disability. This includes hearing loops/infrared equipment for personal amplification, Auslan interpreters, use of the National Relay Service, wheelchair accessibility, use of support persons and making documents available in accessible formats. Staff across the Department are trained in flexible service delivery.</p>
	<p>In 2012 the number of candidates with disability in local government elections increased to approximately 180 candidates from 130 in 2009. Increased participation of people with disability in political life enhances their opportunities to make decisions relating to their local community and ensure that the needs of people with disability are considered.</p>
Victoria	<p>Accessible justice and consumer information is provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ meeting whole-of-Victorian Government accessibility standards for online information ■ providing publications in accessible versions ■ revising online easy English fact sheets ■ upgrading website and forms ■ captioning all videos ■ producing sound file recordings of key publications uploaded to SoundCloud.
	<p>Processes are in place to identify prisoners with an acquired brain injury and facilitate access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ screenings and assessments ■ staff training ■ secondary consultation to inform case management.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Victoria	<p>The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice and Regulation are developing a number of initiatives to improve the experiences and outcomes of people with disability with heightened vulnerabilities who come into contact with, or are at risk of contact with the justice system. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Options for improvements to service models are being considered in light of the NDIS and other developments. The aim of changes is to provide more tailored responses for people with disability involved with the justice system. <p>The Positive Practice Framework is in use at Parkville Youth Justice Precinct. It is now being reviewed. The review will help the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct to apply the framework, with slight adjustments to meet the needs of its older age group.</p>
	<p>In 2013 the Victorian Government provided funding over four years for the Disability and Family Violence Crisis Response. Women and children with disability are particularly at risk of becoming victims of violence. The Disability and Family Violence Crisis Response initiative provides immediate access to funds to meet the disability support needs of women and children experiencing a family violence crisis, enabling them to remain safe in their homes or to access family violence crisis accommodation. The initiative also has significant benefits for strengthening collaboration across the disability.</p>
	<p>The Government's response to the Victorian Parliamentary Law Reform Committee's Inquiry into Access to and Interaction with the Justice System by People with an Intellectual Disability and their Families and Carers was tabled in Parliament on 5 September 2013. The Government has started to put those responses into action.</p>
	<p>Courts in Victoria have introduced a range of initiatives to improve the experience of people with disability attending court. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ People with disability can get independent support before they go to court and while they are at court. ■ People with disability who are witnesses or victims do not need to be in court to give evidence. ■ The Magistrates' Court can do things to make it easier for accused people, witnesses and victims who have disability and who need more support. ■ Disability service and victim support agencies get support and information to help them collaborate. As a part of their contract with government, victim support agencies support victims with disability.
	<p>Accessible information is available about services that assist victims of crime with disability to manage and recover from crime. Case management services at Victims Assistance and Counselling Programme help victims with disability to get support.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Victoria	More than 25 people from 11 victims' services attended forums to learn more about the rights and services available for people with disability who are victims of crime.
	Eighty per cent of sheriff's officers state-wide had training about responding to diversity among people with disability so that they can assist people with disability who may find it difficult to manage infringement matters and fines.
	The principal Multi-disciplinary Centre (MDC) at 1 Dandenong Street, Dandenong South opened in October 2014. The Latrobe Valley and Bendigo multidisciplinary centres are due for completion in mid-2015. The MDC model allows victims to access services from various agencies. Victoria Police SOCIT, Child Protection, CASA Counsellor-Advocates and Forensic Medical Officers-Nurses will be on-site at the principal MDC.
	Offenders and prisoners in a number of prison and community locations who have a mental illness, intellectual disability, acquired brain injury or a neurological impact have access to identification and assessment processes to inform recommendations for offending behaviour intervention.
	<p>Funding was provided to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ two Self Advocacy Matters forums in Melbourne and Bendigo, connecting people with disability to local decision-makers ■ the Strengthening Disability Advocacy Conference attended by 200 people ■ establishing the Barwon Disability Advocacy Network in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) trial site. ■ The LEAD Barwon programme supporting 19 people with disability, their families or carers who have an early experience of the NDIS, with training and support so they can effectively share their experiences of the scheme with others. The LEAD Barwon programme is receiving national recognition for its innovative approach.
Queensland	The Public Safety Business Agency, on behalf of the Queensland Police Service, continues to evaluate and deliver training programmes on the provision of policing services to people with disability. Internal policies and procedures are being reviewed in line with the Public Safety Portfolio Disability Services Plan. The Queensland Police Service has developed and introduced an 'aide memoire' that assists police to identify people with disability and to apply a range of communication techniques and diversionary strategies.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p>The Forensic Disability Service was established in 2011 with the passing of the <i>Forensic Disability Act 2011</i>. The Forensic Disability Service provides medium secure accommodation and specialist therapeutic support for up to 10 adults with intellectual or cognitive disability who are subject to a forensic disability order made by the Mental Health Court. The order can be made on the basis that the person was of unsound mind or unfit for trial in relation to a serious offence they have been charged with; and they require care in a secure environment.</p>
	<p>The <i>Disability Services (Restrictive Practices) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014</i> (the Act) commenced on 1 July 2014. The Act amended the restrictive practice provisions under the <i>Disability Services Act 2006</i> and the <i>Guardianship and Administration Act 2000</i> to enhance safeguards for clients, and to facilitate greater focus on client service delivery by simplifying and improving the framework. A suite of policies and practices are being implemented to support these legislative amendments.</p>
	<p>The Queensland Government Department of Justice and Attorney-General has developed targeted information products to promote Victim Assist; the principles of justice for victims of crime; and financial assistance for victims with disability. The Victim Assist fact sheet has been designed for people with intellectual and learning disabilities and is currently under review.</p>
	<p>Queensland Courts Referral (QCR) is a bail-based service that links defendants who come into contact with the criminal justice system with non-government organisations and government agencies to address the causes of their offending behaviour.</p> <p>QCR commenced after a screening trial was conducted by the Queensland Government Department of Justice and Attorney-General at selected Magistrates Courts to identify people with intellectual, cognitive or mental health impairments to link these people to appropriate and available support services.</p> <p>QCR aims to provide short-term assistance to people appearing on charges who have a health and/or social problem through referral to treatment or community support services to reduce the likelihood of re-offending. The service currently operates out of the Arrest Courts of the Brisbane, Beenleigh, Mount Isa, Cairns, Ipswich, Southport and Holland Park Magistrate Courts and will be expanded to additional locations including Pine Rivers, Caboolture, Maroochydore, Bundaberg, Toowoomba, Gympie and Rockhampton.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p>The Queensland Government Department of Justice and Attorney-General continued to support the implementation of the 30 June 2014 Government response to the 2010 Queensland Law Reform Commission Report <i>A review of Queensland's Guardianship Laws</i>. The Government response contemplates the implementation of the accepted recommendations in two stages, with the priority areas for 2014 being:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aligning the general principles and health care principles in the guardianship laws with the United Nations <i>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</i>. 2. Clarifying definitions in the guardianship laws. 3. Revising enduring power of attorney forms and advance health directive forms to increase useability and accessibility for the wider community. 4. Strengthening and safeguarding the rights of adults with impaired capacity in the guardianship laws. <p>The Government response anticipated the first round of legislative amendments to be introduced into Parliament before the end of 2014.</p> <p>The Government's response is available at the Queensland Government Department of Justice and Attorney-General website</p>
	<p>In June 2013, the Office of the Public Advocate commenced a research and advocacy project that inquired into the number of people with disability continuing to reside in institutional settings in Queensland (long-stay health care facilities) and the barriers to their deinstitutionalisation. The Report on the findings <i>People with intellectual disability or cognitive impairment residing long-term in health care facilities: Addressing barriers to deinstitutionalisation</i> was tabled in Parliament on 7 November 2013.</p>
	<p>Commencing in January 2013, the Office of the Public Advocate engaged in a collaborative inquiry with the then Office of the Adult Guardian and the Community Visitor Programme into the electronic monitoring of people with disability in 'visitable' disability accommodation sites in Queensland. This culminated in a report <i>Inquiry into the use of electronic monitoring at disability accommodation sites in Queensland</i> which was tabled in Parliament on 21 May 2014. Two factsheets were subsequently publicly released by the Office of the Public Advocate on 10 September 2014. The Queensland Government Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services is currently developing a policy framework for use by Accommodation Support and Respite Services.</p>
	<p>The Queensland Government Department of Justice and Attorney-General implemented a cognitive impairment screening tool called the Hayes Ability Screening Index in August 2014 in Queensland correctional centres state-wide, to better identify prisoners with a cognitive impairment. The tool will continue to be used to screen all new prisoners entering a Queensland correctional centre.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p>The Queensland Police Service has facilitated early identification and enhanced sharing of information in relation to people with intellectual or cognitive impairment. A disability person classification was created in the Queensland Police Service information systems in 2012 and is being utilised by operational police.</p>
Western Australia	<p>The People with Exceptionally Complex Needs project has developed approaches to ensure that people with disability who have complex and challenging needs and circumstances receive coordinated planning and services which span the jurisdiction of multiple government agencies. For example, this would include people experiencing disability, mental health issues, justice and accommodation needs.</p> <p>The Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission's Family and Domestic Violence Policy was developed in 2011 to strengthen the Commission's commitment, responsibility and duty of care to actively assist and support people with disability and their families who are experiencing, allegedly perpetrating, or are at risk of experiencing or perpetrating, family and domestic violence. It is under review to consider its alignment with the State Government Family and Domestic Violence Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework.</p> <p>Western Australia has implemented a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Elimination of Restrictive Practices. The code was developed by a coalition of partners from across the disability sector and provides the basis for operational policy and guidelines for eliminating the use of restrictive practices. It applies to all services provided and funded by the Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission for children and adults with disability.</p> <p>The Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission has committed to the establishment of a Disability Justice Centre in Western Australia for people with intellectual or cognitive disability who are found unfit to stand trial and given a custody order.</p> <p>A panel of national and international experts in the disability justice field provide specialist advice on the development and implementation of disability justice centres which will accommodate up to 10 people in a secure, community based environment. The centre will provide disability focused services and supports, address offending behaviours and provide residents with the opportunity to learn life skills and undergo other training to assist them to eventually return to community life.</p> <p>The centre will be operated by the Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission under new legislation the <i>Declared Places (Mentally Impaired Accused) Bill 2013</i>.</p> <p>People detained in prison are offered specialist in-reach services by the Commission. The establishment of this centre represents a whole-of-government commitment to advancing social and legal justice for some of the most vulnerable people in our community.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>South Australia</p>	<p>South Australia has enacted new legislation to ensure greater choice, control and rights protection for people with disability. The <i>Disability Services (Rights, Protection and Inclusion) Amendment Act 2013</i> has been passed by State Parliament and came into operation in late 2013. The legislation was developed in close consultation with people with disability, their carers, families and advocates, and community sector representatives over several years.</p>
	<p>The South Australian Government released the <i>Disability Justice Plan 2014–2017</i> in June 2014 to promote the rights and needs of people with disability in contact with the criminal justice system, including those accused or convicted of a crime. The state budget included funding over four years to assist people with disability to navigate the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Specific actions to improve criminal justice system responses to vulnerable witnesses and victims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ proposed amendments to the <i>Evidence Act 1929</i> to provide people with disability with a range of supports to assist them when giving evidence across the criminal justice system ■ legislative amendments to give people with cognitive impairment greater protection from abuse by service providers and support workers in positions of trust, power and authority ■ establishment of a Victim Management Section within South Australia Police which provides specialist advice to front-line police regarding investigative interviewing and statement taking from vulnerable people, including people with disability.
	<p>Senior officers from across relevant South Australian State Government departments are developing a person-centred, rights-based forensic disability response. Options are being considered in relation to forensic care for people with intellectual disability, acquired brain injury or autism spectrum disorder. This includes considering the merits of a separate secure forensic disability facility and/or secure community accommodation, as well as expanding in-reach and other support services.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>South Australia</p>	<p>South Australia has implemented a range of measures to increase safety, autonomy and rights protection for people with disability, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ New provisions for screening those who work or volunteer with people with disability, introduced through the <i>Disability Services (Assessment of Relevant History) Regulations 2014</i>. South Australia's new screening provisions are more expansive than police and referee checks, allowing for consideration of police information, all police charges regardless of outcome including pending charges, spent conviction information, child protection information and work records. This expanded check creates a new national benchmark for the comprehensive assessment of foreseeable risk and offers greater protection to people with disability who require support workers. ■ The introduction of a suite of safeguarding policies in June 2013 to increase the safety of people with disability. The suite incorporates supported decision-making and consent, restrictive practices and management of care concerns. Under South Australia's new disability legislation, all funded disability services are required to have safeguarding policies consistent with the State Government's. ■ In September 2013, the South Australian Government appointed Professor Richard Bruggemann as the Disability Senior Practitioner to work with service providers across the disability sector to improve safeguarding and rights protection for people with disability who may be subject to restrictive practices. ■ A revised Statement of Intent for the State Government disability sector, titled "Do with, not for", was launched in June 2013. This document ensures that the disability service system offers choice and control for people with disability, their families and carers. It supports the United Nations <i>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</i> and reflects the values and principles underpinning a rights-based approach. ■ Local government councils are providing Disability Discrimination Awareness training for staff, including one council that has identified and trained 26 inclusion champions across the majority of work teams.
<p>Tasmania</p>	<p>The Hobart Magistrates Court Mental Health Diversion List has been extended to include persons with a cognitive disability or acquired brain injury (ABI). This has been done in recognition of the fact that people with these impairments are over-represented in the criminal justice system. The Court has decided to change the way it deals with people with cognitive disability and ABI by providing separate sittings for them with dedicated Magistrates and teams that focus on treatment and support.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Tasmania	<p>Tasmania has reformed its mental health legislation with the <i>Mental Health Act 2013</i>, which commenced in February 2014. The new legislation represents a significant improvement in the protection of the rights of mental health consumers in Tasmania.</p> <p>The new Act enables individuals with capacity to make their own treatment choices, while facilitating treatment for individuals who lack decision-making capacity and who need treatment for their own health or safety, or for the safety of others. The new legislation balances consumer rights with the need for treatment, while also recognising the important role played by carers and family members of people with a mental illness.</p> <p>The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) has delivered Project Wake Up! to people with disability. Project Wake Up! is a home fire safety programme that provides home fire safety checks and installation of fire alarms in the homes of older people and people with disability. TFS is working closely with the aged and disability sectors to raise awareness of home fire safety and to identify people who may benefit from this programme. Through understanding and engaging closely with these sectors, the TFS aims to reduce accidental home fire incidents, injuries and fatalities with these two key groups.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has created an 'Interviewing Vulnerable Witnesses' course to enable Tasmania Police to be more responsive to the needs of people with disability and to provide them with a more positive experience of the justice system. This course is also open to, and attended by, representatives from other government agencies.</p>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>The <i>Working with Vulnerable People Act (Background Checking) 2011</i> (the Act) commenced in the ACT in November 2012. The Act requires people who undertake regulated activities and services for vulnerable people to register with the Office of Regulatory Services. The Act aims to reduce the risk of harm or neglect to vulnerable people in the ACT including people with disability. The ACT Government strongly endorse the implementation of a national Working with Vulnerable People Framework, to coincide with the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).</p> <p>The ACT Government Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Strategy 2011–2017 identifies women with disability as a vulnerable group, and has listed key short term actions to increase accessibility and responsiveness for women with disability and identify gaps in service provision for specific vulnerable communities including women with disability.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Australian Capital Territory	<p>In 2014 the Domestic Violence Prevention Council (DVPC) hosted a seminar series to provide opportunities for service providers to share information and experience on specific topics connected to domestic and family violence, including the effects if the intersection of gender and disability discrimination on the incidence and nature of violence against women with disability.</p> <p>In 2014 the ACT Government Disability and Community Services Commissioner led a project to develop a crisis response protocol to support women with disability experiencing violence, in partnership with government and the community sector. A stakeholder working group has developed a paper which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in August 2014. The paper provides the framework for responding to women with disability experiencing violence.</p>
	<p>The ACT Official Visitor Scheme is part of a suite of safeguards for people with disability in the ACT. From 1 March 2014, two part-time official visitors were appointed under the <i>Official Visitor Act 2012</i> for a 12 month period.</p> <p>At June 2013 there were 156 visitable places under the Official Visitor Scheme for Disability Services. Visitable places include government and nongovernment supported accommodation services, respite services for people with disability and residential aged care facilities accommodating people with disability aged under 65 years in the ACT. Disability ACT engaged ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS) to produce accessible awareness tools for the ACT Official Visitor Scheme to increase community awareness of safeguards available to people with disability in the ACT. The toolkit was completed in July 2014. Disability ACT has worked closely with the official visitors to develop operational guidelines for visits and complaints.</p>
	<p>The <i>Disability Services (Disability Service Providers) Amendment Act 2014</i> was passed in June 2014 and maintains existing safeguards and quality standards for disability services under the ACT National Disability Insurance Scheme trial. The amendments remove the reliance on a funding relationship and establish the requirement for a disability service provider to enter into an agreement with the Minister to deliver services to people with disability in the ACT. The amendment also enables the operation of the ACT Official Visitor Scheme in the NDIS trial environment.</p>
	<p>In 2014 the ACT Law Reform Advisory Council (LRAC) released a community consultation paper on the scope and operation of the ACT <i>Discrimination Act 1991</i> (the Act). The paper discussed alternative approaches taken in Australia and overseas and considered the effect of possible changes and included a number of questions about how the Act should continue to operate. LRAC invited submissions on this paper and held five community forums at community centres across Canberra. LRAC is currently finalising its report.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
Australian Capital Territory	<p>In 2014 the ACT Attorney-General requested the LRAC to undertake an inquiry into the terms and operation of the <i>Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991</i> (the Act) to ensure that the Act reflects best practice in guardianship law relating to adults. The review will include consideration of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the impact of the United Nations <i>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</i> and other international human rights instruments, on principles for guardianship and management of property in the ACT 2. the Act's consistency with other relevant ACT legislation, in particular the <i>Human Rights Act 2004</i>, the <i>Mental Health (Treatment and Care) Act 1994</i>; the <i>Powers of Attorney Act 2006</i> and the <i>Disability Services Act 1991</i> 3. current policy trends in the area of guardianship and substitute decision-making in the ACT. <p>LRAC will report to the ACT Attorney-General on its findings in 2015.</p>
	<p>Electronic voting facilities are provided in six major centres across the ACT for people who are blind or vision impaired which gives them the same rights as other ACT residents to lodge a secret ballot in ACT Legislative Assembly elections. Wheelchair accessible and seated voting compartments are also available in every polling place for local elections. The ACT Electoral Commission is a member of the Australian Electoral Commission's Disability Advisory Committee which includes disability peaks and discusses electoral issues for voters with disability.</p>
	<p>In 2012 the ACT Government Disability and Community Services Commissioner and the Children and Young People Commissioner released a report <i>Because it is a serious matter; talking with students about bullying and disability</i>. A report and associated workbook for facilitating further discussion in schools was published and distributed to every public school in the ACT. This project was developed in consultation with school children and has increased awareness around the topic of bullying and disability.</p>
	<p>Disability ACT funded a range of one-off activities in 2012–13 to promote and uphold the rights of people with disability. In June 2012 grant funding of \$50,000 was made available to two community organisations, Advocacy for Inclusion (AFI) and ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS) to build the capacity and capability of people with disability. AFI undertook research on self-advocacy models for people, a report titled <i>'Ask me. I make my own decisions'</i>. ADACAS undertook research and trial supported-decision making models of self-advocacy for people with disability, the final report is titled <i>'Spectrums of Support: A report on a project Exploring Supported Decision Making for People with Disability in the ACT'</i>. Both reports are available at Advocacy for Inclusion website and the ADACAS Advocacy website.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Northern Territory</p>	<p>The <i>Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Act</i> (the Act) plays a crucial role in the National Disability Strategy human rights framework. The Act promotes equality of opportunity for all people in the Northern Territory and provides remedies for people who have suffered unlawful discrimination on the grounds outlined in the Act. The Act also prohibits direct discrimination in the area of work, on the basis of impairment. The Act also deals with the accommodation of special needs, while it outlines the conditions in which it may be unreasonable to accommodate a special need. This means that reasonable adjustments must be made to the workplace to meet the needs of people with disability unless the employer can demonstrate that it is likely to cause unjustifiable hardship to the employer. It makes provision for special measures to promote equity of opportunity for groups of people who are disadvantaged or who have special needs.</p>
	<p>The Northern Territory Government Department of Correctional Services provides the basic assistance required by a person with disability, as assessed by a medical officer, to enable their full and productive integration and participation while in the care of supervision of Correctional Services. The programmes and services offered are available to all people under the care or supervision of Correctional Services. Having disability does not preclude any individual from participating in the programmes or receiving assistance with services. However, some limitations exist in providing ongoing support once individuals are released from Correctional Services care. There is currently no data available on the number people with disability that these programmes have specifically benefitted.</p>
	<p>In 2014, the Northern Territory Government commissioned the new Darwin Correctional Precinct. With its modern design it is likely to enable Correctional Services' capacity to deliver better services and support to people with disability in Darwin than was previously possible.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 2 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Northern Territory</p>	<p>Youth Justice: Youth detention centres in the Northern Territory provide case management and support to individuals with intellectual and/or cognitive disability. The Family Responsibility Centres (FRCs) has initiated work with young people and their families to identify at risk behaviour. This includes working with young people with intellectual and cognitive disability. The FRC also supports the young people's families by providing links to appropriate agencies that can best support their needs.</p> <p>Reform Initiatives: The Northern Territory Government Department of Correctional Services operates pre/post release supported accommodation services in Tenant Creek and Alice Springs. Operated by a non-government service provider, each six bedroom residential facility provides supported accommodation to offenders, including those in the corrections system with disability.</p> <p>The Traffic Offender Intervention Programme receives referrals from the Department of Transport and is open to all inmates and offenders including those with disability.</p> <p>Offender Services, Programmes and Indigenous Affairs: In December 2012, the Northern Territory Government announced the Sentenced to a Job (STAJ) programme, aimed at up-skilling inmates to increase their ability to gain employment and reduce the likelihood of reoffending. This programme is open to all inmates including those with disability. STAJ will provide a foundation to address our obligations under future action 2.10 of the National Disability Strategy. Initial discussions have been held between the Department of Correctional Services and Department of Health regarding the Complex Behaviour Unit (CBU). The purpose of these discussions is to ensure people held in the CBU have opportunities to participate in STAJ while in custody, or being held under a custodial supervision order. Since February 2013, a total of 239 offenders have been transferred to job service providers or employers as part of STAJ throughout the Territory.</p>

