



# Disability and Health Sector Consultation Committee (DHSCC)

6 March 2026

## Terms of Reference

<p><b>Purpose and Scope</b></p>	<p>The purpose of the DHSCC is to provide a forum for people with disability, carers of people with disability, health and disability sector representatives, health and disability professionals, academic experts, and relevant Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies to discuss policy matters relating to health and disability support services for the 5.5 million Australians with disability.</p> <p>The DHSCC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share information and seek feedback on the status of supports and access difficulties for people with disability. This will include matters related to the direct and indirect impacts of communicable diseases (e.g., COVID-19) on people with disability.</li> <li>• Discuss ongoing and emerging issues for people with disability in accessing disability support and health services, identify priorities and suggest approaches to address issues raised.</li> </ul> <p>Discuss and provide updates on other topics of interest to all parties.</p> <p><a href="#">Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031</a> (ADS) is built on the social model of disability, with its vision for an inclusive Australian society that ensures people with disability can fulfil their potential, as equal members of the community. ADS key Outcome Areas include that people with disability get the highest possible health and wellbeing outcomes throughout their lives along with supporting equality, inclusion and participation in society for people with disability through positive community attitudes. The Health and Wellbeing and Community Attitudes policy priorities, plus other relevant policy priorities under ADS will guide the DHSCC work program.</p> <p>Note: this forum does not replace consultative mechanisms focused on specific policy, program and delivery initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Chair</b></p>	<p>The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the department): First Assistant Secretary, Primary Care Division.</p> <p>Where the Chair is unable to attend a meeting, a suitable representative will be selected by the Chair to be the acting Chair.</p>
<p><b>Membership</b></p>	<p>Membership of the DHSCC consists of representatives from a range of backgrounds including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• people with disability</li> <li>• carer of a person with disability</li> <li>• representatives from national health and disability organisations</li> <li>• disability service providers</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• health and disability professionals and academics, and</li> <li>• Commonwealth, state and territory disability and health government officials.</li> </ul> <p>Membership will include up to five (5) people with disability or people with lived experience as a carer of a person with disability.</p> <p><a href="#">Appendix 1</a> provides a list of organisations represented on the DHSCC, noting that individual representation from those organisations may vary due to topics of discussion and availability. A full membership list will be circulated to members annually by the secretariat.</p> <p>The Chair may invite representatives from other organisations or agencies to participate in specific meetings or discussions, as appropriate.</p>
<b>Working Groups</b>	Working groups, both time limited and ongoing, may be established to assist with the duties of the DHSCC as agreed by members or at the discretion of the Chair. Working groups will be required to provide their Terms of Reference and membership to the DHSCC and will provide updates to the DHSCC on key findings and issues associated with their scope of work.
<b>Operations</b>	<p>The DHSCC meetings will be scheduled every 3-4 months, with frequency adjusted based on need or current events.</p> <p>Meetings will be accessible according to the needs and requests of the membership and held via videoconference.</p> <p>Governance arrangements will be managed by the department, including maintaining linkages with other government agencies and forums as required.</p>
<b>Information Sharing</b>	<p>Generally, information presented during these meetings can be shared by members outside this forum. Members will be clearly informed when information and material should be treated in confidence.</p> <p>The personal views and opinions expressed by members at the meetings should be treated as confidential unless specifically declared otherwise by an individual member.</p>
<b>Committee Term</b>	<p>The Committee is effective from April 2021.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually (or as otherwise determined by the Chair).</p>
<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>Secretariat services will be provided by the department. The secretariat can be contacted via email at the following address: <a href="mailto:DHSCC@health.gov.au">DHSCC@health.gov.au</a></p> <p>A summary of each meeting, including outcomes and action items, will be distributed to members in a timely manner by the secretariat.</p> <p>The secretariat will ensure that Auslan and Captioning services are arranged for each meeting (if required). Additional accessibility requirements can also be arranged, such as Easy Read versions of the meeting agenda and agenda papers. To ensure adequate time to arrange supports, meeting attendees should notify the secretariat as soon as possible if they have any specific accessibility requirements, and no later than four weeks prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Action items from meetings will be recorded, monitored and updated by the secretariat. Where government agencies have ongoing actions items, they are to communicate regularly with the secretariat about the progress of the action items.</p>

# Appendix 1 – DHSCC Representation

Membership
<b>Chair</b>
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
<b>People with lived experience</b>
People with disability
Carer of people with disability
<b>Commonwealth, state and territory governments</b>
Australian Human Rights Commission
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
National Disability Insurance Agency
NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission
Services Australia
ACT Health
ACT Office for Disability
NSW Ministry of Health
NSW Health
Northern Territory Department of People, Sports and Culture
NT Health
Queensland Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety
Queensland Health
SA Health
Department of Human Services South Australia
Department of Communities Tasmania
Department of Health Tasmania
Department of Health Victoria
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Victoria
Department of Communities WA
Department of Health WA
<b>Health and Disability organisations</b>
Allied Health Professions Australia
Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
Autism Alliance National
Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia
Blind Citizens Australia
Brain Injury Australia*
Carers Australia
Children and Young People with Disability Australia
Community Mental Health Australia
Council for Intellectual Disability
Deaf Australia
Deafblind Australia
Disability Advocacy Network Australia
Down Syndrome Australia
First Peoples Disability Network Australia
Get Skilled Access

Membership
Inclusion Australia
Mental Health Australia
National Disability Services
National Ethnic Disability Alliance
Northcott Innovation
Palliative Care Australia
People with Disability Australia
Physical Disability Australia
Queenslanders with Disability Network
Reimagine Australia
Women with Disabilities Australia
Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance
<b>General organisations</b>
Heads of Motor Accidents Injury Schemes
Amplify Alliance
National Employment Services Association
Royal Australasian College of Physicians
<b>Universities, researchers, health care and disability providers</b>
Centre for Developmental Disability Health, Monash Health
National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health, UNSW
Griffith University
University of Melbourne
University of NSW
Centre from Disability Research and Policy, University of Sydney
Scope