

# 2010–2020 National Disability Strategy

## Progress Report to the Council of Australian Governments 2016

Easy Read version



# How to use this document



This information is written in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

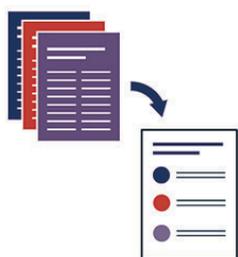


This document has been written by the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS). When you see the word 'we', it means DSS.

## Word list



Some words are written in **bold**. We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 28.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on our website at [www.dss.gov.au/nds](http://www.dss.gov.au/nds)



You can ask for help to read this document. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

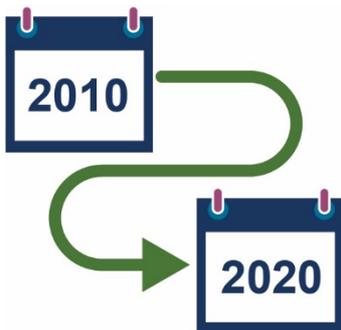
## What's in this document?

What is the National Disability Strategy?	4
Who uses the National Disability Strategy?	5
About this progress report	7
The main ideas we are working on	8
Taking part in the community	10
Our rights for fair treatment	13
Work, money and housing	16
Getting support	18
Learning and skills	20
Health and wellbeing	23
What will happen next?	26
Word list	28
Contact us	29

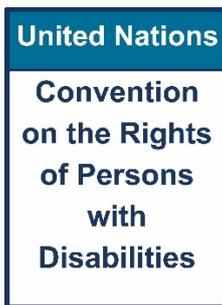
# What is the National Disability Strategy?



The National Disability Strategy is a plan for improving the lives of people with disability. In this document we call it 'the Strategy'.



The Strategy is for 10 years. We will use it from 2010 to 2020.



The Strategy is based on ideas that are in the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.



This is a document that says people with disability should be treated fairly.



Many countries around the world have agreed to it, including Australia.

# Who uses the National Disability Strategy?



The Strategy is for all Australians.

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



- the Federal Government

- state and territory governments



- local governments.



We have done a lot of work since the Strategy started.



All governments know there is still more work to do.

## About this progress report



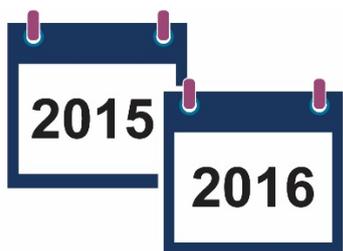
Every 2 years, we write a report about how the Strategy is going.

We call it a **progress report**.

The progress report talks about what we are doing to make a difference in people's lives.



It includes people with disability, their families and carers.



This progress report explains what we achieved in 2015 and 2016.



People in the community have told us what they think about the Strategy.



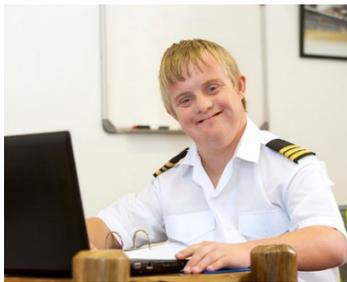
We use their ideas and feedback to make sure that the Strategy is working.

## The main ideas we are working on

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



- are included in our society – all the people in our community



- can reach their potential – what they could become



- are treated as equals.

The Strategy covers 6 main areas:



Taking part in the community



Our rights for fair treatment



Work, money and housing



Getting support



Learning and skills



Health and wellbeing



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

# Taking part in the community



The goal for this area is to make our community more:



- **inclusive** – this means you feel included and you can take part in everyday life



- **accessible** – this means you can enter a place or building. You can use a service or get information.



People with disability have told us some things are getting better, such as using:

- the internet
- computers, tablets and smartphones.



More people with disability are taking part in activities in their community.