Table 3: Economic Security

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Commonwealth</p>	<p>The Australian Government has been working to increase employer demand for people with disability. The Australian Government Department of Employment’s Wage Connect has placed over 13,700 people with disability into employment since the commencement of the initiative in January 2012. Wage Connect was paused for new applications from 6 December 2013. The high take-up rate means funding has already been committed.</p>
	<p>In January 2013, a new National Disability Recruitment Coordinator (NDRC) service delivery model was introduced to help increase employment of people with disability. The NDRC is contracted to the Australian Government Department of Social Services and works with employers to increase awareness and acceptance of disability as part of a diverse and inclusive work place that mirrors the diversity within the Australian community. Outcomes since the introduction of the new NDRC model include; the development of more than 300 job vacancies targeted at Disability Employment Service participants; delivery of employer seminars; the engagement of 53 new large employers and the facilitation of information session to Disability Employment Service providers to better understand their business and recruitment needs.</p> <p>Two of the big banks, ANZ and Commonwealth, stand out as exemplars for their strong internal policies in this area – setting a positive example for other large business entities.</p>
	<p>Between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013 the Australian Government Department of Employment funded and administered a Disability Employment Broker Programme (DEBP). The DEBP provided training opportunities and employment outcomes for Disability Employment Service (DES) participants in small to medium-sized employers in regional locations and industry sectors. During the term of this programme five separate projects were approved for funding. The DEBP succeeded in achieving its aim, to gain employment outcomes and training for DES participants, with the placement of 47 participants into ongoing employment, 16 paid work trials and 14 work placements, and training for 20 people. Further work placements and ongoing positions were pending at the time of project completion. In addition 39 information sessions on the employment of people with disability were conducted for employers.</p>
	<p>A series of measures have been introduced since July 2010 that are designed to improve the quality of assessments for the Disability Support Pension (DSP) and support people with disability who have some work capacity into employment. The Australian Government recognises that many people with disability want to work, and benefit from the independence, purpose, dignity and sense of achievement that work brings.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>The programme of support measures was introduced in September 2011 to assist people with mild to moderate disability to re-enter the workforce. A programme of support is designed to give people the skills they need to find and keep a job and includes activities such as job preparation and job search, education and training, injury management and vocational rehabilitation. In addition the revised impairment tables were introduced from 1 January 2012 to ensure that people applying for the DSP are assessed based on what they can do and not what they are unable to do.</p> <p>Regular participation interviews with the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) were introduced from 1 July 2012 for certain DSP recipients under age 35 with eight or more hours work capacity a week and have been well received by participants. These DSP recipients develop a participation plan that includes activities they will undertake to help build their capacity and overcome barriers to work.</p> <p>From 1 July 2014 DSP recipients under age 35 with participation requirements must include at least one compulsory work focused activity in their participation plan. A compulsory activity may include but is not limited to; active participation with an Employment Service Provider; education or training activities that promote work readiness; work experience; or rehabilitation activities to overcome individual barriers. It is expected that active connection to an employment service provider such as Disability Employment Services or Job Services Australia will be the compulsory activity for the majority of DSP recipients with participation requirements.</p> <p>The initiative supports young people on DSP who have work capacity to prepare for, find and maintain employment. Around 20,000 DSP recipients who had participation requirement at July 2014 will sign a new plan at their next interview to include a compulsory work focused activity and an estimated 5,000 new DSP recipients each year will participate. At 5 September 2014 there were 8,061 young DSP recipients with a participation plan that includes a compulsory work focused activity.</p> <p>DSP recipients under age 35 who are in open employment will attend an annual interview with DHS to get the latest information on support available should they require it to maintain employment. Those who are studying will attend ongoing interviews so that they are connected to the right support when they move from study to looking for employment.</p> <p>DSP recipients can work up to 30 hours a week and still receive a part pension, subject to means testing.</p> <p>These measures will ultimately help people with disability receiving the DSP who have work capacity to benefit from the independence, purpose, dignity and sense of achievement that work brings.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>Launched in 2011, the Australian Government Department of Employment's Social Enterprise Development and Investment Funds (SEDIF) initiative provided \$20 million to three independent fund managers to seed the development of new investment funds. The fund managers, who are responsible for approving and providing loans and equity investments to social enterprises, were required to at least match the Government's grant funding with private investment. The total pool of funding across the three funds is now \$41.1 million, with \$10.5 million in investments made to 40 enterprises to date. In addition, five of these social enterprises have a specific disability focus, offering services that include advocacy, respite, training and employment.</p>
	<p>The <i>Fair Work Act 2009</i> was amended on 28 June 2013 to expand the right to request flexible working arrangements (such as part-time work or flexible working hours) under the National Employment Standards to, amongst others, employees with disability or are carers. This provision includes all employees in the national workplace relations system with disability (undefined) and carers within the meaning of the <i>Carers Recognition Act 2010</i>.</p>
	<p>In May 2012 the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) launched its <i>As One — Australian Public Service (APS) Disability Employment Strategy</i> which aims to improve the recruitment and retention rates of people with disability in the Australian public service. The strategy was developed in consultation with existing employees and disability networks for employees. The strategy is due to be reviewed in 2014.</p>
	<p>The Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) has established a Disability Employment Working Group to increase opportunities between Disability Employment Service providers and APS Stakeholders.</p>
	<p>The Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) piloted the RecruitAbility Scheme: an initiative to support the employment of people with disability. Fourteen APS agencies trialled the scheme between June 2013 and December 2014. The scheme aims to attract and develop applicants with disability and also facilitate cultural change in selection panels and agency recruitment.</p>
	<p>RecruitAbility has been available to all APS agencies since 1 January 2015 and provides agencies with the means to better support people with disability in APS selection processes without compromising the merit principle. It is not compulsory but all APS agencies are encouraged to adopt it. Under the scheme job applicants with disability are progressed to further stages of assessment — usually an interview — where they meet the minimum requirements of the job.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>Accessible and inclusive workplaces: The Australian Government Department of Human Services is committed to creating workplaces that are accessible and inclusive for all staff. Its efforts are guided by the Department's <i>Workplace Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2011–15</i>, the <i>Workplace Accessibility Plan 2012–15</i>, and <i>Workplace Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Guidelines</i>.</p> <p>ICT support for greater accessibility: The Australian Government Department of Human Services provides support and training to around 500 staff who use technology accessible for people who may have a disability. In 2013–14 the Department took a lead role in the APS ICT Accessibility Roundtable, which produced a comprehensive report on the benefits of accessible ICT for staff, for consideration by the APS Diversity Council. One of the recommendations in the report was to establish and pilot an inter-agency accessibility support unit, operating through a shared agreement between participating agencies, with the Department taking the lead on implementation.</p> <p>Employment of people with disability: The Australian Government Department of Human Services' <i>Workplace Accessibility Plan 2012–15</i> and <i>Disability Recruitment Strategy</i> contain recruitment and retention strategies for attracting and retaining people with disability.</p> <p>During the year the Australian Government Department of Human Services developed disability awareness and confidence training which is a tiered eLearning package to build awareness and capability of staff and managers. In recognition of the quality of this product, the APSC has asked the Department to work with the package to adapt it for use as an APS-wide training resource.</p> <p>Universal design elements have been incorporated into the majority of new dwellings built through stage two of the Social Housing Initiative.</p> <p>The Social Housing Initiative provided an additional 19,740 dwellings that otherwise would not be available, thereby relieving some pressure on the growing need for social and affordable housing. Forty two per cent of new dwellings tenanted have been by people with disability and the initiative is ensuring that appropriate housing is more available.</p> <p>The Social Housing Initiative also provided an opportunity to move clients around housing portfolios and better meet their housing needs. As at September 2013, 82 per cent (target 90 per cent) of all new dwellings met universal design guidelines and 30 per cent (target 20 per cent) achieved a higher level of adaptability. The Social Housing Initiative was a catalyst for improved social housing outcomes and promoted new levels of excellence in urban design.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>The development of the National Quality Framework for specialist homelessness services was introduced in 2012-13 to improve the quality and integration of services delivered to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including those with disability.</p> <p>All states and territories have agreed to implement a national quality framework that comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A national Homelessness Statement of Principles. ■ A nationally consistent approach to complaints. ■ National quality standards. ■ Independent external assessment against those standards. <p>The National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) will be considered in the context of the White Paper on Reform of the Federation which is expected to be released in the second half of 2015.</p> <p>The NAHA does not require the states/territories to report on specific outcomes, including for people with disability. However, the <i>Report on Government Services 2014</i> shows that the proportion of new public housing tenancies allocated to households with special needs was 63.1 per cent in 2012–13. Special needs households are those that have either: a household member with disability; a principal tenant aged under 25 years, or 75 years or over; or one or more Indigenous members.</p> <p>The vision and objectives of the <i>National Disability Strategy 2010–2020</i> was considered in the development of the 2014-15 National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH). The reinstated NPAH provides funding support to services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including those with disability, across Australia.</p> <p>The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is currently being trialled in seven sites across Australia and will be fully rolled out from 1 July 2016 (except in Western Australia). Once fully rolled out, the NDIS will provide more than 460,000 people with significant and permanent disability the power to choose and control the reasonable and necessary supports they will need over their lifetimes to achieve their personal goals.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>Northern Territory Implementation Plan (2013–14 to 2017–18): National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing — signed in May 2013, the plan is a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH). The objective of the NPARIH is to establish a 10-year funding strategy aimed at significantly reducing severe overcrowding; increasing the supply of new houses and improving the condition of existing houses; and ensuring that rental houses are well maintained and managed in remote Indigenous communities. In this plan, the Commonwealth and Northern Territory recognise that a Remote Public Housing Framework requires assets that provide a standard and amenity that addresses individual needs including disability access and that those assets are sustainable. Capital Works contributes to the <i>National Disability Strategy 2010–2020</i> by referencing Australian building standards relevant to access and mobility requirements.</p>
	<p>National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development was signed in 2011, and commits to increasing the level of workforce participation and providing the support an individual experiencing disadvantage or disengagement (including young people) may need towards gaining skills that lead to employment or other meaningful engagement in society. This includes consideration of strategies and performance indicators to ensure the needs of students with additional needs, including those with disability, are addressed. Critical to achieving this are partnerships between enterprises, employment service providers, community and government as well as better integration of services at the local level. Training outcome targets for students with disability are included.</p>
	<p>The Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs provides support for ex-service personnel to find ongoing and productive employment for people who have suffered permanent injuries while being employed by the Australian Defence Force. Clients participate in a needs assessment process that helps to determine their support needs and rehabilitation plans. Under this programme clients have achieved meaningful and sustainable employment outcomes at similar status to their pre-injury or disease condition.</p>
	<p>The Restart programme delivers wage subsidy support to employers who employ and retain eligible job seekers who are 50 years of age or older, and who have been unemployed and on income support for six months or more. The Restart programme commenced on 1 July 2014 and is worth \$524.8 million over four years. As at 3 September 2014, 164 people had commenced in a job, which will result in their employer receiving the subsidy if they stay in the job for the required period of time. About 40 per cent of Restart placements to date are participants in Disability Employment Services. Of those in Job Services Australia, around one third are identified as being a person with disability.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>The current Job Services Australia contract will expire in June 2015 and the Government is currently considering ways to improve Australia's employment services for the benefit of job seekers and employers. Enhanced linkages between industry, employers and Job Services Australia providers and re-invigorating mutual obligation will be key elements of the new model. From 1 July 2015 the Australian Government will invest \$5.1 billion in employment services over three years to help more Australians move from welfare to work and to increase workforce participation. Under the new model job seekers will be placed into one of three streams based on their risk of becoming long-term unemployed and any serious nonjob related issues. Funding will be directed to those job seekers who need the most support to find and keep a job. Providers will be expected to deliver services specific to the needs of the individual job seeker.</p>
	<p>The new resource for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability provides information on support in education and work for Indigenous people with disability available at the National Disability Coordination Officer Programme website. (Developed by National Disability Coordination Officers, funded by the Australian Government Department of Education).</p>
	<p>The Australian Government Department of Social Services provides a free information and advice service about the employment of people with disability. JobAccess helps people with disability, employers, service providers and the community to access information about services, financial assistance and workplace solutions. The service provides useful information about reasonable adjustments, disclosure of disability, disability employment case studies, tools and checklists.</p> <p>The JobAccess website also contains information about mental health conditions at work. It also has information that can help build supportive work environments in which all people can work productively. The JobAccess service is available to answer questions from employers, employees, employment service providers and co-workers.</p>
	<p>Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) Employment Services provide support for people with a mental illness receiving the Disability Support Pension or other government income support payments who are already engaged, or willing to engage, with employment services, including Disability Employment Services and Job Services Australia, and who have economic participation as a primary goal in their Individual Recovery Plan.</p> <p>More information on PHaMs Employment Services is available at the Australian Government, Department of Social Services website.</p> <p>Employment-focused Mental Health Respite: Carer Support (MHR:CS) services provide intensive support to carers of people with mental illness to address nonvocational barriers to achieving workforce participation. More information on MHR:CS employment-focused services is available at Australian Government, Department of Social Services website.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>In September 2014 the National Disability Coordination Office released the <i>Assistive Technology in the Workplace</i> booklet. This booklet provides practical advice and information about technology that can be used in the workplace by people with disability.</p>
New South Wales	<p>The NSW Government Public Service Commission (PSC) is working with all NSW Government departments and agencies to integrate workforce diversity outcomes into workforce planning. The <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i> (GSE Act) creates the opportunity to integrate diversity issues, including those relating to people with disability, into core organisational workforce planning. This approach emphasises diversity as an essential element of high performing teams, as well as an ethical responsibility.</p> <p>This strategic approach will encourage concerted action by senior leaders to address the organisational issues acting as barriers to people with disability's success in employment. The PSC will continue to lead the strategic development and management of the government sector's workforce in relation to equity and diversity, including ensuring the workforce reflects the diversity of the wider community. In particular, the PSC is working closely with departments to roll-out a strategic workforce planning framework and the development of enhanced workforce analytics capability.</p> <p>The NSW Government PSC and Department of Family and Community Services, Ageing, Disability and Home Care undertook the <i>Disabling the Barriers</i> research to understand the employment situation of people with disability in the NSW government sector. The exposure draft of this research was released for comment at the event <i>Bridges Not Barriers</i> on 7 November 2014. During 2015 all departments will be consulted on the outcomes and challenges associated with implementing EmployABILITY—the strategy to increase employment opportunities for people with disability in the NSW public sector—as part of its review.</p> <p>The NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services has changed its operating procedures to ensure flexible housing options are better able to meet the diverse support needs of people with disability and build more inclusive and accessible communities.</p> <p>The Transition Support Programme (TSP) enhances the capacity of secondary school students with disability by supporting them to plan their transition from school to adult life. More than 310 secondary school students with disability have now been supported through this programme.</p> <p>Through the Disability Enterprise Procurement programme, the NSW Government supports the NSW Public Service to purchase goods and services through disability employment organisations (made up entirely of Australian Disability Enterprises). This initiative has helped 43 disability organisations to gain work valued at approximately \$11.66 million. As a result, 466 people with disability have been employed in providing goods and services to the NSW Government.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
New South Wales	NSW will invest funding over three years (2014/15 to 2016/17) into a newly announced Employment Enablement Strategy. The aim of this strategy is to increase employment outcomes for people with intellectual disability in NSW. This will be achieved through providing individual packages of support to adults with intellectual disability who have a work goal to prepare for entering the workforce. Funding will also be allocated to building the capacity of NSW business to employ and maintain people with intellectual disability in the workforce.
Victoria	<p>More than 450 builders, architects and designers attended 10 information seminars on how to design and build homes that meet the needs of older people and people with disability. These were run by the Victorian Building Authority.</p> <p>By building new houses to be accessible to people with disability, the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services has been leading by example to encourage social housing providers to also provide accessible public housing. At the same time a review began of the Department's housing standards as part of the Victorian Social Housing Framework.</p> <p>The guide <i>Recruiting people with disability — getting recruitment right</i> assists government departments to employ and retain people with disability. Paid internships for university students with disability enable students to gain work experience and helps to build a workplace culture that values the employment of people with disability.</p>
Queensland	<p>People with disability have access to a range of housing assistance products and services including bond loans, rental grants, RentConnect services and social housing through the Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works. They also have access to occupational therapy services and home modifications in social housing, which ensure the functionality of a property matches the functional requirements of the individual.</p> <p>Housing with Shared Support is a discrete housing assistance option offered to people with disability in social housing. The programme facilitates sustainable levels of support by enabling a group of unrelated people with disability to share support by living together in the same dwelling, or in close proximity to each other.</p> <p>Through the ongoing coordinated delivery of the Spinal Cord Injury Response (SCIR) programme, people with disability have access to an increased range of appropriate social and private housing and support options. These include housing and support options to enable people with a spinal cord injury to live sustainably in the community. SCIR is a cross-agency partnership between Disability Services, Queensland Health and the Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works which provides priority access to public housing for eligible applicants with a spinal cord injury to transition from the Princess Alexandra Hospital to their preferred community.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p><i>Great skills. Real opportunities.</i> is the Queensland Government's five-year action plan to reform the vocational education and training (VET) sector in Queensland to minimise skill shortages, increase the state's qualification profile and improve Queensland's economic and social prosperity.</p> <p>The release of the <i>2014–15 Annual VET Investment Plan</i> (the plan) builds upon the <i>Great skills. Real opportunities.</i> as it focuses Government investment in training to meet the skills needs of industry and the economy, and enables Queenslanders to be trained for current and future employment opportunities.</p> <p>Key programmes under the plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Certificate 3 Guarantee — provides eligible Queenslanders with access to a government subsidised training place in priority training areas. Learners with disability are concessional students under the programme. The Government pays a higher subsidy rate to encourage and support participation by concessional learners. For learners that require additional support the Certificate 3 Guarantee programme offers lower level qualifications and foundation skills training. ■ Higher Level Skills programme — provides eligible Queenslanders with access to a subsidised training place in selected Certificate IV and above qualifications, or priority skill sets critical to productivity in the workplace. The programme aims to assist individuals to secure employment in a critical occupation, progress in their chosen career or transition to university to continue their studies. ■ The apprenticeship system in Queensland — has been made more flexible and attractive for all Queenslanders. To boost the uptake of apprenticeships, The Queensland Government has committed \$86 million to deliver 10,000 additional apprenticeships over six years. <p>The COAG National Partnership Agreement — Homelessness funded Transition and Post Care Support (Disability) programme provides transition planning and direct support to young people with disability exiting care from 15–18 years of age and post-care support up to 25 years to ensure young people with disability have the skills to sustain stable adult living arrangements, reducing the risk of homelessness.</p> <p><i>Your Life Your Choice</i> self-directed support was launched in September 2012 and provides the framework for how self-directed support operates in Queensland. Self-directed support is a funding approach that enables people with disability and their families to have greater flexibility and choice and control over the disability supports and services they receive. It is a key component in preparing Queensland for the transition to the NDIS from 1 July 2016. <i>Your Life Your Choice</i> offers people in receipt of individual and recurrent funding the opportunity to self-direct their supports assisting them to achieve their goals which may include goals regarding preferred living arrangements.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	A suite of <i>Your Life Your Choice</i> resources has been developed to assist people with disability, their families and carers to self-direct their disability supports.
Western Australia	<p>The Western Australia Disability employment strategy 2013–2015 is a joint initiative between the Western Australia Public Sector Commission (PSC) and Disability Services Commission (DSC). The strategy, with an accompanying toolkit, aims to increase the number of people employed in public sector agencies.</p> <p>A review of the <i>Disability Services Act 1993</i> resulted in the introduction of a seventh outcome area to improve disability access and inclusion at public authorities. Outcome 7 provides for inclusive and accessible strategies in the recruitment and retention of people with disability in state government agencies and in all local governments and aims to increase numbers of people with disability gaining employment. Awareness raising activities about Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) Outcome 7 have been completed and the next step is a series of grants to local government to support implementation.</p> <p>A Shared Living Framework was funded by the Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission and developed by WA Individualised Services (WAIS). The framework explores arrangements where a person with disability decides to share their home with one or more people who provide an agreed level of support. This might be family care, shared living care, host family care, co-resident care, foster care and home sharer. The framework outlines resources used by the sector, the characteristics of shared living and clarifies taxation, insurance and contractual, industrial and other legal requirements and implications.</p>
South Australia	<p>South Australia is increasing appropriate, affordable and sustainable housing options for people with disability. This is being achieved through a number of initiatives. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In May 2013, the South Australian Cabinet approved the establishment of a specialist Disability Housing Organisation (DHO) which will relieve pressure on both the Housing SA and Disability SA waiting lists. The DHO will have an independent, robust Board and governance structure to create a stand-alone organisation that works closely with government to meet the needs of South Australians with disability. The DHO will oversee the management of properties to ensure people with disability get the best possible outcome through the significant investment of almost 120 new homes.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Bedford Homes for 100 Project is a partnership between the South Australian Government and Bedford Industries and was completed in February 2013 creating 33 community-based accommodation properties. Seventy four South Australians with intellectual disability have been provided with community-based accommodation through this project. <li>■ The Minda Project 105 was completed in April 2013, creating 106 new community-based accommodation places for people with disability. <li>■ The Julia Farr Housing Association project created 38 new houses and 14 refurbishments for people with disability and was completed in December 2013. These housing options are now fully tenanted, providing accessible homes for 81 people with disability. Eight Smart Living apartments have been built in Adelaide's western suburbs as part of South Australia's Urban Renewal Project and were opened in May 2013. This initiative supports people with disability who have high support needs and uses cutting edge technology to maximise residents' independence. <p>The South Australian Government continues to take action to improve access to employment for people with disability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The South Australian Government Department for Communities and Social Inclusion has established the innovative Disability Employment Community of Practice to provide a structured forum for the discussion and progression of disability-related issues impacting employees. Between June 2012 and June 2013 the percentage of Department for Communities and Social Inclusion employees with disability rose from four to five per cent. Departmental employees with disability have been granted new Special Leave with Pay provisions, with up to 15 days leave from work per year for reasons related to their disability. These measures are also being supported through new processes to streamline any required workplace modifications. <li>■ The South Australian Government Department for Communities and Social Inclusion has launched the <i>Disability Employment Strategy 2014–2016</i> to improve employment outcomes by providing strategies and initiatives that attract, retain and develop staff with disability and provide a disability confident working environment. This strategy is considered best practice and will be shared across the South Australian Public Sector. <li>■ The South Australian Government Department of State Development has a number of programmes that support people with disability to participate in the workforce. In 2012–13, 1300 people with disability were engaged in employment programmes, with over 300 gaining employment. Disability WORKS Australia administers the Disability Employment Register. As part of this register 50 people secure work placements in government agencies each year.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In 2012–13, Community Benefit SA provided funding for a number of initiatives targeted to enhancing training and employment opportunities for people with disability across the state, including funding to Orana Inc. to improve facilities and work conditions at the Mt Gambier Employment Services. <li>■ The South Australian Minister for Disabilities led a ‘kitchen table’ consultation on disability employment in November 2013. Participants included members of the South Australian Disability Engagement Register, industry groups, unions and peak bodies, as well as government and non-government representatives.
Tasmania	<p>The Tasmanian Government provided funding to develop a DVD highlighting the experiences of Tasmanian businesses employing people with disability. The DVD aims to raise awareness about, and promote the employment of people with disability among the Tasmanian business community as a method to improve employment opportunities for people with disability.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government joined with the Australian Government Department of Employment and Mission Australia to hold a forum to promote the employment of people with disability among the Tasmanian business community. The forum resulted in the formation of an Employers Advisory Committee focusing on strategies for increasing the recruitment of people with disability.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government is a key supplier of affordable rental accommodation in the State through Housing Tasmania and has created minimum design standards for new residential development projects.</p> <p>Housing Tasmania constructs new developments in accordance with the <i>Housing Design Policy – Minimum Standards for Social Housing</i> (Minimum Standards) that include provision for universal and accessible design. This mandatory policy brings together contemporary design principles of the Livable Housing Design Guidelines, the Tasmanian State Architect’s Draft Residential Strategy, Universal Design and Sustainability (energy efficiency) in residential dwellings.</p> <p>The Minimum Standards reflect current thinking that supports building socially inclusive and sustainable communities, universal design principles to support ‘ageing in place’ and liveable housing design. They provide a minimum silver level under the Livable Housing Design Guidelines. Units built to provide specialist accommodation for tenants with significant disability will be constructed to exceed this standard.</p> <p>In practice, when new multi-unit residential developments are designed, a portion of units are built for residents in wheelchairs. While the aim is to achieve 10 per cent of units built to this standard, the current average of recent large developments is over 15 per cent.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Australian Capital Territory</p>	<p>The ACT Government has introduced a payroll tax concession to encourage ACT's biggest businesses to benefit from the talents and skills of school leavers with disability aged 17–24. The payroll tax exemption provides ACT businesses paying payroll tax with a concession for each school leaver with disability who they employ. Disability ACT has produced a range of promotional materials to engage the business sector with this initiative.</p> <p>In April 2011 the ACT launched the <i>ACT Public Service Employment Strategy for People with Disability 2011–2015</i> that aims to remove barriers and increase access to employment opportunities for people with disability, including a target to double the employment of people with disability in the ACT Public Service by 2015.</p> <p>Since the launch of the strategy the employment of people with disability in the ACT Public Service has increased from 1.6 per cent in 2010 to 2 per cent in 2014. The separation rate for staff with disability has decreased from 7.8 per cent in 2010 to 6.8 per cent in 2013. Senior officer positions have experienced the largest increase in numbers of employees with disability, growing from 39 in 2010, to 51 by September 2013. The promotion of the ACT Public Service Graduate Programme is also having an impact with 19 applications received from people with disability for the 2014 intake.</p> <p>Initiatives under the strategy to further increase employment of people with disability include the identification of nine positions for people with disability following changes to the Public Sector Standards in 2011, a trial of school-based apprenticeships and the refinement of disability confidence training for the ACT Public Service.</p> <p>In 2013–14, nine social enterprises for people with disability received financial and/or business support. Forty four income streams have been established for people with disability since the ACT Social Enterprise Hub was established in 2009.</p> <p>The ACT Inclusion Council, formerly the Business Leaders Innovative Thoughts Solutions (BLITS) Board, is partnering with businesses to increase the inclusion of people with disability in the workforce and to increase employer awareness of the benefits of employing people with disability. Initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards that acknowledges outstanding achievements of business, organisations and individuals who have demonstrated commitment to encourage and support people with disability in the workplace, business and community — 63 nominations were received in 2013 and 79 nominations were received in 2014.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
Australian Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In 2013–14, the (BLITS) Access Recognition Programme evolved to become a part of Disability Confidence Canberra, a speaking and education programme that provides information and tools to organisations, groups, businesses and employers who want to be more inclusive and accessible for people who are ageing or who have disability. Members of the ACT Inclusion Council speak to businesses, organisations and local community groups about being disability confident and employing people with disability. <p>The ACT Government is working with people with disability, their families and service providers to develop new housing and supported accommodation options. A number of initiatives are underway including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A Homeshare programme was launched in the ACT in January 2013 and is creating opportunities for 17 people without disability to Homeshare with people with disability <li>■ The Getting A Life Intentional Community was opened in May 2013 and involves a 25-residence housing and community project that is structured around the lives of three young people with disability, living in three separate homes. A neighbourhood of friends is made up of specifically selected public housing tenants who provide a community of support. <li>■ Project Independence was launched in September 2012 and aims to provide individuals with intellectual disability an opportunity to purchase equity in the property market. The social housing model is designed to enable residents to live semi-independently and to develop their living skills. The first and second Project Independence sites are due for completion in 2015. <li>■ The ACT currently funds three Living In Networked Communities (LINC) networks. CatholicCare support 29 people who have a range of disabilities to live independent and active lives in the community. The third LINC network, which was launched in February 2014, is provided jointly through public housing properties and properties owned by CatholicCare purchased with grants from the Commissioner for Social Housing.
Northern Territory	<p>The Northern Territory’s work experience programme provides constant promotion of the skills of the young people in the programme. Numerous Northern Territory students have gained paid employment whilst in work experience through the employer’s prior knowledge of the student’s work capacity and expectation. Expectations are raised in the workplace through up-skilling of employers in regard to disability awareness and work capacity. There is opportunity for relationships to be built with employers, open communication and support from the work trainers and advocacy for the development of independence in students to allow employers to see their full potential. Students are tracked for three to five years to ensure that plans are followed, changed to suit their current situations and can cater for their aspirations. There are currently 32 students accessing eight work sites throughout the week.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 3 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Northern Territory</p>	<p>In the Northern Territory there are a number of innovative approaches to employment and individualised approaches for choice and flexibility. Individualised Transition Planning is offered to all students with disability, their families and stakeholders, once they reach the age of 15 years. It provides an opportunity to present students with disability with choices and information for future planning. There are several long-term projects that have led to secure participation projects for up to 10 school leavers with disability. This innovative approach allows time for students and their families to prepare for available programmes, prepare for the future, and allows for continuity of services once the student reaches adulthood.</p>
	<p>The Northern Territory Government has implemented <i>EmployAbility — A strategy for the employment of people with disability in the Northern Territory Public Sector 2013–2017</i>, which contains a range of objectives to be realised over the next five years through four main areas of focus: nurturing an inclusive workplace culture; supporting attraction and retention practices; supporting skills acquisition and career development; and promoting accessibility. This strategy will lead to an increase in employment, providing economic security for people with disability. As the strategy is new, there is currently no data available to measure its impact.</p>
	<p>The Northern Territory Public Service (NTPS) offers a pathway to employment for people with disability under the Disability Employment Programme (DEP). The DEP is an initiative under the <i>EmployAbility</i> strategy, which aims to provide job opportunities in the NTPS and wage assistance for people with disability who face severe workplace restrictions and are unable to compete for jobs on merit. Through the DEP, 63 people with disability have had the opportunity to work in the NTPS and acquire new skills and knowledge to enable them to compete for positions on merit. The success rate is determined by the number of DEP participants that gain permanent employment with the NTPS. To date 27 people with disability have gained permanent employment in the NTPS.</p>

