



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

National Disability Strategy 2010-2020

Australian Government Action Plan

November 20



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Introduction

The *National Disability Strategy 2010-2020* (the Strategy) outlines a ten-year national policy framework for improving the lives of Australians with disability, their families and carers. It represents a commitment by all levels of government, industry and the community to a unified, national approach to disability policy and program development. Through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council (DRC), the Australian Government, state and territory disability ministers are responsible for implementing the Strategy and driving progress under its six outcome areas. In September 2016, DRC reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to the Strategy's aims and agreed to reinvigorate all governments' efforts to continue to drive progress.

The Strategy's first implementation plan, [Laying the Groundwork 2011-2014](#)¹, set the foundation for influencing all areas of policy development and service delivery. Progress made during the first implementation period is outlined in the Strategy's first biennial progress report, which provides an overview of activities undertaken across all levels of government to advance the objectives of the Strategy between 2011 and 2014. The Strategy's second implementation plan, [Driving Action 2015-2018](#)², seeks to build on the achievements of *Laying the Groundwork*. The second implementation plan provides an overarching framework for new policy action, while maintaining ongoing activities across mainstream services to better meet the needs of people with disability.

The second implementation plan is supported by the following key elements:

- **Australian Government Action Plan:** This plan represents the Australian Government's commitment to tangible actions that will drive implementation of the Strategy within Australian Government portfolios. Australian Government agencies have identified actions related to disability-specific and mainstream policies and programs that work towards achieving the Strategy's vision.
- **Australian Government Plan to Improve Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Disability:** This plan seeks to build the capacity of service systems, including disability services and Indigenous programs, to better meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability in a culturally safe and appropriate way.
- **State and territory disability plans:** Each jurisdiction has an individual plan to drive improved outcomes for people with disability. These plans are an important means of ensuring that essential public services and infrastructure are accessible and inclusive. Actions developed under state and territory disability plans work alongside activities undertaken at the federal level.

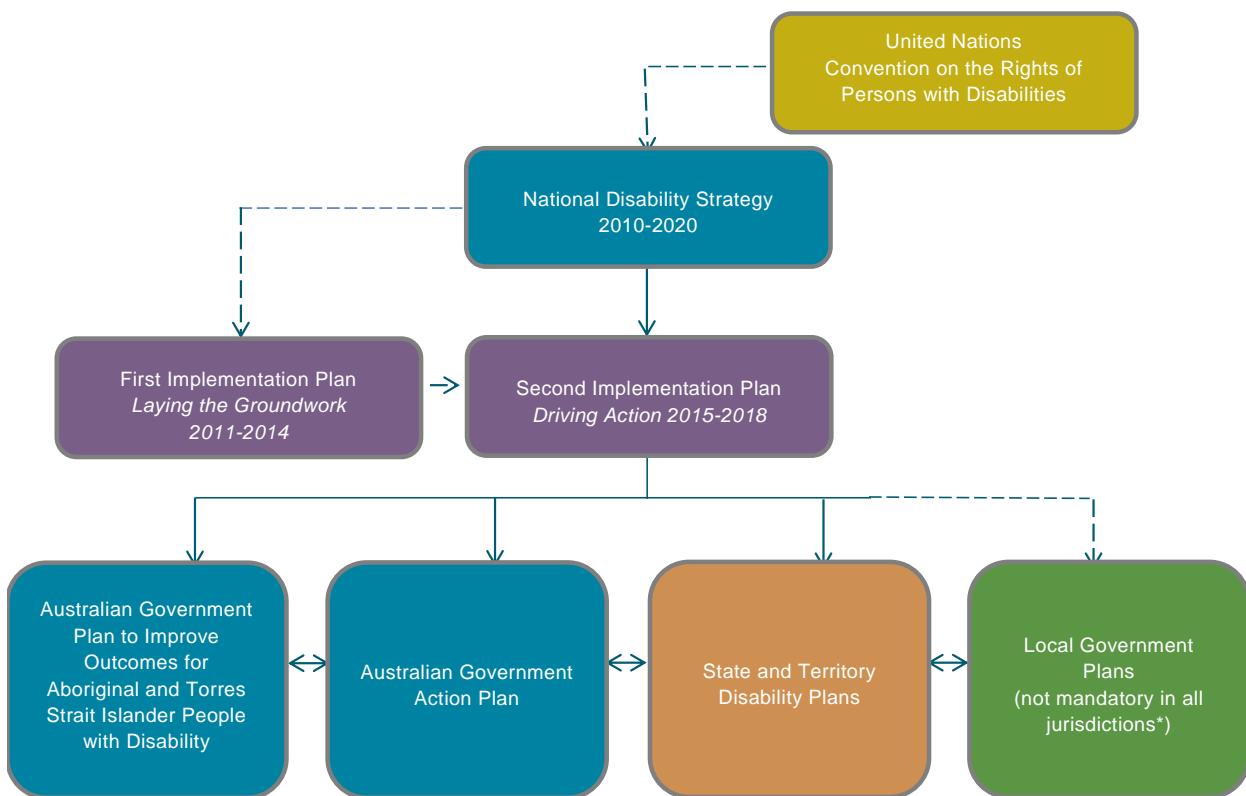
¹ <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/government-international/national-disability-strategy-2010-2020-report-to-coag-2012>