People with disability have told us:



- it needs to be easier to get to places

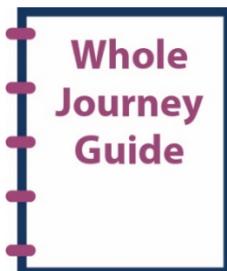


- public transport needs to be more accessible.

## What we have been working on



We have been working to make the community more accessible and inclusive.



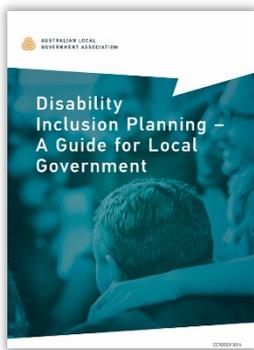
- The Australian Government made a guide called the *Whole Journey Guide*.



The *Whole Journey Guide* is for people who plan and build public transport systems. It explains how they should make public transport more accessible.



- Australia joined the Marrakesh Treaty. The Marrakesh Treaty is an agreement to make sure books are published in accessible formats like:
  - large print
  - Braille
  - audio.



- The Australian Local Government Association put out a guide to help local governments write disability inclusion plans.



- The South Australian Government made an app called *Bluebays*.

#### *Bluebays:*

- helps people who have disability parking permits find accessible car parks
- can be used on smartphones and tablets.





## Our rights for fair treatment

The goal for this area is for all Australians to



- be treated fairly



- feel safe



- take part in the community



- be respected.

People with disability have told us they:



- are not treated fairly



- need better help to take part in the criminal justice or court systems



- do not have the same work or job opportunities as everyone else.



People with disability know and understand their own rights, but other people in the community do not.



We need to protect the rights of people with disability.



It can be hard for people with disability to get their voices heard.

## What we have been working on

We have been working to make things fairer.

This includes:



- The Australian Government set up a group to look at how people with mental impairment are treated in the justice system.



- We published the *Third Action Plan* for the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*.



The *Third Action Plan* talks about how to help women with disability who are in danger from violence.



- Some governments across Australia have developed their own disability justice plans.



These plans explain how they will help people with disability who take part in the justice system.

## Work, money and housing



The goal for this area is to help more people with disability get work, and have more money.



We know there are many people with disability who can work, and who want to work.



People with disability have told us things aren't much better in this area.



Things are worse for people with disability who do not speak English very well.

## What we have been working on

We have been working to help people with disability find work. This includes:



- The Australian Government has written a plan about what they will do to find more jobs for people with disability in the Australian Public Service.



Most of the states and territories are doing this too.



- The Community Development Programme (CDP) helps people who live far away from cities or towns.



The CDP helps people:

- learn the skills they need to find a good job
- take part in their community.

## Getting support



The goal for this area is to make sure people with disability get the support they need for everyday life.



The **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)** is a new way of supporting people with disability and their families.



People with disability have told us that the NDIS:

- is a big change
- will make a big difference in many people's lives.



People with disability who do not take part in the NDIS still need support.



It is important that carers also get support.

## What we have been working on

We have been working to make sure people with disability have the support they need for everyday life. This includes:



- The NDIS makes sure people with disability:
  - get the support that is right for them
  - have choice and control over their supports.



Through the NDIS, about 460,000 people with disability will get the support they need.



- Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) is an important part of the NDIS.



The focus of ILC is community inclusion – making sure people with disability are connected into their communities.



ILC is all about making sure everyday services in our community become more accessible and inclusive of people with disability.

## Learning and skills



The goal for this area is for people with disability to get:

- an education at a school, TAFE or university
- the skills they need to get a job.



A good education can help people with disability:

- find a good job
- earn money
- build strong relationships.



People have been working on finding the best ways for people with disability to get an education.



People with disability have told us things can still be done better so they are included in education.

**Year  
12** ↑

The number of people with disability who finish Year 12 is growing.



The number of people with disability getting other types of education is growing too.



This includes things like:

- certificates
- diplomas
- university degrees.

## What we have been working on

We have been working to help people with disability get the education and skills they need.

This includes:



- In 2016, Australian Sign Language (Auslan) was added to the Australian Curriculum.