Table 4: Personal and Community Support

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>The <i>NDIS Act 2013</i> was passed in March 2013 and created the framework for the NDIS. As at December 2013, all state jurisdictions have signed on to the full scheme except for Western Australia. The NDIS launched in four trial sites on 1 July 2013, and in three further trial sites in the Australian Capital Territory, the Barkly region of the Northern Territory and the Perth Hills area of Western Australia from 1 July 2014. The NDIS will start in Queensland from 1 July 2016 with full implementation by 30 June 2019.</p> <p>By July 2019 the NDIS will be rolled out in all states and territories except Western Australia.</p> <p>Once the full scheme is rolled out, more than 460,000 people who have a significant and permanent disability will be directly funded to choose their supports and providers, enabling greater choice and control over the supports they need to achieve their goals, objectives and aspirations so as to facilitate their social and economic participation. Awareness will also be raised amongst members of the community regarding people with disability.</p> <p>Implementation of the Supported Accommodation Innovation Fund will ensure the provision of up to 150 supported accommodation places for adults with severe or profound disability.</p> <p>This measure has improved outcomes for people with disability by providing new housing aligned with Livable Housing Design Guidelines platinum level, and specifically designed to meet the needs of the individuals moving into the accommodation.</p> <p>The Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) and Better Start for Children with Disability (Better Start) programmes provide support to families of children with an identified condition. There are three main elements to the programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ \$12,000 in funding for early intervention services and treatments and a registration service for that funding — Autism Advisors and Registration and Information Service. ■ Block funded education and support programmes including Early Days Workshops, PlayConnect Playgroups/Playgroup Community Events, HCWA Aboriginal Liaison Officers and Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres (ASELCCs). ■ Medicare rebates for: the development of a treatment and management plan; up to four allied health diagnostic services; and, up to 20 allied health services (in total) for eligible children up to 15 years (provided by Australian Government Department of Health).

