



National Disability Advocacy Program 2024–25

1. About this report

This is the first published document dedicated to providing information about disability advocacy programs funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

This report includes information about the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) and is current for the 2024–25 financial year.

The Program Reporting section includes information about the program using a consistent format to support comparison across reports, nationally. This includes:

- What the program is and what it does
- Who the program is for
- What funding the program receives
- Where the program operates (such as states or territories)

2. Program Reporting

About the program

The NDAP provides people with disability access to effective advocacy support that promotes, protects and ensures their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights, enabling community participation.

NDAP includes the Indigenous Community Advocate (ICA) Pilot which aims to deliver tailored, culturally safe advocacy support for First Nations people with disability. This pilot commenced in January 2023 and aims to improve individual disability advocacy outcomes for First Nations people with disability by improving access to culturally appropriate services through specialist Indigenous Community Advocates embedded within mainstream and First Nations owned advocacy services.

Program Details

Table 1 – NDAP Details

Item	Details
Program start	1987
Program end date	2027
Disability advocacy model/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual advocacy • Family advocacy • Group advocacy • Self-advocacy • Systemic advocacy • Citizen advocacy
Expected outcome/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with disability are supported to uphold their rights in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. • There is an increased understanding of demand for disability advocacy services, to inform the design of future services.
Target group/s	<p>NDAP: People with a disability, carers and family members on behalf of people with disability. Some NDAP providers specialise in supporting specific cohorts, such as people from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, or with a specific type of disability.</p> <p>ICA Pilot: First Nations people with disability.</p>
Regulatory requirements	Comply with the Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023 (DSI Act) and the mandated National Standards for Disability Services (NSDS)
Certification requirements for providers	Demonstrate compliance through independent audit and certification against the NSDS and maintain certification for the duration of the funding agreement.
Additional information	Nil
Program design	Nil
Caveats	<p>Data source: Department of Social Services – Data Exchange (DEX) extracted 11 June 2026.</p> <p>Data should be interpreted with caution. The tables are based on information recorded in DEX for the 2024–25 financial year and may not represent a fully complete or reconciled dataset. Totals may not reconcile across all tables because each table uses information recorded for a specific data field, and some fields are more complete than others. Some fields may include unknown, not disclosed or blank responses. Some clients may also be counted in more than one category where their circumstances changed during the year, they received support across more than one location or jurisdiction, or more than one response was recorded. For these reasons, the tables should be read as indicative of client characteristics and patterns of met demand, rather than as a fully reconciled dataset.</p>

Program Funding

In 2024–25, total funding provided for the program was \$32.48 million GST exclusive. Funding was provided across all states and territories, with the largest allocations in New South Wales and Victoria. Multi-jurisdictional funding accounted for \$5.29 million, supporting activities delivered across more than one state or territory, including national coverage where relevant. The remaining funding was distributed across Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

Table 2 – NDAP funding total by jurisdiction

Funding provided by state and territory (GST exclusive)	2024–25 \$ million
ACT	0.430
NSW	7.006
NT	1.009
QLD	3.815
SA	3.449
TAS	1.152
VIC	6.774
WA	3.556
Multi-jurisdictional	5.291
Grand Total	32.482

Table 3 – NDAP funding total multi-jurisdictional breakdown

Funding provided by multi-jurisdictional breakdown (GST exclusive)	2024–25 \$ million
National	1.077
ACT / NSW	0.587
NT / SA / WA	2.801
VIC / NSW	0.825
Total	5.290

Demand for the program

For 2024-25, the department has the following data on hand about met demand for:

- Gender
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds status
- Accommodation
- Location
- Age group.

In 2024–25, the NDAP supported 13,620 individual clients across Australia. The data also shows demand across all states and territories, with the highest number of clients supported in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Available demographic data shows the program supported people across a range of genders, ages, cultural backgrounds and living situations, including First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Note: The following tables should be read with the data caveats outlined above. In particular, some demographic and location fields are more complete than others, so figures are indicative of client characteristics and patterns of met demand rather than a fully reconciled dataset. Also totals may not reconcile across all tables because each table uses information recorded for a specific data field, and some fields are more complete than others.