This means Auslan is now one of the things that can be taught in Australian schools.

- Nearly all schools have taken part in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School students with Disability (NCCD).



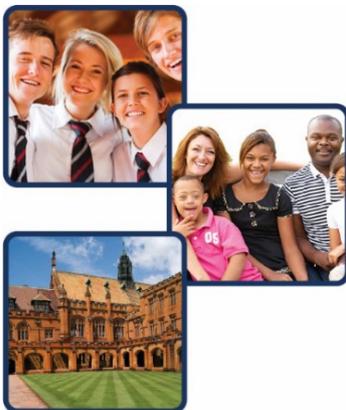
The NCCD is a way of collecting and sharing information about how students with disability are being included in Australian schools.



- The Queensland Government has made a TV series called *Sally and Possum*. *Sally and Possum* is for children aged 4 to 8 who are deaf or do not hear well and use Auslan.



- The Northern Territory Government is helping students with disability plan what they will do when they leave school.



They have put together information to help:

- students
- families
- schools.

## Health and wellbeing



The goal for this area is to make sure that people with disability can get the health services they need.



Good health is important for everyone.



Often people with disability are not as healthy as other people in the community.



People with disability have told us things are getting better.



But there are still some problems that stop people with disability from having better health.

They include:



- how much health care costs



- not being able to make appointments at times that suit them



- managing complex health issues, like when someone has 2 or more health problems



- getting specialised health care



- getting health care from people who understand how to work with people with disability.

## What we have been working on

We have been working to make health services better for people with disability. This includes:



- 31 Primary Health Networks (PHN) have been set up across Australia.



PHNs make sure people can get the right health care, in the right place, at the right time.



- The ACT Government Connect and Participate Expo helps people with disability meet and connect with:
  - people in their community
  - organisations that match their interests.



- The Victorian Government is working with Bendigo Health to make health services better for people with disability and their carers.

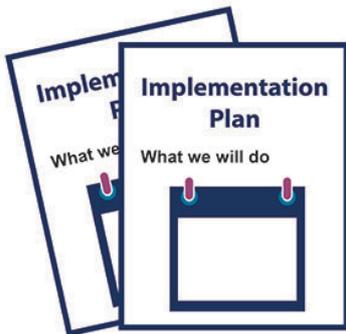
## What will happen next?



We have done a lot of work since the Strategy started, but people tell us there is still more to do.



We will keep working hard to make the lives of people with disability in Australia better.



So far, we have written 2 **implementation plans**.



The implementation plans help us make sure everybody knows what the Strategy wants them to do.



We will write a new implementation plan – *Measuring Progress* – for 2019-2020.



In 2018, we will ask people with disability, their families and carers how they think the Strategy is going.



We will include their feedback in a review.



This will help us to start work on a new plan for beyond 2020.



In 2 years, we will write another progress report.

## Word list



### **Accessible**

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



### **Implementation plans**

Plans to help us make sure everybody knows what the Strategy wants them to do.



### **Inclusive**

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



### **NDIS**

A new way of supporting people with disability and their families.



### **Progress report.**

A report about how things are going.

## Contact us



[nationaldisabilityst@dss.gov.au](mailto:nationaldisabilityst@dss.gov.au)



National Disability Strategy

PO Box 9820

Canberra

ACT 2601



[www.dss.gov.au/nds](http://www.dss.gov.au/nds)



This Easy Read document was created by the Information Access Group using stock photography and custom images. The images may not be reused without permission. For any enquiries about the images, please visit [www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com).

Quote job number 2839.

ISBN 978-1-925318-59-3 National Disability Strategy 2010-2020:  
Progress Report to COAG 2016 – Easy Read Online resource

## Copyright notice



With the exception of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, Department of Social Services Logo, photographs, images, signatures and where otherwise noted, all material presented in this publication is provided under a **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence**

The details of the relevant licence conditions are available on the Creative Commons website

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>

The document must be attributed as the Department of Social Services