² <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/programs-services/government-international/national-disability-strategy-second-implementation-plan>

- **Local government plans (not mandatory in all jurisdictions):** Many local governments have developed disability plans and in some states and territories these are mandatory. Resources have been developed to support local governments to develop plans that align with the Strategy, and to ensure their activities are inclusive of people with disability.

Figure 1 shows the key elements of the Strategy’s second implementation plan, illustrating the way in which the *Australian Government Action Plan* works alongside and in conjunction with each element.

Figure 1. Driving Action 2015-2018: key elements



* Councils in some jurisdictions are required by legislation to develop Disability Access and Inclusion Plans. In jurisdictions where it is not mandatory, councils often voluntarily develop disability plans, or include disability planning in their social inclusion or equal access plans.

Areas of Policy Action

The Strategy outlines six main outcome areas that are aligned with the principles of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. These six areas for action provide the framework for implementing the Strategy and form the basis of this Action Plan. The six outcome areas are:

Outcome 1 Inclusive and accessible communities—the physical environment, including public transport, parks, buildings, housing, digital information and communications technologies; and civic life, including social, sporting, recreational and cultural activities.

Outcome 2 Rights protection, justice and legislation—statutory protections, such as anti-discrimination measures; complaints mechanisms; advocacy; and the electoral and justice systems.

Outcome 3 Economic security—jobs; business opportunities; financial independence; adequate income support for those not able to work; and housing.

Outcome 4 Personal and community support—inclusion and participation in the community; person-centred care and support provided by specialist disability services and mainstream services; and informal care and support.

Outcome 5 Learning and skills—early childhood education and care; schools, further education, and vocational education; transitions from education to employment; and life-long learning.

Outcome 6 Health and wellbeing—health services, health promotion and the interaction between the health and disability systems; and overall wellbeing and enjoyment of life.

The actions and activities outlined in the second implementation plan and this Action Plan support these key policy outcomes.

Contribution of Australian Government Agencies

While the Strategy has a whole-of-government approach, this Action Plan focuses on the contribution that Australian Government agencies will make under *Driving Action 2015-2018*. It draws on the outcomes of the Strategy's first progress report, as well as feedback received from ongoing engagement with people with disability through their representative organisations.

Australian Government agencies are an integral part of the Strategy, as a primary source of mainstream policy making and service delivery. In developing the Action Plan, Australian Government agencies identified and reported on policies, programs and services that work towards achieving the goals of the Strategy and, thereby, contribute to achieving better life outcomes for people with disability.

Engagement

The Australian Government is committed to engaging with people with disability, their families, carers and representative organisations in the development of policies, programs and services.

Government agency protocols

To ensure that people with disability are actively engaged in the development of policies, programs and services, the Department of Social Services continues to work with government agencies to develop protocols for consulting with people with disability and their representative organisations. A number of agencies, such as the [Department of Human Services](#)³, have already developed engagement protocols. The second implementation phase will seek to ensure that the development of protocols is considered across agencies at both the federal and state and territory level.

Focus Workshops

The Australian Government, in partnership with state, territory and local governments, is convening a series of three targeted, solution-focused workshops each year during 2017 and 2018. The workshops will bring together a broad range of participants to take part in discussions, which could include representatives from both disability and mainstream agencies across all levels of government, and people with disability through their representative organisations.

