



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

# What are Disability Representative Organisations

## Part 1





**Australian Government**

**Department of Health,  
Disability and Ageing**

The Australian Government Department of Health Disability and Ageing wrote this.

We say **DHDA** for short.

When you see the word **we** it means the DHDA.



We wrote this in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**Bold**

Not bold

We have some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

These are important words.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it has the most important ideas.



We can answer any questions by email.

Email us

[SystemicDisabilityAdvocacy@Health.gov.au](mailto:SystemicDisabilityAdvocacy@Health.gov.au)



You can ask for help to read this document.

You can ask

- A friend
- Family members
- A support person.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the **Traditional Owners** of the land we live on.



They were the **first people** to live on and use the

- Land
- Waters.

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# Who is this document for



This is a **guide** for Australian Government staff.

It has 2 parts.

You can read [part 2 on our website](#).



A guide says

- How things should be done
- Step by step what to do
- Can give recommendations.

Recommendations are ideas to do things better.



Both parts talk about Disability Representative Organisations.

We call them **DROs** for short.



Part 1 says what DROs

- Are
- Do.



Part 2 says how the government should work with DROs.



It is best to read [part 1](#) first.

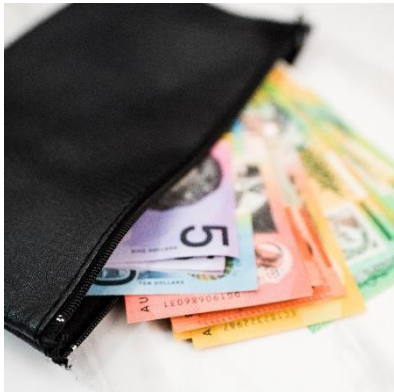
# What is a DRO



DROs are organisations that speak up for people with disability.

They help governments understand what people with disability

- Need
- Want.



The government has a program that gives money to DROs so they can

- Speak up for the **rights** of people with disability



Rights are **rules** about treating everyone

- Fair
- Equal.





- Help make things
  - Fair
  - More inclusive

Inclusive is when everyone

- Can **take part**
- Feels like they **belong**.



- Share the experiences of people with disability



- Support people with disability to take part in the community



DROs are **independent**.

Independent means separate to the government.

This means they

- Make their own decisions
- Choose what work to do.



Some DROs work with people who have a certain type of disability like

- People who are blind or have low vision



- Autism.



DROs might work with different groups of people with disability.



Our website has

- A list of DROs
- The groups they work with

<https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/disability-representative-organisations-program>

It is **not** in Easy Read.

# What DROs do



DROs do lots of things.

Like

Talk to government about things that affect people with disability like

- Laws
- Services
- Plans

Laws are **rules** for how we live.



- Help government hear real stories from people with disability



- Work on changes to
  - **Policies**
  - **Systems**

Policies are plans for how to do things.



- Be a part of
  - **Reviews**
  - **Research**



A review is when you check what

- Works
- Needs to change.



## Research means

- Finding out what people think about things
- Using the information to **help others.**



- Share important information with their communities



## Run

- **Events**
- **Workshops**
- **Campaigns**



Events are activities that bring people together in a community.



A workshop is when a group of people meet to talk about something.

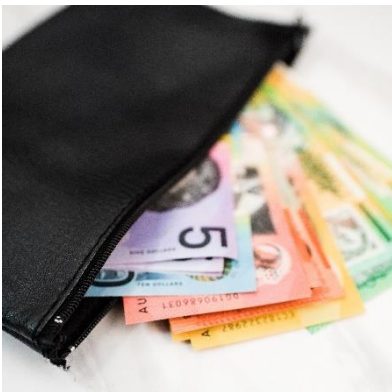


A campaign is working in way to do a **goal**.

Goals are things you want to do.



- Speak up for the **rights** of people with disability
  - **In Australia**
  - Overseas.



### **Funding** for the DRO Program

- Helps organisations **advocate** for people with disability.

Funding is money from the government to take part.



An advocate is someone who supports you to speak up for your **rights**.

It can also be called **advocacy**.





DROs speak to government to uphold the **rights** of people with disability.



Advocacy helps to make good changes in the community.



Advocacy can help with issues people with disability deal with like **barriers**



A barrier is something that stops you from doing what you

- Want
- Need.



- Discrimination



Discrimination means treating someone unfairly because of something about them they can not change.

Like that they have a disability.

# DRO Program Funding



The DRO Program funding helps organisations to speak up about



- What it feels like to have a disability

This can be called **lived experience**.



- The rights of people with disability



- Supporting people with disability to take part in the community.



It is important for people with disability to have a say about things that affect them.



We can do this by supporting DROs to take part in **engagements**.

Engagements are activities to share ideas.



This will help the government make good policies about people with disability.



The DRO Program funding has rules about how it can be used.

It can **not** be used for



- Big **co design** work

Co design means working with people who are affected by the project.

Like people with disability working on projects about disability.



- Engagements that last a long time.

# Review



We will work with DROs to review the documents regularly.



This will make sure DROs and the government know how to work well together.



In the reviews we will look at the **Guidelines**.

You can look at them on this website.

[www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/good-practice-guidelines](http://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/good-practice-guidelines)

It is in Easy Read.



Creating  
an inclusive  
community  
together

The Guidelines have been made as part of **Australia's Disability Strategy**.

We call it **ADS** for short



This will make sure people with disability are included in

- Helping the government make decisions



- Sharing their ideas



- Being part of changes that affect them





- Making policies.



It is important for DROs to give feedback about these documents.

You can talk to DHDA about your feedback.



It will help us to make sure they are working well.

# Contact us



You can contact us if you need more information.



You can send us an email.

[SystemicDisabilityAdvocacy@Health.gov.au](mailto:SystemicDisabilityAdvocacy@Health.gov.au)



You can read [part 2 on our website](#).

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