Table 4 – Number of individual clients supported by cohort in 2024-25

Cohort	2024–25	2024-25 %
Total number of individual clients supported	13,620	
Gender – Female	6,762	49
Gender – Male	6,465	47
Gender – Different term	121	1
Gender – Unknown / undisclosed / prefer not to say	272	3
First Nations – Identifies	1,632	12
First Nations – Does not identify	10,435	76
First Nations – Not identified / disclosed	1,635	12
CALD status – Identifies	614	5
CALD status – Does not identify	12,167	89
CALD status – Not identified / disclosed	839	6
Accommodation – Homeless	307	2
Accommodation – Homeless – at risk	664	5
Accommodation – Housed	6,261	46
Accommodation – Unknown / not disclosed	6,388	47
Location – Major cities	8969	66
Location – Inner regional	3178	23
Location – Outer regional	1237	9
Location – Remote	221	2
Location – Very remote	113	1
Location – Unknown / not disclosed	-	-
Age group – 0–9	888	6
Age group – 10-24	2,134	15
Age group – 25-44	3,958	28
Age group – 45-64	5,954	41
Age group – 65 and over	1,438	10
Age group – Unknown / not disclosed	8	0

Table 5 – Number of individual clients supported by state / territory in 2024-25

Jurisdiction	2024–25
Totals	13,622
NSW	5,131
VIC	2,852
QLD	1,242
SA	1,755
WA	1,260
TAS	528
NT	434
ACT	420

Table 6 – Number of individual clients supported by gender and state / territory in 2024-25

Jurisdiction	Female	Male	Different term	Not disclosed
Totals	6763	6466	121	272
NSW	2429	2569	58	75
VIC	1447	1303	11	91
QLD	619	551	14	58
SA	895	832	18	10
WA	665	574	11	10
TAS	271	243	5	9
NT	193	230	-	11
ACT	244	164	4	8

Table 7 – Number of First Nations individual clients supported by state / territory in 2024-25

Jurisdiction	2024–25
Totals	1643
NSW	675
VIC	152
QLD	146
SA	179
WA	141
TAS	81
NT	219
ACT	50

Table 8 – Number of individual clients identifying as CALD supported by state / territory in 2024-25

Jurisdiction	2024–25
Totals	614
NSW	273
VIC	151
QLD	16
SA	63
WA	91
TAS	10
NT	9
ACT	1

Table 9 – Number of individual clients supported by accommodation and state / territory in 2024–25

Jurisdiction	Homeless	At risk	Housed	Unknown / not disclosed
Totals	308	664	6261	6389
NSW	78	140	2,079	2,834
VIC	45	145	1423	1239
QLD	38	72	313	819
SA	54	161	1027	513
WA	69	64	845	282
TAS	11	34	299	184
NT	7	32	203	192
ACT	6	16	72	326

Table 10 – Number of individual clients supported by location in state / territory in 2024–25

Location*	Major cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very remote
Totals	9029	3149	1351	223	58
NSW	3967	943	269	46	
VIC	1556	1286	37		
QLD	827	268	154	8	
SA	1549	55	166		
WA	709	225	329	17	6
TAS		372	162		
NT			234	152	52
ACT	421				

* As defined by the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Structure (Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3)

Table 11 – Number of individual clients supported by age group^ in state / territory in 2024-25

Location	0–9	10–24	25–44	45–64	65 and over
Totals	873	2132	3791	6099	1432
NSW	502	948	1451	2013	435
VIC	125	395	811	1280	427
QLD	28	178	349	566	182
SA	88	228	394	1009	129
WA	64	157	336	669	102
TAS	7	91	180	203	79
NT	25	76	122	192	38
ACT	34	59	148	167	40

^ Aligned to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data and ABS recommendations.

3. Glossary

These are terms used in this document. Some terms may have different usage across programs and can be outlined for each program as required in their own glossary. Further work at a later date may be required by the Working Group to map how some of these terms are being used by agencies and programs.