The Department of Social Services will lead Australian Government agencies in the management and administration of these workshops. At least one workshop per year will be focused on improving employment outcomes for people with disability and one on improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability. The first workshop in the series was held on 2 May 2017 and focused on improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

National Areas of Cooperation

While all governments are focused on improving outcomes for people with disability across each of the Strategy's six policy outcome areas, the following four areas have been identified as areas of national cooperation and will receive additional effort:

1. Continued implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

All Australian governments have committed to rolling out the NDIS to full scheme.

2. Improving employment outcomes for all Australians with disability

All Australian governments are committed to ensuring people with disability receive opportunities to reach their potential and achieve meaningful participation in the workforce.

3. Improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability

All governments have made a commitment to both Closing the Gap and the Strategy. While the *Australian Government Plan to Improve Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Disability* focuses on action by the Australian Government, governments at state, territory and local levels are taking important steps to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

³ <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/publications-and-resources/protocol-engaging-people-disability>

4. **Activities to promote the intent of the Strategy**

Governments have agreed to develop a communications approach, to be implemented through a range of activities. Broad messaging will seek to promote the intent of the Strategy across the community; increase awareness of the Strategy itself; and highlight the commitment made by all levels of government to furthering the Strategy's objectives.

Interaction with National Initiatives

The *Australian Government Action Plan* works alongside other national initiatives that seek to improve the lives of all Australians, including those with disability. The Action Plan recognises that disability does not occur in isolation from other challenges in life, and that many people with disability face additional disadvantage due to their sex, age, sexuality, and/or ethnic or cultural background.

Key initiatives that seek to address such disadvantage for all Australians, including people with disability, are as follows:

- *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*
- *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020*
- Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage
- Veteran Mental Health Strategy 2013-2023
- *Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2017-2022*
- National Arts and Disability Strategy

Further information about these national initiatives can be found in Appendix A.

Data Collection

Improving the quality and availability of disability data and research remains an important means of understanding the impact of reforms in mainstream policies, programs and services on the life outcomes of people with disability, their families and carers.

Standard disability identifier

During the Strategy's first implementation phase, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) developed a standard disability identifier for use in mainstream administrative data collections, such as health, justice, education, Indigenous reform and housing. The identifier helps to identify people with disability at the point of service provision and, thereby, assists in measuring the effectiveness of reforms through retrospective reporting within and across service domains.

National Disability Research and Development Agenda

Endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in November 2011, the National Disability Research and Development Agenda outlines national priorities, focus and direction for disability-related research. The purpose of the agenda is to ensure that research activity provides the evidence necessary for the development of policies and programs that will lead to improved outcomes for Australians with disability.

Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), outlines in-depth information about the prevalence of disability in Australia and levels of support needed. It provides a demographic and socio-economic profile of people with disability, carers and older people, compared with the general population.

Short disability module (short-form)

The short disability module has been included in most ABS social surveys since 2002, including the General Social Survey and the National Health Survey. It identifies the population with disability using ten questions and allows for a comparison of social, economic and other characteristics of people with and without disability.

Disability Services National Minimum Dataset

The AIHW manages the production of the Disability Services National Minimum Dataset (DS NMDS), which comprises Australian Government, state and territory data on specialist disability services provided under the National Disability Agreement (NDA). With the rollout of the NDIS across Australia, it is expected that most NDA service users will transition to the NDIS and exit from the DS NMDS collection over time. During the transition, NDA services data will continue to form an essential component of the national picture on the use of disability services in Australia.

NDIS data

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) collects data on participants, service providers and the operation of the NDIS. The NDIA reports quarterly on its operations. These reports are available on the [NDIS⁴](#) website.

Some of the work undertaken through the NDIS Sector Development Fund contributes to the development of an evidence base to inform an insurance approach to disability support. The sector, the Australian Government and the NDIA require robust data and evidence to guide and inform decision-making, not only during transition, but also as the NDIS rolls out across the country.

⁴ <http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/information-publications-and-reports/quarterly-reports>

Tracking Our Progress

Every two years, a progress report to COAG tracks the achievements made under the Strategy and provides a picture of how people with disability are faring. These reports use national trend indicator data based on the six outcome areas of the Strategy.