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>HCWA commenced in 2008 and more than 35,000 children have been able to access over \$269 million in funding for services. Better Start commenced in July 2011 and more than 8,000 children have been able to access over \$40 million in funding for services. As at 30 September 2014 there are more than 15,200 children currently registered for HCWA and more than 6,300 children registered for Better Start. HCWA clients can access more than 2,300 service providers and Better Start clients can access more than 2,200 service providers.</p>
	<p>Up to June 2013, the former National People with Disabilities and Carer Council (NPWDACC) provided advice to Government on the implementation of the National Disability Strategy and in 2013 provided key advice and submissions on the <i>Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport, the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012</i> and the <i>Australian Education Bill 2012</i>.</p> <p>The Indigenous Working Group advised on Closing the Gap on services for Aboriginal people with disability and national disability peaks organisations continue to consult with their membership on relevant issues.</p> <p>A clearinghouse at the National Disability Organisations' Clearinghouse website was set up in collaboration with the organisations as an online repository of information from and about the national disability organisations. The website provided a single point of access to information about the role, activities and representation of disability organisations</p>
	<p>In 2013–14 a total of 4,520 young carers were assisted with respite services through the Young Carers Respite and Information Services Programme.</p> <p>In 2013–14 a total of 2,364 young carers were assisted with information and referral services across Australia to assist young carers who need support to complete their secondary or vocational education due to the demands of their caring role.</p> <p>The Young Carers Respite and Information Services Programme is exceeding its annual target of assisting 3,500 young carers in 2013–14 by 23 per cent.</p>
	<p>The My Time Peer Support Groups for Parents and Carers of Children with Disability or Chronic Medical Condition is exceeding its annual target of assisting 3,000 parents or carers.</p> <p>In 2013–14 a total of 3,896 of the 5,414 parents and carers who were registered group members in 2012–13 attended at least one group in 2012–13. Participants are given the opportunity to socialise and share ideas with others who understand the caring role. Through this programme participants are provided with research based parenting information that links them into available community support services. My Time Peer Support Groups are engaging over 71 per cent of the target group to one or more peer support sessions.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>In 2013–14, some 40,467 carers were assisted through Mental Health Respite: Carer Support (MHR:CS) services. These services provide a range of flexible respite and family support options for carers of people with severe mental illness and carers of people with an intellectual disability. The aim of this service is to support individuals to sustain their caring roles and maintain connections with their communities, by increasing access to carer support. This programme is in scope for transition to the NDIS.</p>
New South Wales	<p>The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) commenced in the Hunter on 1 July 2013. People with disability living in the three Hunter Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Maitland will transition to the NDIS between July 2013 and June 2016.</p> <p>The NDIS will support approximately 10,000 people with significant disability in the Hunter by June 2016.</p> <p>The transition to the full scheme in NSW will commence on 1 July 2016 and continue until June 2018.</p> <p>The NSW Government is leading disability reform through Ready Together. It ties together key initiatives to facilitate the full implementation of the NDIS in NSW. These initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Living Life My Way framework - giving people choice and control over their supports and funding arrangements ■ Stronger Together 2 — investing \$2 billion in growth and reform of services ■ <i>Disability Inclusion Act 2014</i> — providing safeguards, protecting people’s rights and promoting community inclusion ■ <i>National Disability Insurance Scheme (NSW Enabling) Act 2013</i> — supporting the transition to the NDIS and enabling the transfer of services to the non-government sector. <p>The Early Linkers programme (formerly the Diagnosis Support Worker programme) has been consolidated under the decision support banner under the administration of Ability Links. The programme provides diagnosis support and local area coordination for young children and contributes to the NDIA’s birth to eight years of age strategy. This provided over 1,400 places in 2014, with full implementation planned for 2015 providing over 3,600 places for children and their families.</p> <p>In 2014, funding across individual support programmes supported over 2,800 people with accommodation within the community, community engagement and day programmes, flexible respite and tailored support packages for Aboriginal clients.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
New South Wales	<p>More investment was made available for people to use individualised arrangements and consolidate their funding for multiple supports into a single funding arrangement, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 29 clients supported with a combination of a Community Support Programme and Day Programme funding ■ 80 clients supported with a combination of Respite and Day Programme funding ■ 382 clients supported under the Supported Living Fund package — exceeding the target of 300.
	<p>Over 1,900 places were provided to support young people with disability leaving school through the Community Participation and Transition to Work programmes, and 525 Life Choices and Active Ageing programmes were delivered to support adults with disability to engage with the community.</p>
	<p>Individual support for Aboriginal people was expanded with funding directed towards Services Our Way, Aboriginal Home Care service improvement, Yarn Up consultations and an Aboriginal employment programme focusing on training assistants in nursing. A total of 41 individual clients received packaged assistance from the Services Our Way programmes.</p>
	<p>The NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services conducted a supported decision making (SDM) pilot in 2013–14. The pilot was undertaken in partnership with the NSW Trustee and Guardian and the Public Guardian. It involved SDM facilitators providing resources and coaching to a group of adults with disability and their chosen supporters in SDM, with the aim of finding new ways to support people with disability to make decisions and have more choice and control in their lives. Following on from the pilot, the Department has funded UnitingCare NSW — Janamili and the St Vincent de Paul Society to undertake the Advancing Supported Decision Making project.</p>
	<p>In January 2014 the NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services introduced the Direct Payment Agreement (DPA), giving people with individualised funding the opportunity to receive and manage their funding themselves. This is a new opportunity NSW has introduced, guided by the Living Life My Way Framework and specified in the <i>Disability Inclusion Act 2014</i>. People who enter a DPA have more choice and control over the goals they want to achieve, the types of supports they want to purchase with their funding and who the provider of their services or supports will be.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>New South Wales</p>	<p>The NSW Carers Strategy 2014–2019 (the strategy) is a five-year plan to improve the position of carers in NSW that was launched on 7 August 2014. The strategy will be implemented by government, non-government organisations and private businesses in new partnerships designed to deliver better services and support for carers. It contains practical approaches that will make a real difference in carers’ lives, not only in the care they provide, but in other important areas of life. The strategy is available at the NSW Government, Department of Family & Community Services website.</p> <p>The strategy builds on what the NSW Government is already doing to raise awareness and recognition of the challenges carers face. It provides a broader context for the ongoing implementation of the <i>NSW Carers (Recognition) Act 2010</i> and complements reforms in other areas such as disability, mental health and ageing.</p> <p>The NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services is developing a cultural competency framework (through the Diversity in Disability project) in partnership with Northcott. This state-wide body of work focuses on building the capacity of the workforce to work cross culturally and to deliver person-centred services in readiness for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The framework will help develop a workforce that is capable and ready to effectively interact with people with disability, families and employees from diverse backgrounds and is due to be completed in 2015.</p> <p>The NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services has funded National Disability Services for the People, Culture and Communication Project, which addresses the issue of delivering culturally competent disability services and sector development needs, specifically relating to access to language services. The project is aiming to: improve culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) recruitment strategies in the non-government organisations (NGO) disability sector; review current practice relating to the Department funded NGO multilingual communication, and recommend strategies for improvement; and, improve disability awareness and knowledge of disability language among interpreters.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
Victoria	<p>Victoria has completed a number of initiatives to provide services and supports to people with disability under the National Disability Agreement reform process, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The creation of 118 new and innovative supported accommodation options. ■ An option for people with an Individual Support Package (ISP) to directly employ their support workers. ■ Commitment to the closure of Sandhurst Residential Services. ■ The second Victorian population health survey of people with intellectual disability. ■ The completion of a cancer screening programme for women with intellectual disability.
	<p>Workshops to build the skills and capacity of people with disability, their families and carers to plan for, choose and direct their supports have been held in all divisions across the state. The individual support package handbook now includes information for people with disability about self-directed planning.</p>
	<p>People with an individual support package can choose to directly employ their support worker using all or some of their money.</p>
	<p>Resources and tools designed for individual support package facilitators have been made available to more service providers so they can support self-direction and family-centred practice, and ten practice improvement forums were held to improve self-directed and family-centred planning in the disability services workforce.</p>
	<p>The Victorian Aids and Equipment Programme (A&EP) now has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ a 24-hour repairs service ■ a successful reissuing scheme ■ fewer inappropriate orders of equipment ■ better contracts with suppliers. <p>An evaluation has been completed. It recognises that the programme has improved and makes suggestions for further consideration.</p>
	<p>A total of 221 new supported accommodation places have been provided for people with disability and complex needs. The Victorian Government is modernising disability supported accommodation and closing congregate-care style disability institutions such as those at the Oakleigh Centre, Bendigo's Sandhurst Residential Services and Colanda Residential Services in Colac.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
Victoria	<p>Intake processes for early childhood intervention services (ECIS) have been streamlined and linkages with other specialist and mainstream services have been improved. Early childhood professionals have access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ online professional development modules ■ the resource kit for early childhood intervention service professionals. <p>Strengthened assessment processes are being trialled in nine multidisciplinary networks.</p> <p>Mindful Centre for Training and Research delivered training on the assessment of autism spectrum disorder to 263 clinicians in 2013–14. The Guide to identification, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders in Victorian mental health services was released in 2013. The government funds Mindful to provide an autism state-wide coordinator role. The state-wide coordinator disseminated the guidelines to health services and supports autism spectrum disorder coordinators within health services to embed these guidelines into practice. The action of the guidelines is now complete.</p>
Queensland	<p>The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) — On 8 May 2013, the Queensland Government signed a heads of agreement with the Australian Government for full implementation of the NDIS. The Queensland Government has commenced planning for the rollout of the NDIS which will start in Queensland from July 2016, with full implementation by June 2019. Planning has commenced for an agreement that will set out arrangements for eligible people with disability to transition between 2016 and 2019 to the NDIS. It is anticipated the agreement will be in place by December 2014.</p> <p>Queensland preparations for the NDIS include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Participant Readiness initiative — In August 2014 seven non-government organisations were funded over 18 months to support Queenslanders with disability and their families to understand opportunities presented by the NDIS via information sessions, meetings, workshops, mentoring by peers and online. ■ Sector development — In February 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the NDIA to provide funding from the NDIS Sector Development Fund for the delivery of projects to assist providers, rural and remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland. <p>Local Area Coordination programme — Local area coordinators work in local communities across Queensland to plan and link people with disability to a range of different support networks and services, depending on their individual needs and interests. There are 56 local area coordinators, in 40 locations across the state. In 2013–14, the coordinators assisted 3,285 people to access mainstream services and information and build supportive networks.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p>Queenslanders benefited from a number of existing and new programmes that provide a range of supports to assist them to live independently and actively engage in their communities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flexible respite — In 2012–13 the Queensland Government made an investment over four years for extra respite hours for people with high needs aged between 16 and 25, and their carers, through more flexible arrangements. Up to 234 people are continuing to receive support. 2. Parent Connect — In 2012, the Queensland Government made a four year commitment to link parents of children with disability or developmental delay to the support services they require. To date, more than 858 families have been assisted through Parent Connect since it began in late 2012. 3. Information resources for children aged birth to eight years — a new series of information booklets for Queensland families was published online in June 2014. The <i>'My child has'</i> resources provide practical information about the services and supports available, and how parents can support their child's development and inclusion in family and community life. 4. The Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Trial is an initiative over three years, commencing from 2012–13, to create long-term, sustainable living arrangements for adults with disability 25 years and over who are being cared for by their elderly parents aged 60 years and over, or Indigenous parents aged 50 years and over. Eight organisations have been awarded funding to create up to 61 places for adults with disability. 5. The Older Carer initiative delivers respite to older carers who are caring for their adult son or daughter with disability; and assists older carers to plan and prepare for the time when they can no longer continue in the caring role. Funding is allocated annually to 17 service providers for delivery of services in 25 locations across Queensland to provide over 900 families with respite and future planning services. 6. The Autism Early Intervention initiative from birth to six years provides specialist disability early intervention programmes by a range of specialist therapists to help children develop communication and social skills, adapt behaviour and enhance daily living skills. 7. Early Intervention for children with a physical disability provides therapy and early intervention services to families of children with a physical disability. 8. Early Intervention from birth to 17 years for children with autism provides access to specialist therapy services, information, multidisciplinary therapy and support with key transitions to school in centre based, community and family settings, based on assessed need.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p>9. Baby Bridges is an innovative early intervention initiative providing respite and skill development for new parents of a child with disability. Baby Bridges provides support for parents and carers of children with disability from birth to five years.</p> <p>10. The Queensland Government Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services also provides supports to families with a child with disability, or significant developmental delay. Services can include: information; therapy; counselling; and support with transitions to early childhood education such as child care, kindergarten and school.</p> <p>Smart Assistive Technology trials — five providers of Home and Community Care services were funded to trial various assistive technologies with clients including younger people with disability.</p> <p>The Community Aids, Equipment and Assistive Technologies Initiative provides aids and equipment subsidies for eligible disability services applicants to support people with their communication and mobility needs.</p> <p>Positive Behaviour Support Training — Training in conducting functional behaviour assessments and developing positive behaviour supports has been delivered to more than 1500 teaching staff across Queensland.</p> <p>Training in conducting functional behaviour assessments in class settings and developing positive behaviour supports for the identified students, in state schools has been provided to 91 teachers and specialists across Queensland, and training in developing a school-wide framework for creating and maintaining a safe, supportive and disciplined school environment has been delivered to staff in 15 schools across three regions. An annual conference focussing on positive supports for people with challenging behaviour was held in June 2014.</p> <p>State-wide Evaluation of Positive Behaviour Support Plan Quality — A clinical quality audit of Positive Behaviour Support Plans has been conducted across Queensland, providing a baseline for the standard of technical quality of sector Positive Behaviour Support Plans.</p>
Western Australia	<p>National Disability Services WA has coordinated the provision of Quality Service Improvement Grants. Grants were awarded for projects that focus on one or more of three areas for sector improvement: advancing self-direction, self-design and management, or improvements designed to meet the specific needs of people in regional, rural and remote areas.</p> <p>This project is designed to help disability sector organisations move towards self-directed supports and services. National Disability Services WA coordinates the grants process, administers funding, and liaises with the successful agencies on behalf of the Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission. The project will result in sector improvement that will assist people with disability and their families to enable them to self-manage.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Western Australia</p>	<p>Following consultation with people with disability and their families, disability sector organisations and others, a shared management model for self-managed care was developed. A Shared Management Agreement is developed between the individual or family and the organisation outlining who will be responsible for each activity. People can choose from a variety of responsibilities according to their preferences and capacity including staff recruitment, training, supervision, employment and self-managing funding and payment of staff and other supports as appropriate.</p> <p>The result is significant development and increased capacity of the disability sector to provide self-directed supports and services and contemporary disability services. People with disability and their families have increased opportunities for self-direction and improved supports, services and quality of life outcomes</p> <p>The Council of Regional Disability Services (CORDS) has developed a manual for chief executives in the disability sector, specifically to assist in building the capacity of the disability sector in regional areas. While the manual is written for an audience of disability sector organisation chief executives, it is also a relevant resource for local area coordinators, Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission staff, and senior management and staff working in the disability sector and in local government authorities.</p> <p>The manual covers the history of the disability sector, values based practice and contemporary services, contracting with the Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission and governance and leadership. The development of the manual has resulted in improved management of disability sector organisations. In particular assistance for disability sector organisations in rural and remote areas. The manual is available at the Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission website.</p> <p>The Western Australia Disability Services Commission has developed and published a number of comprehensive reports that are used as the foundation for consultation about the sector development needs in Western Australia. The publications provide information about people who accessed Disability Services Commission-funded services across Western Australia, and potential areas for sector development. The Disability Services Commission then engaged an external consultant who facilitated focus groups about sector development needs across the state.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
Western Australia	<p>The Count Me In Ambassador Programme has identified 33 community champions who foster leadership opportunities for people with disability and their families, and provide strong role models for people with disability who would like to engage in community leadership. A number of Ambassadors have a disability while others have family members who have a disability. The Ambassadors will also be involved in the next phase of implementation in support of the National Disability Strategy</p> <p>More information is available at the Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission website.</p> <p>A two-year trial of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) commenced in Western Australia on 1 July 2014. This involves a National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) launch site commencing from July 2014 in the Perth Hills area for residents living in the local government areas (LGAs) of Swan, Kalamunda and Mundaring. The Western Australia state model - WA NDIS My Way –began in July 2014 for people in the Lower South West area and will expand from July 2015 to people in the Cockburn and Kwinana area.</p>
South Australia	<p>The launch of the South Australian National Disability Insurance Scheme Trial Site commenced on 1 July 2013 for children aged from birth to five years of age across the state. At the end of the first year of the trial, there were a total of 1,355 active participants. A further 558 children were assessed as eligible and were waiting for their personal support plans to be finalised. The Australian Government and South Australia are currently reviewing the numbers of potential participants for the remaining two years of the trial.</p> <p>South Australia began the rollout of Stage 2 of the Individualised Funding Programme on 1 July 2013, with the final stage commencing in January 2014. The programme aims to give people with disability more choice and control around the services they use and how their funding is spent, while the programme’s Safeguarding and Enablement framework has facilitated participant’s use of supported decision-making options. Approximately 5,000 people with disability who receive support funding are benefiting from the programme.</p> <p>South Australia launched the <i>MySupportAdvisor</i> online resource in April 2013. The resource My Support Advisor website provides an online source of centralised information to better connect disability service users and providers. With the roll-out of the NDIS and Individualised Funding, the resource is assisting a broad range of South Australians with disability to make informed choices about the use of their support budget. Users are also able to rate and post feedback on the disability services they have used, helping others to make better informed choices and enabling service providers to respond, as an opportunity for quality improvement.</p> <p>More information is available at South Australian Government, My Support Advisor website.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
South Australia	<p>In 2012–13 Community Benefit South Australia provided grants to not-for-profit agencies to enhance their capacity to provide personal and community support services to people with disability. This included a grant to Hills Community Options Inc. to employ a part-time fundraiser to explore strategies for generating sustainable revenue.</p>
	<p>In 2013 the South Australian Government Department for Communities and Social Inclusion formed a dedicated Quality and Complaints team to work in partnership with funded non-government disability services to improve safeguarding and services for people with disability. Progress includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Development of a <i>Quality in the South Australian Disability Services Sector</i> discussion paper. ■ New quality and complaints management systems have been implemented to support continuous, systemic disability service improvement in line with the National Standards for Disability Services.
Tasmania	<p>In July 2013 the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) trial commenced in Tasmania for young Tasmanians aged 15–24. During 2013–14 the NDIS provided support for 786 young people with significant disability. Over the next three years, young people with significant and permanent disability will be able to access the scheme when they turn 15 years old. From July 2016, the NDIS will progressively roll out in Tasmania and by July 2019, all eligible residents will be covered. The NDIS directly funds people with disability to choose their supports and providers, enabling greater choice and control over the supports they need to achieve their goals, objectives and aspirations so as to facilitate their social and economic participation.</p>
	<p>The Tasmanian Government completed the initiation phase of a pilot project for self-directed funding, in which eight clients of the Tasmanian Government Department of Health and Human Services — Disability Services commenced the self-management of their individual support packages between July 2012 and August 2014. Participants reported a range of benefits resulting from their participation in the project, including increased control, flexibility, choice, enhanced dignity, empowerment and wellbeing. They were also able to increase the number of hours of support that they receive and the range and types of services and supports. Additional participants have been invited into the programme in 2014–15.</p>
	<p>The Tasmanian Government has provided funding over four years for individual support packages for people with disability who are not part of the Tasmanian NDIS trial cohort. This equates to 12,000 hours of support from people with disability per year. Funding for individual support packages can be self-directed if desired.</p>
	<p>The Tasmanian Government has provided funding over four years (2014–2018) for an autism long-term strategy which includes the development of a continuum of care for people with autism spectrum disorder.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
Tasmania	<p>The Tasmanian Government has funded Carers Tasmania over three years to support the establishment of the Tasmanian Carers Advisory Council under the Tasmanian Carer Policy and Carer Action Plan, which aims to increase recognition of Tasmania's 73,800 carers and support them in their caring role.</p>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>In 2012 Therapy ACT piloted a Therapy Assistant Programme to enhance access to therapy services for students with developmental disability and to support teachers to embed therapy strategies into the school curriculum. The programme enabled therapy assistants to work in schools to implement therapy programmes developed by physiotherapists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists. In 2012, seven schools participated in the highly successful pilot project with more than 270 children receiving therapy services. During the pilot phase there was an 80 per cent success rate for children meeting their goals or improving on standardised testing. The programme was extended in 2013 and 2014 to include preschool students in the initial pilot sites and an additional seven schools each school year.</p> <p>The My Choice ACT pilot, a collaboration between Anglicare and Community Connections, was developed in 2013 to assist 18 participants of a self-directed funding pilot with support, resources, information and advice to enable them to plan and live the life they want. A reference group of people with disability, government and community organisations was established to provide advice and guidance on the implementation of the pilot. Resources were developed to support participants to explore different ways of directing their funding including a good employer guide, personal support plan and budget template and employee handbook. The pilot continued to 31 December 2014 to support participants to transition to self-managed arrangements under the NDIS. More information on the My Choice pilot is available at Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT website.</p> <p>The ACT Government provided funding through Enhanced Service Offer grants to assist people with disability to address unmet need and to prepare them for choice and control under the NDIS. The eligibility for the grants was consistent with the rules for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Grants were available under three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. quality of life 2. aids, equipment or minor modifications 3. flexible supports and services that assist a person with disability to participate in community life or provides their family or other unpaid carers with a break. <p>Of the approximately 2,500 applications, 1,456 people were offered a grant. The grants reached people across disability types and community population groups. Applicants were seen to respond to their needs innovatively and in non-traditional ways. Further information on the grants is available at ACT Government Community Services website.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
Australian Capital Territory	<p>In 2012 and 2013 the ACT Government funded a digital story telling project for nine school leavers with disability. The project provided an opportunity for the young people to capture their own unique stories on a short three to five minute DVD. Participants reflected on their skills, characteristics, interests and dreams. The audio-visual ‘snapshot’ can assist each young person with the goal of ‘telling my story once’. It can also be used as an introductory tool for prospective employers, involvement in activities and connecting with community. The digital stories are available at ACT Government Community Services website.</p> <p>The Strengthening Families Project was co-designed with community and implemented by the ACT Government and project participants in 2013 to improve the effectiveness of the ACT service system and improve outcomes for families with multiple service needs. The project provided increased understanding of the factors influencing the vulnerability of ACT families under four broad social outcomes: healthy communities, educated communities, inclusive communities and safe communities. Further information on the project is available at ACT Government Community Services website.</p>
Northern Territory	<p>In June 2012, the Northern Territory Government Department of Children and Families implemented a Complexity Tool which assists in providing a rating for the complexity of needs for children in care, including disability needs. In conjunction with professional assessments, this helps to determine the level of payment for carers to inform appropriate service provision. For example, all Northern Territory children in out of home care have the complexity tool applied to their circumstances. The introduction of the complexity tool impacts on all Northern Territory children in the care of the Department of Children and Families in a variety of placement types from foster care to residential care.</p> <p>In July 2014 the NDIS trial commenced in the Barkly region. From July 2016, the NDIS will progressively roll out in the Northern Territory and by July 2019, all eligible residents will be covered. The NDIS directly funds people with disability to choose their supports and providers, enabling greater choice and control over the supports they need to achieve their goals, objectives and aspirations so as to facilitate their social and economic participation.</p> <p>In 2011, the Northern Territory Government introduced an Integrated Waitlist that allows public housing applicants to apply for community housing, managed and supported accommodation. Through this one process more housing providers can be accessed which in turn means more housing options, choice of location and type of tenancy.</p> <p>In 2009, the Northern Territory’s Tenancy Sustainability Programme (TSP) was introduced, aimed at improving the capacity of vulnerable people who are eligible for urban public housing, to live independently, avoid entering or re-entering homelessness and achieve social inclusion. The TSP is currently funded under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness until 30 June 2015.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 4 Achievements and Outcomes
Northern Territory	The Northern Territory Government Department of Housing will be commencing a needs assessment tool for housing applicants (new and transfers) that will look at a range of needs, including the needs of people with disability, to ensure appropriate allocation of housing and linkage to support services, where required. Implementation of a suitable tool requires further evaluation and consultation. It is likely that the project will take at least a minimum of 12 months from design to full implementation.