Term	Usage
advocate (noun)	<p>An advocate is a person or organisation who acts, speaks or writes to promote, protect, uphold and defend human rights of people with disability. An advocate can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a person with disability (speaking up for themselves or others) • an organisation • a person employed as an advocate • a relative, friend, carer, supporter, support worker or other person <p>Note: Disability advocacy programs may have their own definitions of this term.</p>
client	<p>A client is a person who receives a service delivered under a funded program. This can include people with disability, informal carers and/or family members supporting people with disability and/or acting on their behalf.</p>
citizen advocacy	<p>Seeks to support vulnerable or isolated people with disability (also called protégés) by matching them with volunteers. Some of the matches made may last for life.</p> <p>Citizen advocates are encouraged to represent the interests of a person with disability as if they were their own and be free from conflict of interest. Citizen advocates are recruited, trained and supported by a coordinator who manages the work of the citizen advocacy agency.</p> <p>Note: Disability advocacy programs may have their own definitions of this term.</p>
dataset	<p>Structured information presented in lists, tables, databases, etc. Data may be numeric, spatial, spectral, statistical or structured text.</p>
demand	<p>A term used in national reporting. The quantity of people who are needing or wanting the service.</p> <p>See Met demand and Unmet demand.</p> <p>Note: Disability advocacy programs may have their own definitions of this term.</p>

Term	Usage
demographics	<p>The characteristics of a group of people. This can include things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • location • age or age range • whether people identify as First Nations, from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, as LGBTIQ+ • accommodation, such as in supported accommodation, prison, juvenile detention
disability advocacy	<p>A term used in national reporting to mean Acting, speaking or writing to promote, protect, uphold and defend the human rights of people with disability.</p> <p>Note: Disability advocacy programs may have their own definitions of this term.</p>
disability advocacy model	<p>This is how the program refers to the advocacy it supports and includes any definitions.</p>
disability advocacy program	<p>A term used in national reporting. A disability advocacy program uses disability advocacy, or a/multiple disability advocacy model/s as the focus for most of its work (an example is more than 50%) to achieve its outcomes. Another way to consider it is if the disability advocacy component were removed from the program / grant, it would be a completely different program / grant and would not be able to achieve its outcomes.</p>
Family advocacy	<p>Works with parents and family members to enable them to act as advocates with, and on behalf of, a family member with disability. Family advocates work with parents and family members on either a short-term or an issue-specific basis.</p> <p>Family advocates work within the fundamental principle that the rights and interests of the person with disability are upheld at all times.</p> <p>Note: Disability advocacy programs may have their own definitions of this term.</p>
field name	<p>The field name column in the 'Guidance for Program Reporting' used for national reporting. It is the name given to the unit of information.</p>
framework / National Disability Advocacy Framework	<p>The National Disability Advocacy Framework is a commitment by Australian, state and territory governments to work together to improve access to disability advocacy services across Australia.</p>

Term	Usage
individual advocacy	<p>Seeks to uphold the rights and interests of people with all types of disabilities on a one-on-one basis by addressing instances of discrimination, abuse and neglect.</p> <p>Individual advocates work with people with disability on either a short-term or issue-specific basis. Individual advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a plan of action (sometimes called an individual advocacy plan) in partnership with the person with disability that maps out clearly defined goals; • educate people with disability about their rights; and • work through the individual advocacy plan in partnership with the person with disability. <p>Note: Disability advocacy programs may have their own definitions of this term.</p>
met demand	<p>A term used in national reporting. People who received the service.</p> <p>Note: Disability advocacy programs may have their own definitions of this term.</p>
multi-jurisdictional funding	<p>Where funding is provided for coverage across state/territory borders, including nationally.</p> <p>Note: This is a term used by the Australian Government so jurisdictions may have their own definitions of this term.</p>
National Disability Advocacy Framework / framework / NDAF	<p>The National Disability Advocacy Framework is a commitment by Australian, state and territory governments to work together to improve access to disability advocacy services across Australia.</p>
national reporting	<p>Jurisdictions' commitment to publishing information and data about their disability advocacy programs from 1 July 2026.</p>
target group	<p>The people the services are targeted towards.</p>
unmet demand	<p>People who did not receive a service due to demand being greater than supply.</p> <p>Note: Disability advocacy programs may have their own definitions of this term.</p>

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All information in this publication is correct as at 11 June 2026