Through the progress reports, all levels of government report on actions across each of the six outcome areas, as well as areas of national cooperation. The *Measures of Achievement* detailed in this Action Plan will provide a basis for reporting on progress made by the Australian Government in future progress reports. All relevant Australian Government agencies will provide input to the progress reports on how their policies, programs and services align with the objectives of the Strategy. The progress reports will also be informed by stakeholder feedback and more quantitative measures, such as ABS data.

The Strategy identifies a number of policy directions under each outcome area. The Australian Government will progress these policy directions as outlined in the actions and activities below. Some policy directions have been addressed through the Strategy's first implementation plan, *Laying the Groundwork 2011-2014*, and do not require any further action during the second implementation stage of the Strategy. Furthermore, responsibility for some policy directions sits with state and territory governments.

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

There are five policy directions under this outcome:

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

The Strategy provides a cohesive vision for advancing the interests of people with disability, their families and carers across the whole community.

(National Disability Strategy, p. 13)

People with disability make a valuable contribution to Australian society and have a right to a community that is inclusive of everyone. This means broader mainstream services, programs and facilities that are part of ordinary Australian life must be available and fully accessible to people with disability. People with disability need to be able to access and use local doctors, dentists, shopping centres, sports clubs, transport, schools, websites, voting booths and so on. Improving access to community infrastructure, housing, transport, and communication and information systems is not only of benefit to people with disability, but assists the entire community.

The ABS General Social Survey 2014 found that people with disability:

- were less likely than people without disability to have participated in sport or recreational activities or to have attended a sporting event as a spectator
- were less likely than people without disability to have attended any selected cultural venue or event
- were less likely than people without disability to have participated in social or community support groups
- were less likely to access government services via the internet.

1. Increased participation of people with disability, their families and carers in the social, cultural, religious, recreational and sporting life of the community

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) as part of the NDIS</p> <p>Further information is available at the NDIS⁵ website.</p>	<p>ILC will contribute to strengthening mainstream services' understanding and responses to the needs of people with disability (e.g. health care, education, transport and housing). It will contribute to building community capacity to be inclusive of people with disability. Local Area Coordination is a critical component to deliver this.</p> <p>Lead agency: National Disability Insurance Agency</p>	<p>The success of this activity will be measured through the full implementation of the NDIS. The period for this action is 2019-2020.</p> <p>An ILC Outcomes Framework is being developed to measure the outcomes achieved through ILC.</p>
<p>Implementation of the National Arts and Disability Strategy</p> <p>Further information is available at the Meeting of Cultural Ministers⁶ website.</p>	<p>All people with disability have a right to participate in cultural activities but often face barriers to participation. The National Arts and Disability Strategy provides a long-term vision that people with disability can participate fully in the arts and cultural life of Australia.</p> <p>The National Arts and Disability Strategy was subject to its first triennial review in 2013. The second triennial review of the Strategy is currently underway.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Communications and the Arts</p>	<p>The broad framework of the National Arts and Disability Strategy assists jurisdictions to identify and develop priority projects suitable for their jurisdiction. Jurisdictions report to the Meeting of Cultural Ministers each year on implementation.</p>

⁵ <http://www.ndis.gov.au/community/ilc-home>

⁶ <http://mcm.arts.gov.au/working-groups/nads>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Indigenous Advancement Strategy (sporting investments)</p> <p>Further information is available at the indigenous.gov.au⁷ website.</p>	<p>The Indigenous Advancement Strategy (sporting investments) increases the availability of sporting activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability. Funded organisations are encouraged to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability to better enable them to participate in sport and recreation activities.</p> <p>The revised Indigenous Advancement Strategy guidelines recommend that, where possible and relevant, applications for funding should highlight how the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability will be addressed.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p>	<p>The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is working closely with providers to achieve outcomes and this includes working together to arrive at effective measures of success that are outcomes-based and locally relevant.</p>
<p>Veterans peer-to-peer support network pilot programs</p>	<p>Under the pilot programs, veterans with a mental health condition will be matched with a peer mentor. The benefits of peer support include improving quality of life, fostering social networking to promote wellness and increasing coping skills.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Veterans' Affairs</p>	<p>The success of the program will be measured by improved health outcomes and increased overall quality and enjoyment of life of participants.</p> <p>The pilot programs are due to conclude in 2017 and will be independently evaluated.</p>
<p>Sustainable Procurement Strategy</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science⁸ website.</p>	<p>The Sustainable Procurement Strategy promotes corporate responsibility and increases awareness of the social considerations in the procurement lifecycle. It introduces a social impact assessment tool and emphasises social considerations, such as disability, when undertaking procurement in the Australian Public Service.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Industry, Innovation and Science</p>	<p>Developed by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, the Sustainable Procurement Strategy was released in November 2015. The strategy's Social Impact Assessment Tool has been incorporated into the Department's standard procurement assessment criteria. The strategy is available to other Australian Public Service agencies for their consideration.</p>