Table 5: Learning and Skills

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Commonwealth</p>	<p>The National Quality Standard (NQS) forms part of the National Quality Framework (NQF), which came in to effect on 1 January 2012. The NQS sets a national benchmark for the quality of education and care services, which are assessed and rated against seven quality areas and receive an overall rating. This rating is helping families of children with disability access a greater level of information to assist in selecting appropriate services for their child. The NQS is being reviewed as part of the broader review of the NQF which is being undertaken in 2014 by the Australian Government and all state and territory governments to ensure the goal of improving quality in child care and early learning services is being met in the most efficient and effective way.</p>
	<p>The Australian Government Department of Education and Training administers the Inclusion and Professional Support Programme (IPSP), which promotes and maintains high quality, inclusive education and care, and improves access to mainstream child care and early learning services for children with additional needs. The programme achieves this by increasing the knowledge and skills of educators, and by building the capacity of services to be inclusive of all children, through providing professional development and support. This can include advice, access to practical support, resources and the Inclusion Support Subsidy.</p> <p>The elements of IPSP that support the inclusion of children with disability are well utilised, with Inclusion Support Agencies assisting approximately 5,200 services to access the Inclusion Support Subsidy during 2013–14. This benefited around 12,000 children with ongoing high support needs. Although outcomes for children with disability are not directly measured under the programme, an Outcomes Reporting Framework is being implemented for 2014–2016 which will gather information at the child care service level about the inclusion of children with additional needs.</p>
	<p>A number of projects delivered under the Australian Apprenticeships Mentoring Package are yet to be completed. The current quantitative data is not sufficient to reliably indicate an increase above the current national average for retention or completion of Australian apprentices, including those with disability. More robust data will become available as projects conclude and final reports are submitted by proponents.</p>
	<p>The University of South Australia’s (UniSA) Digital Enterprise project is creating four high tech spaces. Under the project, two groups of 12 young people with autism spectrum disorder, and two groups of 12 young people with acquired brain injury or other disability, will be supported to make the transition from primary to secondary school and from secondary school to post-school. The young people will participate in sessions that involve collaborative IT activities including gaming, game design, virtual 3D environments, online lessons, and media creation/distribution. Service delivery sites are being established in Melbourne, Adelaide, Darwin and Sydney, and delivery commenced in September 2014.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>The More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative has provided funding to education authorities to undertake activities to build the capacity of schools and teachers to provide a better and more inclusive education for students with disability. A midpoint review of the initiative showed it is providing a strong contribution to improve teacher quality and support in addressing the needs of students with disability. The initiative has been extended by another \$100 million for activities until the end of 2014.</p> <p>Jurisdictions are undertaking individual activities subject to need, while collaboration and information sharing is also a key part of the initiative. For example, Phillips KPA held 15 information sharing sessions across Australia in 2013, with an average of 50 participants at each session. A further 14 information sharing sessions took place in metropolitan and regional areas from May to August 2014 and a final ‘capstone’ event will be held in May 2015.</p> <p>The initiative also includes the development of online training material to improve understanding of the obligations of education providers under the <i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i>, and online resource material for school staff, students, parents and carers. These modules have been progressively released throughout 2014.</p> <p>In April 2012, the Australian Government and all state and territory governments agreed to work towards the full implementation of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability by 2015. The data will provide more reliable information and will enable all governments to better target and more consistently support students with disability. The data collection commenced in 2013, with approximately 20 per cent of schools participating. In 2014 over 80 per cent of schools participated, with all schools in Australia expected to take part in the 2015 collection. It is anticipated that de-identified school level data on students with disability collected in 2015 will be made available from 2016 subject to data quality.</p> <p>The Education Council Joint Working Group to Provide Advice on Reform for Students with Disability is overseeing the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability. The Joint Working Group comprises representatives from all levels of government, the Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA), the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>The Australian Government Department of Education and Training National Disability Coordination Officer Programme (NDCO) assists people with disability to access and participate in tertiary education and subsequent employment by funding provider organisations such as universities, TAFEs or NGOs to employ a national network of 31 full-time NDCOs. The programme aims to reduce barriers and facilitate smooth transitions for people with disability, as well as building links and coordinating services between the education, training and employment sectors. It also raises awareness amongst schools, training providers, universities, community and employer organisations of the needs and capabilities of people with disability and builds their capability to support people with disability. An evaluation of the NDCO programme conducted in 2011 by Phillips KPA found that it makes a unique contribution to addressing the needs of people with disability by targeting systemic barriers to participation in tertiary education.</p>
	<p>The More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative has included a specific output to provide additional support to students with disability either transitioning from school into further study or work, or between stages of schooling. In jurisdictions undertaking this output, specific transition activities are facilitating linkages with the greater community, providing students with disability greater access to further education, employment and mainstream community agencies.</p>
	<p>The National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions (2010–2013) contributed to improved school attainment and post-school transitions. The National Partnership comprised a number of elements, including the maximising engagement, attainment and successful transitions, School Business Community Partnership Brokers, Youth Connections and national career development initiatives.</p> <p>During the period of the National Partnership’s operation, there has been an increase in the participation of young people in education and training, as well as Year 12 attainment. As at 2013, Year 12 or equivalent attainment for all students is at 86.7 per cent, while the proportion of 15–19 year olds participating in full-time education and training has increased from *76.4 per cent in 2009 to *80.9 per cent in 2013.</p> <p><i>*Survey of education and work 6227.0 May 2009 and May 2013</i></p> <p>Note: 2014 data is not available until December 2014.</p>
	<p>The Youth Connections programme has provided individual support services to more than 87,500 young people from January 2010 to 31 October 2014. Of these, 4.5 per cent or 3,971 were identified as having a disability and around 29.7 per cent, or 25,987, were diagnosed with or suspected of having mental health issues. About 65.6 per cent of young people with disability and 64.5 per cent of those with mental health issues re-engaged in education, training or employment.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>In August 2012, the <i>Review of the Disability Standards for Education 2005</i> report, and the Australian Government response, were released. In response, Commonwealth, state and territory Education Ministers have agreed to work collaboratively to address the school recommendations of the review. In 2013, materials on the Standards were developed and are available at Australian Government Department of Education and Training website. Engagement occurred on the development of material through the Joint Working Group to Provide Advice on Reform for Students with Disability, the More Support for Students with Disabilities Implementation Working Group and the former Schools Disability Advisory Council.</p>
	<p>The Early Years Learning Framework is a national curriculum framework implemented as part of the National Quality Framework (NQF), which commenced on 1 January 2012. The Early Years Learning Framework is inclusive, recognises the diverse abilities and needs of individual children, and provides early childhood educators with a framework to help plan for individual children's needs within a group setting. A review of the NQF is being undertaken by the Australian Government and all state and territory governments in 2014. The review will ensure the goal of improving quality in education and care services is being met in the most efficient and effective way; whilst in scope, the Early Years Learning Framework is not central to the review.</p>
	<p>The current National Assessment Programme — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing regime ensures students with disability can participate through adjustments to support their access to the tests. Adjustments for students with disability for NAPLAN testing should be determined in accordance with the National Protocols for Test Administration on a case by case basis by the school together with the parent/carer and relevant test administration authority to ensure adjustments are made to reflect adjustments in their classrooms. Examples of the application of these adjustments can be found in a set of 'scenarios' is available at National Assessment Programme website.</p> <p>The Australian Government is also committed to ensuring the needs of all students are taken into account in the design of moving NAPLAN online. The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority is currently investigating how the needs of students with disability can also be taken into account in the development of NAPLAN adaptive online testing.</p>
	<p>As of May 2014 five cohorts of participants have graduated from the Leaders for Tomorrow Programme.</p> <p>The Leaders for Tomorrow programme ended on 30 June 2014. Over 200 people with disability participated in the programme. This programme encouraged people with disability to take active leadership roles in business, community and government, or in their chosen field of interest through mentoring and leadership development opportunities. Leaders for Tomorrow participants have become better equipped to contribute as leaders in Australia's future. Most of the key performance targets for the programme were met or exceeded.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
	<p>The Australian Government Department of Education and Training's Higher Education Disability Support Programme (DSP) helps remove barriers to higher education for students with disability by funding eligible universities for some high cost educational support services and equipment, by encouraging universities to attract and support students with disability, and by funding the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training (ADECT) website. The ADECT provides information and resources on inclusive teaching and learning practices for people with disability. In 2012, nearly 6,000 students with disability accessed equipment and educational support made available by DSP funding.</p>
<p>New South Wales</p>	<p>The NSW Government Department of Education and Communities provides a wide range of services and programmes that support more than 90,000 students with disability in NSW public schools K–12. Around 80 per cent of students with disability are enrolled in mainstream classes and schools, reflecting the preferences of their parents and carers.</p>
	<p>The NSW Government Department of Education and Communities has, since 2012, provided all 2,091 mainstream NSW Public Schools with a specialist Learning and Support Teacher allocation to work directly with students with additional learning needs and their classroom teachers.</p>
	<p>Between 2013 and 2014, more than 44,000 principals, teachers and support staff in NSW public schools completed new accredited training on the <i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i>. Between 2011 and 2014 more than 10,500 staff completed accredited training to extend their knowledge and skills in supporting the education needs of students with disability.</p>
	<p>TAFE NSW is supporting the transition of students with disability into vocational and other training. In 2013 approximately 57,000 enrolments (or 10 per cent of total enrolments) were students with disability. In 2013 almost 16,500 students with disability (or over 7 per cent of total graduates) graduated from TAFE NSW. TAFE NSW is currently working with the non-government sector to increase apprenticeship opportunities for people with disability and provide pre-apprenticeship training.</p>
<p>Victoria</p>	<p>The Abilities Based Learning and Education Support (ABLES) resource for students with disability has been provided to all Victorian Government schools. Professional learning to support use of this tool is now available for schools. A project has started to adapt ABLES tools to support transition to school for children with disability.</p>
	<p>Fifteen schools have had additional training and staffing to better meet the learning and development needs of children and young people with autism spectrum disorder. Autism spectrum disorder: planning successful transitions now has an early childhood module. Early childhood intervention professionals have received training to deliver workshops to early childhood professionals and parents throughout Victoria.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
Victoria	Victorian Government schools can access a range of professional learning opportunities online including Inclusion Online ('Understanding autism spectrum disorders', 'Speech, language and communication needs', 'Dyslexia and significant difficulties in reading' and 'Hearing loss'). As at August 2014 the Inclusion Online training had been completed by more than 5,300 school staff.
	Stage two implementation of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability is underway in Victorian Government schools. Currently, 75 per cent of Victorian Government schools and a number of schools in the non-government schooling sector are involved. Implementation of stages two and three with all Victorian Government schools participating in the data collection will take place by 2015.
	Strengthened Pathways Planning was developed by the Victorian Government Department of Education and Training and aims to prepare young people with disability for a successful future beyond school. It includes four customised resources: Engaging parents in career conversations framework, career action plans, R U Ready Student Profile and Workplace learning. These resources are now available on the Victorian Government Department of Education and Training website.
	Every year 200 young people with disability are supported to develop work-related skills through the Transition to Employment (TTE) programme. TTE has continued to offer support for young people with disability who are transitioning from school to work or training as part of the Futures for Young Adults (FFYA) programme. Guidelines for FFYA and TTE for young people with disability are currently being reviewed and updated.
	The learning resource <i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i> is available online to all Victorian Government schools with a module directly targeting educational leaders. This has been undertaken by over 1,300 teachers in Victorian Government schools since June 2013.
	Funding was provided for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ a pilot of a Fast-Track leadership development programme for 18 people with disability ■ one Williamson Community Leadership Programme disability scholarship ■ a Disability Leadership Community of Practice ■ LEAD Barwon.
Queensland	In 2013, Queensland implemented online resources to raise awareness of vocational education and training (VET) educators and VET managers about the Inclusive Learning Framework. A suite of comprehensive inclusive practice training modules for VET educators and VET managers and administration staff was also developed and implemented in 2014.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p>Following the 2011 review of supports available for children with disability, the Specialised Equipment and Resources Programme for Kindergarten Services 2012–2015 was implemented. This programme provides specialised equipment and resources as well as professional support for inclusive practice and enhanced educational outcomes for children with disability. The Disability Support Funding Programme available to approved sessional kindergarten providers to support children with disability continues to be implemented. This programme provides kindergarten services with a grant per child with a diagnosed disability, to assist that child’s inclusion in an approved kindergarten programme.</p> <p>In 2013–2014, through the More Support for Students with Disabilities National Partnership, Queensland has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ provided support to school principals and school leadership teams to strengthen teachers’ ability to assist students with disability and continue to build more inclusive schools through a focus on excellence in achieving the Disability Education Standards ■ supported school staff to assess the current learning level of students with disability, adapt the teaching curriculum to suit their current level of ability, and report on student progress ■ strengthened teacher aides’ skills in supporting students with disability, including teacher aides working as educational interpreters for deaf/hearing impaired students ■ provided an online planning tool for managing data related to students with disability ■ developed two centres of expertise in the educational needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder to provide expert support to schools ■ developed a mental health hub of capability to provide support to schools in supporting students’ mental health and wellbeing ■ developed training for teachers to strengthen their skills in the use of assistive technology in the classroom. <p>All teachers and students in Queensland state schools and TAFE Institutes were provided with access to a range of web-based teaching and learning resources, compliant with the Queensland Consistent User Experience Standard that can be used and adapted for those with diverse abilities. Further information about the Standard is available at the Queensland Government Web Centre website.</p> <p>Work was done to develop and promote the potential of mobile devices to support training delivery specifically to assist in the development of foundation skills and to enhance accessibility for learners. This included launch of the QSchools app; the online VET resource <i>Love Apptually: Apps to support learning</i>; and provider, teacher and student participation in a professional learning webinar series promoting use of apps for mobile devices.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p>In October 2012, the former Queensland Minister for Education, Training and Employment released vocational education and training (VET) <i>Inclusive Learning: A Way Forward</i> — response to the national aspiration for an equitable and inclusive VET system. Under the pre-qualified supplier (PQS) framework, inclusive practice must be evidenced by (a) staff engaging in regular professional development to attain relevant knowledge and skills, and (b) inclusive practice principles applied to its training and assessment practices to support the different needs of learners.</p>
	<p>Since 2012, <i>My Future: My Life</i> has delivered a Queensland Government early intervention strategy to assist young people with disability in years 11 and 12 plan their future career goals such as employment, education and/or community participation. <i>My Future: My Life</i> has been extended to assist students at an earlier age from year eight to commence planning and trialling options for their future. In addition more than 350 students with disability who finish school in 2014 have been offered school supports to transition from school to young adulthood through Support for School Leavers.</p>
	<p>On 8 June 2013, the Queensland Government released <i>Great skills. Real opportunities.</i> a five-year action plan to reform the state’s further education and training sector.</p> <p>The release of the 2014-15 Annual VET Investment Plan (the plan) builds upon the <i>Great skills. Real opportunities.</i> as it focuses government investment in training to meet the skills needs of industry and the economy, and enables Queenslanders to be trained for current and future employment opportunities. From 1 July 2014, the Queensland Government Department of Education and Training (DET) implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Certificate 3 Guarantee — provides eligible Queenslanders access to a government subsidised training place in priority training areas. Learners with disability are concessional students under the programme. The government pays a higher subsidy rate to encourage and support participation by concessional learners. For learners that require additional support the Certificate 3 Guarantee programme offers lower level qualifications and foundation skills training. ■ Higher Level Skills programme — provides eligible Queenslanders with access to a subsidised training place in selected Certificate IV and above qualifications, or priority skill sets critical to productivity in the workplace. The programme aims to assist individuals to secure employment in a critical occupation, progress in their chosen career or transition to university to continue their studies. ■ The apprenticeship system in Queensland — has been made more flexible and attractive for all Queenslanders. To boost the uptake of apprenticeships, the Queensland Government has committed \$86 million to deliver 10,000 additional apprenticeships over six years.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p>Aligned to the fully contestable training market, Skills Disability Support (SDS) was implemented on 1 July 2014, replacing the vocational education and training (VET) Disability Support Service. SDS provides registered training organisations pre-approved as pre-qualified suppliers (PQS) by Queensland Government Department of Education and Training, with access to specialised equipment, software and services to assist their learners. SDS leverages the opportunities in the reformed VET sector by providing state-wide support to almost 500 PQS increasing learner choice of training location and the provision of support.</p>
	<p>The Queensland Government Department of Education and Training provides training as required to support the use of assistive technologies through the Skills Disability Support (SDS) service which commenced 1 July 2014 (replacing the VET Disability Support Service).</p>
	<p>Improved access to information for students and families of students with disability through the updating of the Queensland Government Department of Education and Training disability website to be released in 2015 and the updating of other key documents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Education for children with disability – a guide for parents</i> ■ <i>Transition to post-school for students with disability</i> ■ <i>Autism Spectrum Disorder – Online Resource Transition Package.</i>
	<p>The Queensland Government Department of Justice and Attorney-General provides literacy and numeracy education to all eligible prisoners. Education is provided through contracts with external registered training organisations who adapt the programmes to suit the needs of individual participants, including those with disability.</p>
Western Australia	<p>A Family Leadership forum held in 2012 brought together families of people with disability to explore family leadership including families leading each other and families influencing and leading systemic change. The event was supported by the Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission which also provided grants supported by Developmental Disability WA to promote and develop family to family support and family leadership. For example, a mentoring project for family to family support at times of critical need was trialled at the Angelman Syndrome Association WA (ASAWA).</p>
	<p>The Western Australia Post-School Options programme for school leavers with disability was revised. A localised approach of supporting school leavers by connecting individuals with their local area coordinator to examine pathways from school into employment or other activities has been established. In its first year, anecdotal feedback was the process was easier to use and much more beneficial as a result of the enhanced relationship approach.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Western Australia</p>	<p>Many people with disability experience personal and social benefits by being involved in cultural and arts activities. The fourth International Arts and Health Conference was hosted in Fremantle in 2012 and, for the first time, featured inclusive pre-conference arts workshops for people with disability and a range of disability-related conference presentations.</p>
	<p>The first curated art exhibition for artists with disability in Western Australia, <i>Here&Now13</i>, was held at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at the University of Western Australia in July 2013. It featured the development of 11 established West Australian artists with disability. An emerging curator — selected and inducted in New York under the Western Australia Government Department of Culture and the Arts emerging curators programme — coordinated the development and mentoring of artists and the exhibition programme.</p>
	<p>The Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission coordinated a School to Adult Life Transition Interface Committee (SALTIC) to improve the supports available for students with disability to transition from school to adult life. The aim was to provide information or resources to assist teachers, students and families to understand pathways to post-school education and employment options and ways to prepare for this transition. SALTIC comprised representatives from high schools, post-secondary education, disability employment agencies, Australian Government funding bodies and the Commission, and focuses on improving communication between agencies and problem-solving common issues.</p>
<p>South Australia</p>	<p>South Australia has developed the Better Pathways programme to improve educational outcomes and post-school transition for eligible students with disability and learning difficulties. The programme assists young people to plan effectively for their transition from school and connects them to the appropriate aspirational pathways. It also promotes service collaboration between schools, disability and health services, and further education and training agencies. To date over 325 young people with disability have registered with the programme.</p>
	<p>The South Australian Government's Skills for All initiative commenced in July 2012 and aims to increase the number of South Australians undertaking training and gaining employment. Vocational education and training (VET) students with disability are a key target for Skills for All Learner Support Services, being trialled for a three year period from 2011–12 to 2013–14. Learner Support Services provides case management support to VET students with complex barriers to sustain and complete their training. In the first year there were 9,400 course enrolments by students with disability enrolled in VET, a 38 per cent increase when compared to the previous year. Across 2011–12 to 2012–13, 1,215 people were provided with Learning Support Services, of which 35 per cent of those supported were students with disability.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>South Australia</p>	<p>The Abilities for All programme was established by the South Australian Government in partnership with Bedford Group and Community Centres SA, supporting people with disability to complete accredited qualifications and to gain employment. The programme achieves a 90 per cent completion rate and in late 2012 Abilities for All won the Community Pathways to VET Award at the Australian Training Awards. In 2012–13, more than 160 people with disability graduated through the programme.</p>
	<p>The South Australian <i>youthconnect</i> grants are for initiatives that support young people aged 17–19 years with disability to transition from school to post-school training, education and/or employment. As part of this initiative, the Leaping Out project was developed to provide a resource kit to support young people with significant disability in transitioning from school. The resource kit was trialled with success, assisting 20 young people with disability who transitioned from school at the end of 2013 and their families.</p>
	<p>In 2012–13 a Community Benefit SA grant was awarded to the Cora Barclay Centre to support a weekly pilot programme Foundations for Learning which aims to prepare children for school while also supporting parents through mentoring, peer networking, education and access to resources.</p>
	<p>The South Australian Government Department for Education and Child Development is taking a range of actions to increase access by children and young people with disability to mainstream preschools, schools and special option settings. In 2013–14, 3,703 preschool children with special needs and/or disability received additional support while 14,760 students in primary and secondary schools with disability received additional resourcing through the Disability Support Programme. Ten new options were established within mainstream primary and secondary schools within South Australia, including autism intervention programmes, disability units and special education classes.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Tasmania</p>	<p>The Tasmanian Government has established an independent taskforce to examine current provision and support for students living with disability; review evidence based research, and make recommendations to improve the educational support provided to these students and their families.</p> <p>The Ministerial Taskforce — Improved Support for Students Living with a Disability will review current guiding principles, educational practices and models of delivery at state, national and international level, particularly in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ parents being able to choose the right school for their child; ■ learning strategies and the provision of education materials; ■ how best to report on educational outcomes for students with disability; ■ disability awareness training for teachers; and ■ transitional planning. <p>The Taskforce will identify the strengths of current models of delivery and identify areas for improvement that are supported by evidence based practice and reflect efficient use of resources.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government, through the More Support for Students with Disabilities National Partnership, has been able to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Training for all school staff to improve understanding of their obligations under the <i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i> and how to meet those obligations. ■ Training for teachers to build their skills in special education. ■ Assistive technology to support the teaching and participation of students with disability. ■ Training for teachers to strengthen their skills in the use of assistive technology within the classroom. ■ Additional support for students with disability to transition effectively between the stages of schooling and/or from schooling into further education, training or employment. ■ Support for the implementation of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
Tasmania	<p>Tasmania, in collaboration with other state jurisdictions and the University of Canberra, have developed a number of online interactive learning modules on the <i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i>, outlining responsibilities and implications for school practice. The modules available to schools are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Early Childhood — prior to full time school; ■ Early Childhood — school; ■ Primary Schools; ■ Junior Secondary schools; ■ Senior Secondary schools; ■ Educational Leaders; ■ Educational Assistants; and ■ Parent and Communities (will be released early in 2015). <p>These modules have been used through principal networks and with school staff.</p> <p>This eLearning is targeted to meet the different learning needs of key client groups (school teachers and administrative staff, educational leaders, and parents and caregivers) with a common core of content material and is designed to develop the learners practical skills and strategies in regard to meeting the Disability Standards for Education through interactive, experiential learning such as scenario-based problem solving. The resource is designed so that learning can be delivered at several levels to meet the needs of individual participants, schools and system authorities.</p> <p>At the end of 2014, 4,792 Tasmanian Government Department of Education staff had enrolled in and completed online modules.</p> <p>The Empowering Diversity in our Schools programme was offered over a number of years for school leaders and aspiring leaders. This programme focused on current research and practice that builds inclusive school cultures linked to the school improvement agenda; the implementation of the Disability Standards for Education; the use of the tool <i>The Index for Inclusion</i>; and work relating to the effective use of support staff and paraprofessionals in inclusive schools. In addition, four days of professional learning have been provided to support teachers in each school to enhance their capacity to personalise teaching and learning programmes through the Australian Curriculum for students with disability.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Tasmania</p>	<p>A license has been purchased that allows all staff within the Tasmanian Government Department of Education to access a range of online professional learning modules across a range of disability areas. Twenty-three staff including specialist support staff and class teachers were trained as facilitators to support the use of online disability modules within schools in 2012. Since then using the cascade model the number of facilitators has increased to 52 with a number of staff having undergone training to facilitate multiple modules. To date, there have been 933 enrolments in modules. These modules are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Managing behaviour difficulties ■ Dyslexia ■ Speech and language communication ■ Autism spectrum disorder ■ Motor coordination ■ Vision Impairment ■ Hearing loss.
	<p>Professional learning has been provided for Tasmanian Government Department of Education staff in the use of assistive technologies for communication and literacy development for students with disability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Staff in each Learning Service have been offered iPads in education training courses to facilitate greater understanding regarding the use of iPads in educational settings. ■ Specialist training was provided to vision resource teachers to enhance the knowledge and skills of this group in the use of the technologies. ■ All teachers of the deaf have attended a two day workshop to support their understanding of the use of iPads in support of students with hearing impairment. ■ Specialist communication apps were provided to 93 students across the State. ■ Sixty-eight speech and language pathologists undertook training in the use of communication apps with non-verbal students.
	<p>The Tasmanian Government has provided additional assistive technologies for students with disability. Current technology is being used to support students with disability in both special and mainstream schools to access and engage in the broader curriculum but especially in literacy learning and augmented communication.</p> <p>Over 1,000 iPads have been purchased and allocated for individual student use; 14 interactive whiteboards were allocated to special schools and a range of assistive technologies were purchased for students with vision impairment in mainstream schools including Braille display devices, iPads, portable magnification devices and upgraded JAWs and Duxbury licenses. Additional iPads were also provided to a number of students with hearing impairment.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
Tasmania	<p>The Tasmanian Government is encouraging the development of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for students with disability. All schools have developed IEPs for students with disability and those with high and additional learning needs. Staff have been provided with training and support to develop IEPs in line with Australian Curriculum.</p> <p>A Curriculum Officer, Students with Disabilities has been appointed to support staff in their understandings and facilitate professional learning relating to the development of IEPs.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government Department of Education has developed a suite of “Good Teaching” resources to support staff. To date there are four booklets in the series with a fifth due for release early in 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Quality Assessment Practices Guiding Learning ■ Differentiated Classroom Practices Learning for All ■ Curriculum Mapping and planning for Learning ■ Inclusive Schools — Disability Focus. <p>A pilot autism specific satellite unit has been initiated to provide students with autism the best opportunities to learn and reach their full potential while still being included in a mainstream school environment. A purpose built classroom has been constructed within an existing primary school site and a professional learning programme has been implemented with all school staff in relation to Autism Spectrum Disorder.</p>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>In 2012 Disability ACT, in partnership with the ACT Government Education and Training Directorate, trialled the first phase of the Everyone Everyday Disability Awareness programme in seven primary schools across the ACT. Following the pilot an evaluation was undertaken by the University of Canberra and a second expanded trial was conducted. The programme, which is a teaching resource for primary schools, promotes inclusion and the important role each individual has in taking action to create inclusive communities. The programme is linked to the Australian Curriculum and consists of 35 lessons, comprehensive teacher notes and additional classroom and whole school resources.</p> <p>By the end of the 2013 school year, Everyone Everyday had been implemented in 10 schools involving 86 teachers and 2,769 students. An additional five schools implemented the programme in Semester 2, 2014. Professional development sessions using the Everyone Everyday resources have been provided to 232 teachers in both participating and non-participating schools. The Everyone Everyday programme was announced as a finalist in the 2014 National Disability Awards.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Australian Capital Territory</p>	<p>The ACT Government Education and Training Directorate has developed the ACT Engaging Schools Framework as the key platform for including students with disability. The framework describes four underpinning principles and four areas of good practice that all ACT public schools can use to become more engaging places for students. The underpinning principles are: ensure every student belongs to their school; engage everybody; focus on success; and respond to context. The four areas of good practice are: strengthening relationships; valuing, understanding and having high expectations of every student; and building an engaging school culture.</p> <p>Network Student Engagement Teams in each school network have been established to support schools to meet the diverse needs of students. This includes a Disability Education Partner in each team. Training packages for Learning Support Assistants (LSAs), with a discrete disability component, are finalised and are being delivered.</p> <p>The Directorate has had a focus on building the capacity of staff in schools to support students with disability to access and participate in education on the same basis as their peers. The Directorate has collaborated with the University of Canberra to develop online learning packages for the <i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i> for staff in all ACT public schools. The online learning supports improved understanding of legal obligations of education providers to make reasonable adjustments for students with disability in schools. A total of 1,010 staff have completed the online learning modules. This model has been adopted across other states and territories.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ over 440 teachers have completed a series of Disability Education Online Learning Programmes, with another 420 in the process of completing ■ all 86 public schools have a Disability Education Coordinator in place ■ 98 per cent of ACT public school students with disability accessing special education in mainstream and specialist schools had Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) developed including Transition Action Plans that detail transition and careers support ■ the Directorate has partnered with ACT Health in the Healthcare Access at School programme to support school attendance for students with complex healthcare needs, many of whom have disability.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Australian Capital Territory</p>	<p>In 2013, the ACT Government provided further resources to support students with disability to develop their post-school vocational, learning, social placement and volunteering opportunities. For school leavers with high and complex needs who graduated between 2008–2013 prioritised access to grants enabled them to increase their post-school engagement and opportunities. A total of 65 school leavers were provided with resources to purchase additional supports and services intended to increase their opportunity to meaningfully engage in aspects of community life including vocational, financial, social and recreational.</p>
<p>Northern Territory</p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government has introduced a Computers for the Community Programme which supports community organisations in the Northern Territory by gifting surplus computer equipment. This initiative provides support for education, training and skills development for people with disability and it also supports organisations to deliver support services for people with disability. The equipment is provided on the condition that it must be consistent with the recipient’s core community activities and will ultimately benefit people with disability, their families and carers. The scheme takes into consideration equity issues and acknowledges the claims of socially and economically disadvantaged groups and individuals. Northern Territory community organisations that have been assisted to date include: Down Syndrome Association of the Northern Territory; Brien Holden Vision Institute; Kintore Street School; Arthritis Foundation NT; Alzheimer’s Australia NT; Top End Mental Health; Riding for the Disabled Alice Springs; and DeafNT.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government’s Equity Training Grants provide resources targeted at increasing training and employment opportunities for a range of equity groups including people with disability. The programmes funded under these grants are designed to improve training and employment outcomes of disadvantaged groups in the Northern Territory and utilise links to existing services, establishing partnerships and collaborative arrangements with key stakeholders. The programme outcomes differ and are dependent on its design, however, the aim is to equip vulnerable people, including those with disability, with base skills to enable them to undertake further training or gain employment.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government provides funding for Apprenticeship/ Traineeship and Skills Development Training for people with disability and people working in the disability care industry, through educational facilities and on-the-job training. This training directly benefits people with disability. The training outcomes data is collected annually.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government is working with schools to modify curricula for students who require not only a life skills focus but to allow assessment modification for students looking at further education. The intent is to link students with disability with specific National Disability Coordination Officers across the country through the Individual Transition process to assist in the transition into further education. This will assist students entering further education and also provide the support they will require in the future.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 5 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Northern Territory</p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government is reviewing the Australian Curriculum to align appropriate curriculum, monitoring processes and ensure resources are available for all students with disability. A curriculum framework document is being drafted to align the Australian Curriculum with specific resources to assist teachers track the progress of all students with disability. This resource is still in the development phase. It focuses on students with disability who progress slowly through curriculum milestones.</p>
	<p>The Northern Territory Government has developed professional learning for the <i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i>. The Northern Territory Government is continuing its negotiations with the University of Canberra to acquire a quality product and all schools across the Northern Territory are encouraged to plan for this professional learning in 2014. In addition, a Moodle (online) course has been developed ready for implementation in 2014.</p>
	<p>The Northern Territory assists young people aged 15–21 to transition from education to employment and provide training from 15 years onwards. Through Individual Transition Plans, students and families are given the opportunity to consider all aspects of adult life from an early age by being introduced to agencies and people who will have a key role in their future. The Individual Transition Plan process ensures students are introduced to disability employment agencies, training organisations and representatives from further education, to discuss pathways on an individual level. They learn what support is available and can make an informed choice.</p>
	<p>In the Northern Territory, schools may apply for Remote Schools Pathway grants to build a social enterprise, self-employment and community participation programmes within rural and remote communities. Successful programmes provide students with an opportunity to access meaningful programmes each day after school. Students with disability develop in all aspects, as contributing members of the community, enabling their family members to continue with their own day-to-day activities.</p>