⁷ <http://www.indigenous.gov.au/indigenous-advancement-Strategy>

⁸ <http://www.industry.gov.au/AboutUs/InformationPublicationScheme/Whatwedo/Documents/Sustainable-Procurement-Strategy.pdf>

2. Improved accessibility of the built and natural environment through planning and regulatory systems, maximising the participation and inclusion of every member of the community

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Review of the <i>Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010 (the Premises Standards)</i></p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science⁹ website.</p>	<p>The Premises Standards aim to provide people with disability dignified and equitable access to buildings. There is a legislative commitment to review the Premises Standards every five years.</p> <p>The 2015 review considered the effectiveness of the Premises Standards in achieving its objectives.</p> <p>The review identified necessary amendments to the Premises Standards, as well as inconsistencies in the interpretation and application of the Premises Standards.</p> <p>The Review Report identifies six main recommendations, with 67 sub-recommendations, including 30 technical and editorial amendments.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Industry, Innovation and Science; Attorney-General's Department</p>	<p>The review report was provided to the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science and the Attorney-General by the legislated date of 1 May 2016.</p> <p>The Australian Government has now finalised its response to the recommendations made in the review report.</p> <p>The Australian Government response agrees to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement 21 technical amendments • increase awareness of educational and training materials • establish a data framework for collecting information and evidence across state and territory jurisdictions • put in place a cohesive structure for progressing future reforms of the Premises Standards.

⁹ <https://www.Industry.gov.au/PremisesStandardsReview>

3. Improved provision of accessible and well-designed housing with choice for people with disability about where they live

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Housing and the NDIS</p> <p>Further information is available at the NDIS¹⁰ website.</p>	<p>The NDIS will provide all Australians (entering prior to age 65) with reasonable and necessary support in the event of significant disability.</p> <p>The NDIS exists to enable people with disability to live an ordinary life, providing them with choice and control over the supports they need.</p> <p>One of the supports that may be funded for some participants who have an extreme functional impairment or very high support needs is Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA). SDA refers to accommodation for people who require specialist housing solutions, including to assist with the delivery of supports that cater for their extreme functional impairment or very high support needs. The inclusion of SDA funding in the NDIS is expected to significantly increase supply of SDA over time.</p> <p>While the NDIS is not responsible for affordable housing, including accessible affordable housing, the NDIS can fund some accommodation-related supports for participants, including supports for daily living, home modifications, assistive technology, SDA, home and yard maintenance, and assistance in navigating rental markets and maintaining tenancies. The NDIS can also fund short-term accommodation where a participant requires different support arrangements for a short period of time.</p> <p>Lead agency: National Disability Insurance Agency</p>	<p>NDIS participants have reasonable and necessary accommodation related supports funded in their NDIS plans.</p> <p>From 1 July 2016, eligible participants will have SDA funding included in their plan, enabling them to source the SDA they require and choose from the market.</p> <p>The supply of SDA increases across Australia.</p>
<p>National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Social Services¹¹ website.</p>	<p>The NRAS is a partnership between the Australian Government and the states and territories to invest in affordable rental housing. NRAS properties are available for rent to anyone who meets the relevant household income and eligibility requirements, which includes people with disability.</p> <p>There are no further application rounds for NRAS.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>The NRAS <i>Quarterly Performance Report</i> (March 31 2017) identified that a total of 37,064 allocated and not yet delivered dwellings have been allocated into NRAS and will be available to be rented under NRAS for up to 10 years.</p>