Table 6: Health and wellbeing

Jurisdiction	Outcome 6 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Commonwealth</p>	<p>The Australian Government Department of Health has been working with Medicare Locals to ensure that the Board membership is representative of the broader community demographic, including the increased representation of people with disability on universal health bodies.</p> <p>All Medicare Locals are required to complete an annual needs assessment of their communities, which includes consulting with a wide range of primary health care providers and the community including people with disability and their sector representatives.</p> <p>From 1 July 2015, Medicare Locals will be replaced with a smaller number of Primary Health Networks (PHNs) who will be responsible for improving patient outcomes in their local areas by ensuring that services across the primary, community and secondary sectors align and work together in the interest of patients.</p>
	<p>The Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs has released a 10-year Veteran Mental Health Strategy 2013-2023 to guide the provision of mental health care to support veterans and their families. The strategy was developed in consultation with the veteran and ex-service community and a public consultation process was also undertaken. The strategy aims to improve the quality of life for members of the veteran and ex-service community through a person-centred approach to preventing mental illness if possible, recovery from mental illness if it does occur, and optimising mental health and wellbeing.</p>
	<p>In June 2013, the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs commenced a telemonitoring trial using broadband and wireless internet technologies to enable eligible veterans and war widows/widowers with chronic conditions to have their vital health signs monitored regularly. The purpose of the trial is to assess whether early clinical intervention will support participants better in the community and allow them to stay in their own homes for longer, and that the technology can be incorporated into the current general practice model of care. The trial will recruit up to 300 participants who live in specific sites across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. The trial will conclude in June 2015.</p>
	<p>The Australian Government Department of Human Services continues to pay Medicare benefits for services provided under the Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Scheme and Better Access Initiative for people with Chronic Disease Management Plans.</p> <p>The Department educates health providers on new initiatives and the correct billing of Medicare to assist with determining eligibility for Medicare benefits when providing treatment to patients including people with disability.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 6 Achievements and Outcomes
Commonwealth	<p>The Australian Government Department of Health's Hearing Services Programme supports research that contributes to the development of improved policies and service delivery and/or better identifies the needs of the community in relation to hearing loss. In 2014, funding was provided for research projects investigating work-related hearing loss and early indicators of noise induced injury. Further hearing loss prevention research proposals were invited by the Department through the National Health and Medical Research Council funding schemes for Centres of Research Excellence, Project Grants and Partnership Project grant schemes. Successful applicants will be announced in late 2014.</p> <p>To date, funding has been allocated to 17 Hearing Loss Prevention projects; 10 of which have been completed and seven that are due for completion between June 2016 and 2017. Outcomes of completed projects are reported on the Australian Government Department of Health and HEARing Cooperative Research Centre websites.</p> <p>The Australian Government Department of Health is working to reduce the impact of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) through provision of better diagnosis and management, development of best practice interventions and services to support high-risk women through the implementation of key measures under the National FASD Action Plan.</p>
New South Wales	<p>In 2011, NSW Health developed a tool for gathering information when people come to hospital to receive treatment, in order to better plan their discharge from hospital. This tool is particularly relevant for people with disability as it gathers information on self-care needs and highlights potential risks. The tool, as part of the Care Coordination: Planning from Admission to Transfer of Care in NSW Public Hospitals Policy, will be reviewed in 2016.</p> <p>NSW Health is working with NSW Government Department of Family and Community Services and the non-government sector to provide stable and secure accommodation for people with mental illness through the Housing and Accommodation and Support Initiative. NSW has funded over 1,100 packages including 100 packages for Aboriginal people.</p> <p>The NSW Government Ministry of Health and Transport for NSW are examining ways to collaborate to improve the provision of non-emergency health-related transport. NSW Health is implementing the Non-Emergency Patient Transport trial in Northern Sydney and an improved booking system spanning the Hunter to Illawarra in 2014.</p>
New South Wales	<p>A centralised booking and dispatching service for Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT) services is being implemented to reduce delays and improve coordination of transport fleets. NSW Government Ministry of Health implemented the NEPT Greater Metropolitan Booking Hub in Parramatta in May 2014. Northern Sydney and Central Coast Local Health Districts (LHDs) will transition NEPT booking and scheduling functions to the Booking Hub from mid-August. It is planned that all greater metropolitan LHDs will transition by early 2015.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 6 Achievements and Outcomes
Victoria	Funding has been allocated for the new 42-bed rehabilitation unit for people with a severe acquired brain injury at Caulfield Hospital. The Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation service opened on 5 September 2014.
	A range of cancer screening activities and initiatives have been undertaken, including resource development, training for health and support workers, and initiatives to encourage screening by people with disability.
	The Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services worked with Medicare Locals around shared priorities, including improved coordination of services and clearer clinical pathways. The Department is now working with the Australian Government on the transition to Primary Health Networks to ensure that good work, including work addressing service fragmentation, currently underway is not lost.
	The Mental Health Community Supports Services and Alcohol and other drugs recommissioning was implemented in 2014. Both have a central intake, assessment and planning function for each catchment, which will assist earlier identification and improved access to the right treatment for people with a mental illness, substance use issues and disability. In Services Connect sites each person or family has a comprehensive needs identification completed and works with the Services Connect Key Worker to develop a plan that identifies their goals and the actions required to achieve these goals. Additionally, the Service Connect Key Worker helps people build their capabilities to improve their lives.
	The data collection for the second Victorian Population Health Survey of People with an Intellectual Disability has been completed. The data is being analysed.
	The Primary Care Partnerships (PCP) programme logic includes community and consumer empowerment, through which PCPs are required to support agencies to deliver person-centred models of care, implement strategies that build consumers' capacity to engage with services and ensure access to appropriate information. The Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services is currently working with Deakin University on the Optimising Health Literacy in Victoria – Health Literacy project, which has developed a toolkit for identifying the health literacy needs of a local community and implementing responses.
	The Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria has been contracted by several Primary Care Partnerships to provide training to GPs and community health services about the health conditions relevant to people with disability. GPs and health providers have attended information sessions on how to best use the Medicare Benefits Schedule for people with disability. An annual integrated chronic disease forum raises awareness of GPs and health services about health conditions relevant to people with disability.

Jurisdiction	Outcome 6 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Queensland</p>	<p>The Comprehensive Health Assessment Programme (CHAP) enables improved identification and documentation of health needs of adults with an intellectual disability. CHAP is available to every adult with an intellectual disability in Queensland who receives a Disability Services delivered or funded service. CHAP has been developed by the Queensland Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disability as a downloadable two-part book completed by individuals, family members, carers, GPs and staff of government and funded non-government service providers on behalf of a person with an intellectual disability</p> <p>Further information is available at Queensland Government Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services website.</p> <p>An evaluation of CHAP showed there are positive benefits of using a health assessment tool for adults with an intellectual disability. Individuals in this cohort often have a reduced lifespan and a number of unrecognised or poorly managed medical conditions, inadequate health promotion and disease prevention. CHAP has substantially increased GP attention to the health needs of adults with intellectual disability and has resulted in more disease detection.</p> <p>As at October 2014, 240 approved non-government funded providers are registered to access CHAP. Each of these organisations may provide the current version of the tool to all their adult clients with an intellectual disability. The tool has the potential to reach a large number of clients, across the state, and improve health outcomes.</p> <p>The Joint Action Plan: Transition of long-stay younger people with disability from Queensland public health facilities is a joint initiative of the Queensland Government’s Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, the Department of Health and the Department of Housing and Public Works. The plan supports the transition of people with disability aged 18 to under 65 years out of Queensland public healthcare facilities to community living options with appropriate supports over five years, wherever possible. The plan was approved in September 2013 and commits departments to work collaboratively to address this issue. Person-centred planning through the Joint Action Plan will support younger people with disability and their family members to prepare for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 6 Achievements and Outcomes
Queensland	<p>In 2011 Metro North Hospital and Health Service (HHS) developed the Disability Services Systems Interface Action Plan to improve the transition of young people with disability from public health settings to appropriate community accommodation in the Metro North HHS area.</p> <p>An interface protocol has been in use since 2009 and is designed to improve coordination, facilitation and transition points between health, community, aged care and disability service systems. Procedures underpinning the protocol outline a standardised approach for the management and case coordination of adults with disability who are inpatients of Metro North HHS acute and subacute facilities. The principles behind the protocol and approach to managing this client group have been adopted at state level as part of the Joint Action Plan between the Queensland Government's Department of Health, the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and the Department of Housing and Public Works.</p> <p>In October 2013, the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (HHS) implemented the Far North Queensland Transition Project with the support of Queensland Government funding. The project was established to transition 13 high care younger people with disability from hospitals in the Far North Queensland region, using a brokerage model, in which a non-government organisation acts as a broker of services and as a case manager. A key focus is on building the cultural capability of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to ensure more long-term sustainable patient outcomes. The project is supported by a steering committee of relevant government departments and the Public Guardian.</p>
Western Australia	<p>At the end of 2012 Western Australia established a Disability Health Network. The network joins 17 other health networks which provide opportunities for health professionals, consumers and carers to connect and share information and knowledge to improve health outcomes for people in Western Australia. Two co-leads were appointed for the network and a network executive advisory group was established to represent the views of a wide range of stakeholder groups. There was also agreement to pilot a disability liaison officer model in an adult tertiary hospital. The officer will assist health consumers to engage with health practitioners as they negotiate the hospital and health systems.</p> <p>The Western Australia Government Disability Services Commission works closely with the Western Australia Government Department of Health and Mental Health Commission to take a holistic view of health and wellbeing of people with disability. Progress in this area includes a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mental Health Commission to deliver psychosocial supports and services as part of the Western Australia NDIS My Way trial, establishment of a disability liaison officer role at some tertiary hospitals and establishment of a Dual Diagnosis Working Group to ensure a collaborative and complementary approach to supporting people, their families and carers</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 6 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>South Australia</p>	<p>In May 2013, South Australia expanded the Mental Health Community Visitor Scheme (established in 2011) to protect the well-being and rights of people with disability who live in state-funded disability accommodation. As part of the Disability Community Visitor Scheme (CVS), a team of volunteers conducts visits to disability accommodation sites once a month and on request to promote the proper resolution of complaints, advocate for individuals' rights and refer issues of concern to relevant people or agencies.</p> <p>In May 2013, the <i>Disability Services (Community Visitor Scheme) Regulations 2013</i> came into effect, providing the legal basis for the Scheme's operation in the disability accommodation sector. It is estimated that approximately 2500 people with disability will benefit from the Scheme.</p> <p>The South Australian Government has awarded a range of grants to not-for-profit community agencies across the state that aim to enhance the health and well-being of people with disability. One innovative example is in 2013, a youthconnect grant contributed to the WHISPA Life Skills project to enhance the life skills, connectedness and well-being of up to 90 young people with hearing impairment throughout the State. The project particularly targets young people who are geographically isolated, disengaged and who have poor social and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>The South Australian Government is ensuring the timely, appropriate discharge of people with disability from acute care settings to the community. SA Health, in partnership with the South Australian Government Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, has implemented Disability Transition to Community (DTC) funding to support the safe and timely discharge of people with disability from public acute care settings to appropriate supported accommodation in the community. At 30 June 2014, 182 people with disability had been supported to discharge from the acute care hospital sector to the community since the programme's commencement in May 2010.</p>
<p>Tasmania</p>	<p>The Tasmanian Government Department of Health and Human Services, with the assistance of the Minister's Disability Advisory Council and the University of Tasmania has developed a series of video interviews of people with disability and their experiences within the health care system.</p> <p>The nine video vignettes developed as part of the Disability Awareness Project will be used as a teaching tool with health professionals and undergraduate students to improve the way in which people with disability are cared for within the Tasmanian health system. Support material, including interview transcripts is being developed to accompany the videos to enable self-directed learning.</p>

Jurisdiction	Outcome 6 Achievements and Outcomes
<p>Australian Capital Territory</p>	<p>ACT Health enhanced access to aids and equipment through improvements to the ACT Equipment Scheme which is providing access to a range of equipment for eligible Canberrans. Support is available for permanent residents of the ACT with long term illness or disability to assist them to live safely at home and in the community. In 2008 the ACT Government undertook a review of the ACT Equipment Scheme and implemented recommendations to strengthen access to the programme. Key outcomes include the establishment of an equipment mobile repairs and maintenance service to provide improved access for clients with high need to enable a timely response for repairs and to ensure ongoing servicing and maintenance to ensure longevity of funded equipment, increased financial support and establishment of equitable eligibility systems.</p> <p>The ACT Government Community Services Directorate and ACT Health are continuing to work together to develop and implement more effective ways to support people with disability living in government provided and supported accommodation requiring hospital treatment. A policy and procedures manual was developed in December 2013, outlining the roles and responsibilities of all ACT Health and Community Services Directorate staff when caring for people with disability who are admitted to hospital. The initiative assists in the provision of care to people with disability who are living in Disability ACT supported accommodation and who require a planned or unplanned admission to hospital.</p>
<p>Northern Territory</p>	<p>In 2013 the Greater Northern Australia Regional Training Network (GNARTN) undertook a project to map and describe the clinical tasks that are or could potentially be safely skill shared within rural and remote multi-disciplinary teams. Katherine Hospital was one of five project sites across northern Australia and included disability staff from the Top End Remote Team. Clients living in remote areas experience difficulty accessing services at times due to a number of factors including the transient nature of some communities, cultural obligations, remoteness and accessibility due to seasonal conditions as well as limitations on how often allied health staff visit communities. The project and subsequent framework aims to implement skill sharing among allied health disciplines so clients' needs are assessed and met in a timely manner. While the focus of the project was on skill sharing and client accessibility to services, the project also considered the need to ensure service demand is managed in a sustainable way while maintaining quality in service provision.</p>

Appendix 2

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1. Inclusive and Accessible Communities

1.1 Proportion of people with disability aged 5 years and over reporting difficulty using public transport, 2003, 2009 and 2012

2012 Proportion of people with disability aged 5 years and over reporting difficulty using public transport

Gender	Profound/Severe core activity limitation	Moderate/Mild core activity limitation	Schooling or employment restriction	All with reported disability
Male	67.8%	24.6%	36.3%	31.0%
Female	72.7%	27.3%	38.7%	36.4%
Total	70.0%	26.0%	37.4%	33.7%

2009 Proportion of people with disability aged 5 years and over reporting difficulty using public transport

Gender	Profound/Severe core activity limitation	Moderate/Mild core activity limitation	Schooling or employment restriction	All with reported disability
Male	64.7%	21.4%	33.0%	27.1%
Female	72.8%	28.3%	37.3%	36.3%
Total	69.1%	25.0%	35.1%	31.7%

2003 Proportion of people with disability aged 5 years and over reporting difficulty using public transport

Gender	Profound/Severe core activity limitation	Moderate/Mild core activity limitation	Schooling or employment restriction	All with reported disability
Male	62.4%	22.1%	29.6%	25.5%
Female	68.8%	26.6%	33.9%	34.0%
Total	66.0%	24.4%	31.7%	29.7%

Source: DSS analysis of ABS 2003 SDAC CURF, 2009 SDAC Tablebuilder and 2012 SDAC Tablebuilder.

Note: Information on difficulty using public transport for people without disability was not collected in ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

1.2 Proportion of people with disability participating in common cultural and recreational activities, 2003, 2009 and 2012

Social or community participation at home in the last 3 months ⁽⁴⁾

People aged 5 and over living in households	2003 ⁽¹⁾			2009 ⁽²⁾			2012 ⁽³⁾		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All with reported disability	92.5%	92.0%	96.3%	95.2%	96.9%	96.1%	94.6%	96.9%	95.8%
All with specific limitations or restrictions	95.9%	97.7%	96.8%	94.7%	96.6%	95.8%	94.3%	96.6%	95.5%
Profound core activity limitation	91.6%	94.4%	93.3%	89.4%	94.3%	91.8%	89.5%	93.7%	91.7%
Severe core activity limitation	96.3%	97.3%	96.7%	94.8%	96.6%	96.1%	94.7%	96.5%	95.7%
Moderate core activity limitation	94.8%	98.1%	96.6%	93.5%	97.3%	95.7%	94.4%	96.9%	95.8%
Mild core activity limitation	96.7%	98.6%	97.5%	96.6%	97.0%	96.9%	95.8%	97.4%	96.6%
Schooling or employment restriction	95.6%	97.3%	96.3%	94.4%	96.4%	95.5%	92.9%	95.7%	94.3%

Social or community participation away from home in the last 3 months ⁽⁵⁾

People aged 5 and over living in households	2003 ⁽¹⁾			2009 ⁽²⁾			2012 ⁽³⁾		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All with reported disability	92.5%	92.0%	91.3%	90.6%	91.5%	91.2%	91.4%	93.0%	92.2%
All with specific limitations or restrictions	91.4%	91.1%	91.2%	89.4%	90.8%	90.2%	90.6%	92.4%	91.5%
Profound core activity limitation	78.5%	74.9%	76.0%	75.4%	78.1%	76.7%	78.9%	82.2%	80.6%
Severe core activity limitation	93.1%	92.3%	92.1%	89.5%	92.1%	91.0%	90.8%	92.2%	91.6%
Moderate core activity limitation	91.7%	94.4%	91.8%	90.7%	92.7%	91.5%	91.0%	94.3%	92.8%
Mild core activity limitation	94.4%	94.6%	94.7%	91.9%	93.5%	93.0%	93.8%	95.3%	94.6%
Schooling or employment restriction	93.4%	93.9%	92.9%	90.9%	91.8%	91.7%	91.5%	92.2%	91.8%

Culture or leisure participation away from home in the last 12 months⁽⁶⁾

People aged 5 and over living in households	2003 ⁽¹⁾			2009 ⁽²⁾			2012 ⁽³⁾		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All with reported disability	73.9%	72.9%	72.3%	70.8%	69.8%	70.3%	75.2%	73.9%	74.6%
All with specific limitations or restrictions	70.9%	70.3%	70.5%	68.1%	67.4%	67.7%	73.1%	71.7%	72.4%
Profound core activity limitation	58.1%	40.6%	45.8%	55.1%	42.7%	47.3%	54.9%	48.3%	51.5%
Severe core activity limitation	71.0%	71.6%	71.1%	64.9%	67.3%	65.9%	74.2%	70.0%	71.9%
Moderate core activity limitation	65.9%	71.1%	69.0%	63.4%	69.3%	66.8%	71.3%	76.0%	73.9%
Mild core activity limitation	71.5%	74.4%	74.8%	71.5%	72.5%	72.3%	76.7%	76.6%	76.6%
Schooling or employment restriction	77.2%	78.4%	77.9%	72.2%	72.9%	72.6%	76.4%	78.4%	77.4%

(1) Source: DSS analysis of Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

(2) Source: DSS analysis of Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

(3) Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012 Survey Tablebuilder.

(4) Social or community participation at home in the last 3 months included participation in one of the following activities: Visits from family or friends, Telephone calls with family or friends, Art or craftwork (for or with other people), and Church or special community activities, Voluntary work (including advocacy).

(5) Social or community participation away from home in the last 3 months included participation in one of the following activities: Visited relatives or friends, Went to restaurant or club, Church activities, Voluntary activities, forming arts group activity, Art or craft group activity, other special interest group activities.

(6) Culture or leisure participation away from home in the last 12 months included participation in the one of the following activities: Visited museum or art gallery, Visited library, Attended theatre or concert, Attended cinema, Visited animal or marine park or botanic gardens, took part in sport or physical recreation, attended sporting event as a spectator.

2. Rights, Protection, Justice and Legislation

2.1 Persons with disability aged 18 years and over living in households, feelings of safety in different situations, by sex and disability category, 2006, 2010 and 2012

2012⁽³⁾ — Persons with disability aged 18 years and over living in households, feelings of safety in different situations, by sex and disability category

	All with core activity limitations			Restricted in schooling or employment			All persons with disability aged 18 years and over		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Feelings of safety home alone during the day									
Very safe/Safe	91.9%	89.7%	90.7%	90.4%	87.1%	88.8%	93.2%	90.4%	91.8%
Neither safe nor unsafe	3.9%	4.3%	4.1%	4.4%	5.8%	5.2%	3.4%	4.2%	3.8%
Unsafe/Very unsafe	2.3%	3.9%	3.2%	3.2%	5.0%	4.1%	1.9%	3.4%	2.7%
Never home alone during the day	1.9%	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	2.5%	2.1%	1.6%	1.9%	1.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Feelings of safety home alone after dark									
Very safe/Safe	85.8%	73.5%	79.2%	84.7%	69.3%	76.9%	87.9%	74.8%	81.0%
Neither safe nor unsafe	5.8%	8.6%	7.3%	6.8%	10.3%	8.5%	5.2%	8.6%	7.0%
Unsafe/Very unsafe	4.5%	12.8%	8.9%	5.7%	15.3%	10.6%	3.8%	12.1%	8.1%
Never home alone after dark	3.9%	5.1%	4.6%	2.9%	5.2%	4.1%	3.2%	4.6%	3.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Feelings of safety walking alone in local area after dark									
Very safe/Safe	41.6%	16.9%	28.3%	49.5%	21.3%	35.1%	47.9%	19.4%	33.0%
Neither safe nor unsafe	7.5%	5.0%	6.2%	10.6%	8.4%	9.5%	7.7%	6.6%	7.1%
Unsafe/Very unsafe	9.7%	14.8%	12.4%	11.1%	20.4%	15.8%	8.9%	15.1%	12.1%
Never walk alone after dark	41.3%	63.1%	53.1%	28.9%	50.1%	39.5%	35.6%	59.0%	47.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(3) Source: DSS analysis of ABS SDAC 2012 Survey Tablebuilder.

Note: Information on feelings of safety indifferent situations for people without disability was not collected in ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

2010⁽²⁾ — Persons with disability aged 18 years and over living in households, feelings of safety in different situations, by sex and disability category

	Has core activity restriction			Has a schooling or employment restriction only			Has no specific restriction			Has no disability or long term health condition			All persons 18 years and over		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Feelings of safety at home alone during the day															
Very safe/Safe	90.5%	83.9%	87.2%	92.9%	84.7%	88.1%	97.6%	93.1%	95.4%	97.3%	93.9%	95.6%	96.4%	92.0%	94.2%
Neither safe nor unsafe	3.7%	6.8%	5.3%	5.0%	7.0%	6.1%	1.7%	4.7%	3.1%	1.3%	4.1%	2.8%	1.9%	4.7%	3.3%
Very unsafe/Unsafe	4.4%	8.1%	6.3%	2.1%	8.4%	5.7%	0.7%	1.9%	1.3%	0.6%	1.6%	1.1%	1.1%	2.8%	2.0%
Never home alone during the day	1.4%	1.2%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%
Feelings of safety at home alone after dark															
Very safe/Safe	83.8%	66.0%	74.8%	88.9%	67.8%	76.6%	92.8%	78.1%	85.7%	94.2%	81.7%	87.8%	92.4%	78.2%	85.2%
Neither safe nor unsafe	4.9%	8.7%	6.8%	6.5%	11.9%	9.7%	4.5%	8.4%	6.4%	4.1%	9.5%	6.9%	4.4%	9.3%	6.9%
Very unsafe/Unsafe	7.8%	20.8%	14.3%	4.2%	19.6%	13.2%	1.8%	11.8%	6.6%	1.3%	7.6%	4.5%	2.3%	10.8%	6.6%
Never home alone after dark	3.5%	4.5%	4.0%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.8%	1.7%	1.3%	0.3%	1.2%	0.8%	0.8%	1.7%	1.3%
Feelings of safety walking alone in local area after dark															
Very safe/Safe	45.1%	13.2%	29.1%	60.1%	25.2%	39.8%	64.1%	28.9%	47.1%	74.5%	32.4%	53.0%	67.8%	29.0%	48.1%
Neither safe nor unsafe	9.0%	6.5%	7.7%	21.9%	14.0%	17.3%	14.0%	11.6%	12.9%	12.5%	16.2%	14.4%	12.8%	13.9%	13.4%
Very unsafe/Unsafe	15.5%	30.6%	23.1%	11.3%	35.1%	25.2%	10.4%	22.6%	16.3%	8.0%	27.3%	17.9%	9.6%	27.1%	18.5%
Never walked alone in local area after dark	30.4%	49.7%	40.1%	6.6%	25.7%	17.7%	11.6%	36.9%	23.8%	5.0%	24.0%	14.7%	9.7%	30.0%	20.0%

(2) Source: DSS analysis of ABS General Social Survey 2010 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

2006⁽¹⁾ — Persons with disability aged 18 years and over living in households, feelings of safety in different situations, by sex and disability category

	Has core activity restriction			Has a schooling or employment restriction only			Has no specific restriction			Has no disability or long term health condition			All persons 18 years and over		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Feelings of safety at home alone during the day															
Very safe/Safe	91.8%	90.1%	90.9%	92.1%	85.9%	89.0%	96.5%	91.4%	94.0%	98.0%	95.4%	96.7%	96.6%	93.3%	94.9%
Neither safe nor unsafe	4.0%	5.7%	4.9%	6.6%	7.1%	6.9%	1.6%	4.0%	2.8%	1.1%	2.5%	1.8%	1.9%	3.5%	2.7%
Very unsafe/Unsafe	3.2%	3.7%	3.5%	1.3%	6.7%	4.0%	0.9%	3.7%	2.3%	0.5%	1.7%	1.1%	1.0%	2.7%	1.8%
Never home alone during the day	1.0%	0.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Feelings of safety at home alone after dark															
Very safe/Safe	86.6%	72.5%	78.9%	86.1%	68.1%	77.1%	93.1%	76.5%	85.0%	95.9%	81.1%	88.4%	93.6%	78.3%	85.8%
Neither safe nor unsafe	6.0%	9.5%	7.9%	7.6%	10.5%	9.1%	3.5%	9.5%	6.4%	2.5%	8.8%	5.7%	3.4%	9.1%	6.3%
Very unsafe/Unsafe	5.5%	14.5%	10.4%	6.3%	19.4%	12.9%	2.5%	12.4%	7.3%	1.4%	8.9%	5.2%	2.4%	10.9%	6.7%
Never home alone after dark	2.0%	3.5%	2.8%	0.0%	1.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.6%	1.3%	0.2%	1.2%	0.7%	0.6%	1.7%	1.1%
Feelings of safety walking alone in local area after dark															
Very safe/Safe	46.5%	17.5%	30.7%	55.6%	27.8%	41.7%	62.2%	24.5%	43.9%	74.8%	32.5%	53.3%	67.5%	28.5%	47.8%
Neither safe nor unsafe	11.5%	9.2%	10.3%	17.4%	13.3%	15.4%	13.8%	11.1%	12.5%	11.5%	14.0%	12.7%	12.3%	12.7%	12.5%
Very unsafe/Unsafe	13.6%	24.4%	19.5%	17.6%	30.4%	24.0%	9.7%	25.1%	17.1%	7.3%	27.1%	17.3%	9.1%	26.5%	17.9%
Never walked alone in local area after dark	28.5%	48.8%	39.5%	9.5%	28.4%	18.9%	14.4%	39.4%	26.5%	6.4%	26.4%	16.6%	11.0%	32.3%	21.8%

(1) Source: DSS analysis of ABS General Social Survey 2006 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

2.2 Proportion of people with disability aged 18 years and over living in households actively involved in governance/civic groups, by disability category, 2006, 2010 and 2012

2012⁽³⁾ — Proportion of people with disability aged 18 years and over living in households actively involved in governance/civic groups, by disability category

	Has core activity limitation			Restricted in schooling or employment			All with disability		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Trade union, professional/technical association	2.7%	1.8%	2.3%	3.8%	3.3%	3.5%	4.2%	2.4%	3.2%
Political party	1.0%	0.5%	0.7%	1.1%	0.3%	0.7%	1.1%	0.6%	0.9%
Civic group or organisation	1.8%	1.5%	1.6%	1.0%	1.8%	1.5%	1.9%	1.7%	1.8%
Environmental or animal welfare group	1.6%	2.6%	2.1%	2.0%	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%	3.2%	2.6%
Human and civil rights groups	0.6%	1.1%	0.9%	1.2%	2.2%	1.8%	0.9%	1.4%	1.1%
Body corporate or tenants' association	3.5%	3.1%	3.4%	2.2%	2.1%	2.2%	3.7%	3.3%	3.5%
Consumer organisation	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%
Other civic or political organisation	0.9%	0.6%	0.7%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	1.0%	0.6%	0.8%
No active involvement in civil or government groups in last 12 months	90.0%	90.7%	90.4%	90.3%	89.3%	89.8%	88.0%	89.5%	88.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(3) Source: DSS analysis of ABS SDAC 2012 Survey Tablebuilder.

Note: Data on people without disability is not available for 2012 because the information was not collected in SDAC 2012.

2010⁽²⁾ — Proportion of people with disability aged 18 years and over living in households actively involved in governance/civic groups, by disability category

	Has core activity restriction			Schooling/ employment restriction only			Has no specific restriction		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Trade union, professional/ technical association	4.7%	2.4%	3.5%	6.9%	6.2%	6.5%	6.5%	4.5%	5.5%
Political party	2.8%	1.0%	1.9%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%
Civic group or organisation	4.1%	1.7%	2.9%	3.0%	2.2%	2.5%	3.2%	3.0%	3.1%
Environmental or animal welfare group	4.8%	4.9%	4.8%	7.4%	12.1%	10.2%	4.1%	7.0%	5.5%
Human and civil rights groups	2.4%	1.3%	1.8%	3.7%	2.1%	2.8%	0.9%	2.3%	1.6%
Body corporate or tenants' association	3.7%	4.2%	3.9%	0.8%	4.6%	3.0%	6.2%	4.8%	5.6%
Consumer organisation	1.9%	1.4%	1.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	1.0%	0.1%	0.6%
Other civic or political organisation	1.4%	0.1%	0.8%	1.1%	0.0%	0.5%	1.1%	0.2%	0.7%

2010⁽²⁾

	Has a disability			No disability			All people		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Trade union, professional/ technical association	6.0%	4.1%	5.0%	9.2%	5.9%	7.5%	7.9%	5.2%	6.5%
Political party	1.9%	1.4%	1.7%	1.4%	1.3%	1.3%	1.6%	1.4%	1.5%
Civic group or organisation	3.5%	2.5%	3.0%	4.1%	3.0%	3.5%	3.8%	2.8%	3.3%
Environmental or animal welfare group	4.7%	7.1%	5.9%	4.5%	7.1%	5.8%	4.6%	7.1%	5.9%
Human and civil rights groups	1.6%	2.0%	1.8%	1.4%	2.1%	1.8%	1.5%	2.0%	1.8%
Body corporate or tenants' association	4.9%	4.6%	4.8%	5.4%	4.6%	5.0%	5.2%	4.6%	4.9%
Consumer organisation	1.2%	0.5%	0.9%	1.1%	0.5%	0.8%	1.2%	0.5%	0.8%
Other civic or political organisation	1.2%	0.1%	0.7%	0.9%	0.4%	0.6%	1.0%	0.3%	0.6%

(2) Source: DSS analysis of ABS General Social Survey 2010 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

2006⁽¹⁾ — Proportion of people with disability aged 18 years and over living in households actively involved in governance/civic groups, by disability category

	Has core activity restriction			Schooling/ employment restriction only			Has no specific restriction		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Trade union, professional/ technical association	6.7%	4.6%	5.6%	9.6%	8.2%	8.9%	9.7%	4.0%	7.0%
Political party	1.5%	0.5%	1.0%	0.2%	1.5%	0.8%	2.2%	0.9%	1.6%
Civic group or organisation	4.3%	3.1%	3.6%	3.2%	1.3%	2.2%	3.2%	3.1%	3.2%
Environmental or animal welfare group	3.3%	4.8%	4.1%	6.0%	10.4%	8.2%	4.7%	4.5%	4.6%
Human and civil rights groups	2.1%	2.6%	2.4%	1.5%	5.2%	3.3%	1.4%	2.1%	1.7%
Body corporate or tenants' association	5.6%	4.0%	4.7%	4.9%	2.8%	3.9%	5.7%	3.8%	4.8%
Consumer organisation	1.4%	1.1%	1.2%	0.9%	1.4%	1.1%	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%
Other civic or political organisation	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

2006⁽¹⁾

	Has a disability			No disability			All people		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Trade union, professional/ technical association	8.8%	4.8%	6.8%	10.7%	4.8%	7.7%	9.9%	4.8%	7.3%
Political party	1.7%	0.8%	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.2%	1.3%
Civic group or organisation	3.5%	2.9%	3.2%	2.9%	3.3%	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%	3.1%
Environmental or animal welfare group	4.5%	5.4%	4.9%	4.6%	5.6%	5.1%	4.5%	5.5%	5.0%
Human and civil rights groups	1.6%	2.7%	2.2%	2.1%	2.5%	2.3%	1.9%	2.6%	2.2%
Body corporate or tenants' association	5.6%	3.7%	4.6%	4.5%	4.1%	4.3%	4.9%	4.0%	4.4%
Consumer organisation	1.2%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	0.6%	0.9%	1.2%	0.8%	1.0%
Other civic or political organisation	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%

(1) Source: DSS analysis of ABS General Social Survey 2006 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

2.3 Proportion of complaints under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (or subsequent legislation that may replace it), by sub-category, 2008-09 to 2012-13

Total Complaints	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Received	980	1057	823	955	793
Received by area*	2035	2354	2176	1249	1084
Employment	40%	36%	31%	31%	33%
Goods, Services and Facilities	35%	37%	35%	36%	34%
Access to Premises	2%	3%	6%	4%	6%
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation	1%	1%	3%	3%	3%
Incitement to Unlawful Acts	-	-	-	n.a.	n.a.
Advertisements	-	-	-	-	-
Superannuation/Insurance	1%	1%	-	1%	1%
Education	9%	9%	9%	8%	6%
Clubs/Incorporated Associations	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Administration of Commonwealth Laws and Programmes	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Sport	-	-	-	-	-
Application Forms/Requests for Information	-	-	-	-	-
Trade unions, registered organisations	-	-	-	n.a.	n.a.
Qualifying bodies	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	-
Registered organisations	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	-
Unlawful to Contravene Disability Standard	8%	9%	11%	12%	11%
Victimisation	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	1%

*one complaint may have multiple and different areas

Source: AHRC Annual Reports: 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13

Note: n.a. = data not available from source

3. Economic Security

3.1 Proportion of people aged 15-64 living in households participating in the labour force, by sex and disability status, 2003⁽¹⁾, 2009⁽²⁾ and 2012⁽³⁾

Male							
	Profound/ Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
2012	28.5%	56.2%	47.4%	45.7%	56.8%	88.6%	84.1%
2009	32.1%	57.6%	49.6%	50.7%	60.4%	89.1%	85.0%
2003	33.7%	54.4%	47.9%	49.9%	59.3%	88.9%	83.9%

Female							
	Profound/ Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
2012	30.5%	49.4%	42.8%	42.6%	49.4%	77.0%	73.0%
2009	31.2%	50.1%	43.7%	43.2%	49.5%	77.1%	72.9%
2003	26.8%	44.6%	38.4%	39.5%	46.9%	72.2%	68.1%

Total							
	Profound/ Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
2012	29.6%	52.7%	44.9%	44.1%	53.1%	82.8%	78.5%
2009	31.6%	53.7%	46.5%	46.8%	54.8%	83.2%	79.0%
2003	30.0%	49.4%	43.0%	44.9%	53.2%	80.6%	76.0%

1. Source: 2003 figures derived from published data in ABS SDAC Summary of findings Table 8 Persons aged 15-64, living in households, Disability status by Labour Force Status (LFS).

2. Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

3. Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

3.1.1 Proportion of Indigenous males and females 'in need of assistance' - labour force participation aged 15 years and over, 2011

Indigenous people with core activity need for assistance

Employment status	Male	Female
Employed	10.6%	8.3%
Unemployed	3.4%	1.8%
Not in the labour force	85.9%	89.9%
Total	100%	100%

Non-Indigenous people with core activity need for assistance

Employment status	Male	Female
Employed	9.5%	6.2%
Unemployed	1.6%	0.8%
Not in the labour force	88.9%	93.0%
Total	100%	100%

Source: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) Indigenous Population Project, 2011 Census Paper 6, 2013.

Note: This analysis is based on data from the ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (the Census). The ABS provides data on the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability from several sources, each with differences in scope and methodology. As outlined in ABS Catalogue No. 4429.0, information about need for assistance in the core activities of self-care, communication or mobility has been collected in the 2006 and 2011 censuses, and is designed to be comparable to the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) measure of people who have a profound or severe core activity limitation. The disability estimates in SDAC differ from those in the Census because of differences in scope and methodology. The information on need for assistance is derived from a short question set on the Census form, and short question sets typically identify fewer people in the population of interest. Data on Indigenous people may also be impacted by individuals' propensity to identify as Indigenous. This is discussed in ABS Catalogue No. 4726.0.

3.1.2 Proportion of people aged 15-64 living in households participating in the labour force, by main language spoken at home and disability status, 2009⁽¹⁾ and 2012⁽²⁾

English							
	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
2012	30.9%	53.9%	46.3%	45.4%	54.4%	84.1%	79.6%
2009	33.0%	55.2%	48.0%	48.4%	56.3%	84.4%	80.2%

Other language							
	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
2012	17.2%	36.1%	28.4%	27.6%	33.4%	73.1%	69.6%
2009	15.5%	35.8%	28.9%	26.9%	34.2%	72.2%	68.3%

Total							
	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
2012	29.6%	52.7%	44.9%	44.1%	53.1%	82.8%	78.5%
2009	31.6%	53.7%	46.5%	46.8%	54.8%	83.2%	79.0%

1. Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

2. Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

Note: Information about main language spoken at home was not collected in 2003 SDAC.

3.2 People aged 15-64 years living in households who are employed, by industry sector, sex and disability status, 2003, 2009 and 2012

Male 2012

Industry sector	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
Public	10.2%	11.7%	11.4%	11.5%	12.5%	11.2%	11.3%
Private	89.8%	88.2%	88.5%	88.3%	87.3%	88.8%	88.6%
Could not be determined	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Male 2009

Industry sector	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
Public	11.9%	15.5%	14.8%	13.5%	14.5%	11.6%	11.9%
Private	86.2%	82.4%	83.2%	85.3%	83.7%	86.6%	86.4%
Could not be determined	1.8%	2.1%	2.0%	1.2%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Male 2003

Industry sector	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
Public	15.6%	11.5%	12.4%	12.3%	13.9%	13.9%	13.9%
Private	84.4%	87.8%	87.1%	87.3%	85.4%	85.0%	85.1%
Could not be determined	0.0%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.7%	1.0%	1.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Data source: DSS analysis of SDAC 2003, 2009 and 2012 Confidentialised Unit Record Files.

2012 Female

Industry sector	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
Public	18.4%	17.4%	17.6%	18.2%	17.5%	18.4%	18.3%
Private	81.6%	82.4%	82.2%	81.6%	82.5%	81.4%	81.5%
Could not be determined	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

2009 Female

Industry sector	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
Public	18.5%	20.9%	20.3%	20.1%	21.1%	18.9%	19.1%
Private	77.2%	74.5%	75.1%	75.3%	74.7%	77.8%	77.5%
Could not be determined	4.3%	4.7%	4.6%	4.5%	4.2%	3.3%	3.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

2003 Female

Industry sector	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
Public	23.2%	22.9%	23.0%	25.1%	24.6%	22.0%	22.3%
Private	75.6%	76.5%	76.2%	74.0%	74.0%	76.8%	76.5%
Could not be determined	1.2%	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Data source: DSS analysis of SDAC 2003, 2009 and 2012 Confidentialised Unit Record Files.

2012 — TOTAL

Industry sector	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
Public	14.8%	14.5%	14.5%	14.8%	14.8%	14.5%	14.5%
Private	85.2%	85.4%	85.4%	85.1%	85.0%	85.4%	85.4%
Could not be determined	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

2009 — TOTAL

Industry sector	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
Public	15.7%	18.2%	17.6%	16.7%	17.6%	14.9%	15.2%
Private	81.1%	78.5%	79.0%	80.5%	79.5%	82.6%	82.3%
Could not be determined	3.2%	3.4%	3.3%	2.8%	2.9%	2.5%	2.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

2003 — TOTAL

Industry sector	Profound/Severe	Moderate/Mild	All with core activity limitations	Restricted in schooling or employment	All with disability	No reported disability	TOTAL
Public	19.3%	16.8%	17.3%	17.7%	18.5%	17.5%	17.7%
Private	80.1%	82.6%	82.0%	81.7%	80.5%	81.4%	81.3%
Could not be determined	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Data source: DSS analysis of SDAC 2003, 2009 and 2012 Confidentialised Unit Record Files.

3.3 Difference between the average income of people with disability and the average income for all Australians

Median gross weekly personal income – aged 15 years and over	2001 ⁽¹⁾	2003 ⁽²⁾	2006 ⁽³⁾	2009 ⁽⁴⁾	2011 ⁽⁵⁾	2012 ⁽⁶⁾
All people with a reported disability	n.a.	\$225	n.a.	\$306	n.a.	\$380
All without a disability	n.a.	\$480	n.a.	\$614	n.a.	\$700
All people	n.a.	\$397	n.a.	\$510	n.a.	\$580
Median individual income (all Australians)	\$375	n.a.	\$466	n.a.	\$577	n.a.

(1) Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

(2) Source: ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003 Summary of Findings (cat. no. 4430.0) Table 7.

(3) Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2006.

(4) Source: ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003 Summary of Findings (cat. no. 4430.0) Table 11.

(5) Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2011.

(6) Source: ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012 Summary of Findings (cat. no. 4430.0) Table 8.1.

Note: n.a. = data not available from source.

3.3.1 Average weekly individual income of Indigenous and non-Indigenous males and females with need for assistance, 2011

2011	Males	Females
Indigenous	\$356	\$354
Non-Indigenous	\$420	\$384

Source: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) Indigenous Population Project, Paper 6, p12, 2013.

3.4 Proportion of people with disability experiencing housing stress, 2009-10

Proportions of households in housing stress	2009-10
Households containing someone aged 15 and over with a disability or long term health condition	13.0%
Households not containing someone aged 15 and over with a disability or long term health condition	9.7%

Source: DSS analysis of ABS Household Expenditure Survey 2009-10 Basic Confidentialised Unit Record Files.

Note: Housing stress is household spending of more than 30% of household income on housing costs and the household is in the bottom 40% of Australian Incomes.

4. Personal and Community Support

4.1 Proportion of the potential population accessing disability services, 2008-09 to 2012-13

Proportion of the potential population accessing disability services — 2008-09

		Male	Female	Total
Proportion of potential population aged 0–64 years accessing State/Territory delivered disability support services	All S/T delivered services	34.7%	29.4%	32.4%
	Accommodation support	6.2%	5.7%	6.0%
	Community support	24.7%	20.0%	22.7%
	Community access	8.9%	8.8%	8.9%
	Respite	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%
Proportion of potential population aged 15–64 years accessing Australian Government administered disability employment services	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Employment Support Services) — with an employment restriction	7.3%	4.6%	5.9%
	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Disability Management Services) — with an employment restriction	-	-	-
	Australian Disability Enterprises/Supported Employment Services - adjusted for labour force participation	11.7%	7.5%	9.8%

Proportion of the potential population accessing disability services — 2009-10

		Male	Female	Total
Proportion of potential population aged 0–64 years accessing State/Territory delivered disability support services	All S/T delivered services	36.0%	30.0%	33.4%
	Accommodation support	6.2%	5.7%	6.0%
	Community support	26.2%	21.0%	23.9%
	Community access	9.1%	8.9%	9.0%
	Respite	14.9%	14.7%	14.8%
Proportion of potential population aged 15–64 years accessing Australian Government administered disability employment services	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Employment Support Services) — with an employment restriction	8.1%	5.1%	6.6%
	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Disability Management Services) — with an employment restriction	-	-	-
	Australian Disability Enterprises/Supported Employment Services — adjusted for labour force participation	10.5%	7.0%	8.9%

Proportion of the potential population accessing disability services — 2010-11

		Male	Female	Total
Proportion of potential population aged 0–64 years accessing State/Territory delivered disability support services	All S/T delivered services	37.8%	31.2%	34.9%
	Accommodation support	6.4%	5.9%	6.2%
	Community support	28.5%	22.7%	25.9%
	Community access	9.1%	8.8%	9.0%
	Respite	14.9%	14.8%	14.9%
Proportion of potential population aged 15–64 years accessing Australian Government administered disability employment services	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Employment Support Services) — with an employment restriction	8.8%	5.7%	7.2%
	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Disability Management Services) — with an employment restriction	8.1%	6.2%	7.1%
	Australian Disability Enterprises/Supported Employment Services — adjusted for labour force participation	9.6%	6.5%	8.2%

Proportion of the potential population accessing disability services — 2011-12

		Male	Female	Total
Proportion of potential population aged 0–64 years accessing State/Territory delivered disability support services	All S/T delivered services	37.6%	31.6%	35.0%
	Accommodation support	6.6%	6.0%	6.3%
	Community support	27.7%	22.2%	25.3%
	Community access	9.6%	9.7%	9.7%
	Respite	15.2%	15.1%	15.2%
Proportion of potential population aged 15–64 years accessing Australian Government administered disability employment services	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Employment Support Services) — with an employment restriction	9.0%	6.0%	7.5%
	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Disability Management Services) — with an employment restriction	9.0%	7.2%	8.1%
	Australian Disability Enterprises/Supported Employment Services — adjusted for labour force participation	8.9%	6.2%	7.7%

Proportion of the potential population accessing disability services — 2012-13

		Male	Female	Total
Proportion of potential population aged 0–64 years accessing State/Territory delivered disability support services	All S/T delivered services	-	-	-
	Accommodation support	-	-	6.5%
	Community support	-	-	25.3%
	Community access	-	-	8.7%
	Respite	-	-	16.4%
Proportion of potential population aged 15–64 years accessing Australian Government administered disability employment services	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Employment Support Services) — with an employment restriction	8.6%	6.0%	7.3%
	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Disability Management Services) — with an employment restriction	9.1%	7.8%	8.4%
	Australian Disability Enterprises/Supported Employment Services — adjusted for labour force participation	8.5%	6.1%	7.5%

Source: Data on Australian Government administered disability employment services for 2008-09 to 2012-13 and State/Territory delivered disability support services for 2012-13 is sourced from Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP) 2015, *Report on Government Services*, Productivity Commission, Canberra; data on State/Territory delivered disability support services for 2008-09 to 2010-11 is sourced from SCRGSP *National Agreement performance information 2012-13: National Disability Agreement*, Productivity Commission, Canberra.

Notes: Some fields use the symbol (-) indicating that the specific data was not available for this population during that financial year. Disability Management Services were introduced in 2010-11 so data is not available for preceding years. State and territory disability service types have not been published by gender in 2012-13.

4.2 People aged 0-64 years in potential population who need more formal assistance than they are currently receiving, 2009 and 2012

	Male	Female	Total
2009 ⁽¹⁾	33.4%	29.9%	31.9%
2012 ⁽²⁾	33.5%	34.5%	34.1%

(1) Source: Disability 2011-12: Comparing performance across Australia, Statistical Supplement (Table NDA.e.1).

(2) Source: SCRGSP Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP) 2013, National Agreement performance information 2012-13: National Disability Agreement, Table NDA. e.1, Productivity Commission, Canberra.

Notes: Excludes need for assistance with health care and people who are residents of cared accommodation. This indicator has changed to align with the NDA amendments.

4.3 Proportion of primary carers aged 15 years and over (carers of people with disability aged 0–64 years) who report a need for further assistance in their caring roles, 2009 and 2012

	Male	Female	Total
2009 ⁽¹⁾	20.6%	23.8%	22.8%
2012 ⁽²⁾	22.8%	28.7%	26.7%

(1) Source: Disability 2011-12: Comparing performance across Australia, Statistical Supplement (Table NDA.i.1).

(2) Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP) 2013, National Agreement performance information 2012-13: National Disability Agreement, Table NDA. i.1, Productivity Commission, Canberra.

Note: This indicator has changed to align with the NDA amendments.

4.4 Proportion of Indigenous potential population accessing disability services, 2008-09 to 2012-13

		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Proportion of Indigenous potential population aged 0–64 years accessing state/territory delivered disability support services	All S/T delivered services	28.2%	30.0%	33.2%	29.0%	28.8%
	Accommodation Support	4.9%	4.9%	5.5%	4.9%	5.1%
	Community Support	23.2%	24.9%	29.2%	25.4%	24.8%
	Community Access	6.1%	6.2%	6.7%	5.6%	5.5%
	Respite	16.3%	17.2%	19.4%	15.6%	-
Proportion of Indigenous potential population (aged 15–64 years) accessing Australian Government administered disability employment services.	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Employment Support Services) — with an employment restriction	4.3%	5.4%	5.9%	6.5%	6.2%
	Disability Employment Services/Open Employment Services (Disability Management Services) — with an employment restriction	-	-	6.0%	6.7%	6.9%
	Australian Disability Enterprises/Supported Employment Services — adjusted for labour force participation	5.3%	5.1%	5.0%	3.7%	3.7%

(1) Source: All data except that for respite service is sourced from Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP) 2015, Report on Government Services, Productivity Commission, Canberra, Appendix Tables 14A.42-14A.50.

(2) Source: data on respite service is sourced from Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP) 2013, National Agreement performance information 2012–13: National Disability Agreement, Productivity Commission, Canberra.

Notes:

- Open Employment Services are delivered by the Australian Government. The program name changed to Disability Employment Services in March 2010 with two streams; Employment Support Services and Disability Management Services.
- The quality of data about Indigenous status varies substantially between jurisdictions and data sources. Caution should be exercised when interpreting these data.
- This indicator has changed to align with the NDA amendments.

5. Learning and Skills

5.1 Proportion of people with disability in mainstream schools, 2003, 2009 and 2012

Persons with disability aged 5-20 living in households, attending school	2012 ⁽³⁾			2009 ⁽²⁾			2003 ⁽¹⁾		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
Special school	15%	10%	13%	10%	9%	10%	11%	11%	11%
Special class in mainstream school	18%	22%	20%	26%	21%	24%	26%	22%	25%
Mainstream	67%	89%	67%	64%	70%	66%	63%	67%	65%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

1. Source: ABS (unpublished) customised report.

2. Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009 Survey Tablebuilder.

3. Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012 Survey Tablebuilder.

5.1.1 Proportion of persons aged 5-20 years living in households attending school, by disability status and sex, 2003, 2009 and 2012

	Male				Female				All			
	2012 ⁽³⁾	2009 ⁽²⁾ DSS analysis	2009 ⁽²⁾ ABS published	2003 ⁽¹⁾	2012 ⁽³⁾	2009 ⁽²⁾ DSS analysis	2009 ⁽²⁾ ABS published	2003 ⁽¹⁾	2012 ⁽³⁾	2009 ⁽²⁾ DSS analysis	2009 ⁽²⁾ ABS published	2003 ⁽¹⁾
Has a disability	78.6%	83.0%	83.5%	80.5%	74.6%	80.1%	79.7%	78.2%	76.7%	81.9%	82.1%	79.6%
Does not have a disability	76.5%	76.6%	76.6%	76.6%	76.4%	77.4%	77.4%	76.9%	76.5%	77.0%	77.0%	76.8%
Total %	76.7%	77.2%	77.2%	77.0%	76.2%	77.6%	77.5%	77.0%	76.5%	77.4%	77.4%	77.0%

1. Source: ABS (unpublished) customised report.

2. Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009 Survey Tablebuilder. Data also published in ABS publication Profiles of Disability, Australia, 2009, Cat No 4429.0, Data Cube Table 6, Children with a disability at School, Table 1.

3. Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012 Survey Tablebuilder.

5.2 Proportion of people aged 19-25 completed Year 12, by sex and disability status, 2003 2009 and 2012

	Male			Female			All		
	2003 ⁽¹⁾	2009 ⁽²⁾	2012 ⁽³⁾	2003 ⁽¹⁾	2009 ⁽²⁾	2012 ⁽³⁾	2003 ⁽¹⁾	2009 ⁽²⁾	2012 ⁽³⁾
Profound/Severe	-	36.1%	49.8%	-	66.3%	59.8%	-	51.1%	56.6%
Moderate/Mild	-	51.7%	50.6%	-	60.9%	70.0%	-	56.1%	62.4%
Restricted in employment / education	43.10%	36.8%	60.6%	27.00%	61.5%	62.1%	35.5%	49.1%	59.9%
All with disability	37.10%	44.1%	54.8%	37.20%	66.2%	66.0%	37.1%	55.6%	60.6%
With no reported disability	43.80%	71.9%	74.7%	47.90%	79.7%	81.7%	45.8%	75.7%	78.1%
All	43.2%	70.1%	73.4%	47.0%	78.7%	80.2%	45.0%	74.3%	76.8%

1. Source: ABS (unpublished) customised report.

2. Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009 Survey Tablebuilder.

3. Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012 Survey Tablebuilder.

Notes: Some fields use the symbol (-) indicating that the specific data was not available for this population during that financial year. Year 12 completion data using the Profound/Severe and Moderate/Mild categories was not available from the ABS for 2003.

5.3 People aged 15-64 living in households, proportion with non-school qualification⁽¹⁾, by disability status and gender, 2003⁽²⁾ and 2009⁽³⁾, 2012⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾

Disability status	2003			2009			2012		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Has disability and profoundly limited in core activities	31.9%	30.3%	31.0%	21.0%	27.2%	24.4%	26.7%	26.0%	26.3%
Has disability and severely limited in core activities	41.7%	41.0%	41.4%	47.2%	46.3%	46.7%	40.4%	50.6%	46.5%
Has disability and moderately limited in core activities	47.4%	39.5%	43.3%	48.6%	48.2%	48.3%	50.2%	52.6%	51.6%
Has disability and mildly limited in core activities	47.3%	44.7%	46.0%	50.2%	49.3%	49.7%	50.2%	52.6%	51.6%
Restricted in schooling or employment	42.6%	42.8%	42.7%	46.7%	46.2%	46.4%	43.4%	49.4%	46.4%
All with specific limitations or restrictions	44.3%	42.9%	43.6%	47.9%	47.4%	47.7%	46.3%	50.0%	48.2%
All with disability	46.5%	44.3%	45.4%	50.5%	48.9%	49.7%	48.7%	51.2%	50.0%
No disability	54.2%	48.7%	51.5%	57.3%	55.7%	56.5%	58.2%	58.3%	58.2%
Total	52.9%	48.0%	50.5%	56.3%	54.6%	55.5%	56.9%	57.2%	57.0%

(1) Includes those with degrees, diplomas and certificates, but not those whose level of non-school qualification is not determined.

(2) Source: DSS analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Basic Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF): Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003.

(3) Source: DSS analysis of ABS Survey Tablebuilder, Disability, Ageing and Carers Australia 2009.

(4) Source: DSS analysis of ABS CURF 2012.

(5) Data may not exactly match published ABS tables due to ABS confidentialisation processes in the CURF and TableBuilder.

6. Health and Wellbeing

6.1 Proportion of people with disability aged 18 years and over living in households who report their general health as good or better, by disability category, 2006, 2010 and 2012

General health assessment, 2012	Core activity limitations			Restricted in schooling or employment			All with disability		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Better than good	18.7%	20.7%	19.8%	16.4%	17.8%	17.2%	22.7%	25.2%	24.0%
Good	29.4%	32.5%	31.1%	28.2%	31.3%	29.8%	31.0%	32.9%	32.0%
Fair	24.7%	26.4%	25.6%	25.9%	29.2%	27.7%	22.4%	24.1%	23.3%
Poor	12.0%	11.2%	11.5%	11.9%	13.6%	12.8%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%
Not applicable	15.3%	9.3%	12.0%	17.2%	8.0%	12.5%	14.2%	8.3%	11.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

General health assessment, 2010 ⁽²⁾	Core activity limitations			Restricted in schooling or employment			All with disability			No disability or long term health condition			All people		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Better than good	22.6%	18.2%	20.2%	25.5%	25.5%	26.5%	34.9%	30.4%	32.7%	72.0%	75.9%	74.0%	57.3%	57.9%	57.6%
Good	26.3%	29.7%	28.2%	26.4%	26.4%	26.1%	30.7%	33.9%	32.3%	25.0%	20.6%	22.8%	27.3%	25.9%	26.6%

General health assessment, 2006 ⁽¹⁾	Core activity limitations			Restricted in schooling or employment			All with disability			No disability or long term health condition			All people		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Better than good	14.2%	19.2%	16.7%	27.8%	27.8%	22.9%	27.5%	32.9%	30.2%	68.7%	67.0%	67.8%	51.9%	53.4%	52.6%
Good	25.2%	26.4%	25.8%	34.0%	34.0%	34.6%	36.2%	33.1%	34.6%	27.3%	28.1%	27.7%	30.9%	30.1%	30.5%

(1) Source: DSS analysis of ABS General Social Survey 2006 Confidentialised Unit Record File.

(2) Source: DSS analysis of ABS General Social Survey 2010 Confidentialised Unit Record File. (3) Source: DSS analysis of ABS SDAC 2012 Survey Tablebuilder.

Note: information on self-assessed health status for people without disability was not collected in SDAC 2012.

6.2 Proportion of people with disability aged under 65 years living in households who accessed health services, 2012

	Profound/Severe			Moderate/Mild			All with core activity limitations		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Whether seen a GP	91.5%	97.2%	94.4%	92.0%	93.8%	92.9%	91.8%	95.2%	93.5%
Whether seen a medical specialist	57.3%	65.1%	61.2%	51.5%	56.4%	54.0%	53.9%	59.9%	56.9%
Whether seen a dental professional	48.3%	51.7%	50.0%	43.5%	52.1%	47.9%	45.5%	52.0%	48.7%
Whether admitted to hospital	23.5%	28.8%	26.1%	18.5%	23.8%	21.2%	20.5%	25.8%	23.2%
Whether visited hospital emergency department	30.1%	35.7%	32.9%	24.0%	27.6%	25.9%	26.5%	30.9%	28.7%
Whether saw 3 or more health professional for same condition	37.6%	45.2%	41.4%	31.2%	34.1%	32.7%	33.8%	38.5%	36.2%
Whether health professional helped	26.9%	34.4%	30.6%	20.3%	20.8%	20.6%	23.0%	26.2%	24.6%
Total number of persons with disability aged under 65 years living in households	293,096	290,700	583,796	424,135	440,512	864,647	717,232	731,212	1,448,443

	All with specific limitations/ restrictions			Restricted in schooling or employment			All with disability		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Whether seen a GP	91.2%	94.9%	93.0%	91.9%	95.1%	93.5%	90.1%	94.4%	92.2%
Whether seen a medical specialist	52.8%	59.3%	56.0%	54.3%	61.3%	57.7%	51.1%	57.8%	54.4%
Whether seen a dental professional	45.4%	52.3%	48.8%	46.3%	52.3%	49.2%	45.4%	52.5%	48.9%
Whether admitted to hospital	19.8%	24.8%	22.2%	20.3%	25.2%	22.7%	19.1%	23.8%	21.4%
Whether visited hospital emergency department	26.4%	30.1%	28.2%	26.8%	31.1%	28.9%	25.1%	28.6%	26.8%
Whether saw 3 or more health professional for same condition	33.1%	38.0%	35.5%	35.0%	40.3%	37.5%	30.8%	35.6%	33.2%
Whether health professional helped	22.3%	25.6%	24.0%	23.7%	27.6%	25.6%	20.6%	23.9%	22.2%
Total number of persons with disability aged under 65 years living in households	874,900	851,990	1,726,889	712,725	666,588	1,379,313	1,040,589	998,794	2,039,383

Source: DSS analysis of SDAC 2012 CURF.

Note: Data not available for people without disability.

6.3 Risk factors for preventable disease in people with disability aged 18 years and over, 2011-12

	Current daily smoker			Sedentary/low exercise level		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Profound or Severe core activity limitation	23.2%	15.2%	18.8%	84.9%	87.8%	86.5%
Other disability or restrictive long — term health condition	20.2%	18.3%	19.2%	74.8%	81.1%	78.2%
All people	18.2%	14.4%	16.3%	62.4%	72.6%	67.6%

	Alcohol consumption — lifetime risk			Alcohol consumption — single occasion risk		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Profound or Severe core activity limitation	17.7%	6.8%	11.7%	34.4%	13.9%	23.1%
Other disability or restrictive long - term health condition	26.1%	8.9%	16.7%	46.9%	23.7%	34.3%
All people	29.1%	10.1%	19.5%	57.8%	31.9%	44.7%

	Overweight/Obese			Inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Profound or Severe core activity limitation	61.5%	49.1%	76.1%	96.4%	92.4%	94.2%
Other disability or restrictive long — term health condition	65.5%	54.5%	72.0%	94.4%	93.0%	93.7%
All people	60.4%	45.9%	63.4%	95.5%	93.4%	94.4%

Source: ABS Australian Health Survey: First Results, 2011-12, Cat. No. 4364.0.55.001, based on ABS customised report 2013.