¹⁰ <http://www.ndis.gov.au/>

¹¹ <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/housing-support/programs-services/national-rental-affordability-scheme>

4. A public, private and community transport system that is accessible for the whole community

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Implementation of recommendations arising from the second review of <i>Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002</i> (Transport Standards)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development¹² website.</p>	<p>The Australian Government is committed to reducing discrimination against people with disability and improving public transport accessibility. The Transport Standards are required to be reviewed every five years. The second review of the Transport Standards was in 2012.</p> <p>Further details are contained in the Australian Government response to the review.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development</p>	<p>The success of this activity will be measured by the implementation of the review's recommendations.</p> <p>The second review made a number of recommendations, including:</p> <p>Recommendation 1 - Modernisation of the Transport Standards. Government, transport industry and disability sector representatives are progressing work surrounding two tranches of identified modernisation issues. Proposed amendments will be finalised following public consultation.</p> <p>Recommendation 4 - A Whole of Journey Guide for assisting transport planners to think beyond compliance to create accessible public transport journeys will be finalised in late 2017 following national consultation.</p>

¹² <http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/transport/disabilities/review/2012.aspx>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Disability Access Facilitation Plan (DAFP) initiative and the review of its effectiveness and accessibility</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development¹³ website.</p>	<p>The DAFP initiative encourages airports and airlines to provide information about the services available to people with disability - from making a reservation through to arriving at the intended destination.</p> <p>The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development completed a review of the DAFP initiative. The review sought feedback from the general public and through the Aviation Access Forum. The review received positive feedback about the role of DAFPs, as well as suggestions about how the utility of the plans could be improved.</p> <p>The review of the DAFP initiative was completed on 30 June 2015. Recommendations were aimed towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing the public awareness of the DAFP initiative • improving the accessibility and effectiveness of the plans • promoting better engagement between the aviation industry and disability sector. <p>Lead agency: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development</p>	<p>The review recommendations have been implemented and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development will continue to work with the Aviation Access Forum on disability access issues in aviation.</p>

¹³ <https://infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/aaf/index.aspx>

5. Communication and information systems that are accessible, reliable and responsive to the needs of people with disability, their families and carers

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Access to digital government information and services</p> <p>Further information is available at the Digital Transformation Agency¹⁴ website.</p>	<p>The government has an obligation to make its information and services available to all people regardless of ability. The Digital Service Standard¹⁵ requires Australian Government agencies to understand the needs of all users during the design or redesign of services. This requires research to develop a deep knowledge of the users and their context for using the service, including interviewing people with disability to understand their service needs. The Standard also requires agencies to 'ensure the service is accessible to all users regardless of their ability and environment', including conformance with WCAG 2.0 level AA.</p> <p>Lead agency: Digital Transformation Agency</p>	<p>All major services (over 50,000 transactions per year) are required to be assessed against the Digital Service Standard during development / redevelopment and before they can go live.</p> <p>Assessment reports¹⁶ are published on the Digital Transformation Agency website.</p> <p>Service key performance indicators, including measures of user satisfaction, are reported on the Performance Dashboard.¹⁷</p>
<p>National Broadband Network</p> <p>More information is available at the NBN¹⁸ website.</p>	<p>The national broadband network provides infrastructure that will give all Australians access to very fast broadband by 2020. The network is set to benefit all Australians; however, it will have a great impact on the quality of life of people with disability. The national broadband network will open opportunities in education, health care, business, entertainment and sociability, giving everyone the potential to be more productive, more creative, and more efficient for decades to come.</p> <p>Lead Government Business Enterprise: NBN Co</p>	<p>NBN Co plans to connect 8 million premises to the national broadband network by 2020.</p> <p>NBN Co provides a public weekly progress report. The report shows the progress of the rollout.</p>

¹⁴ <https://www.dta.gov.au/>

¹⁵ <https://www.dta.gov.au/standard/>

¹⁶ <https://www.dta.gov.au/standard/assessments/>

¹⁷ <http://www.dashboard.gov.au/>

¹⁸ <http://www.nbnco.com.au/>

Outcome 2. Rights protection, justice and legislation – People with disability have their rights promoted, upheld and protected

There are five policy directions under this outcome:

1. Increase awareness and acceptance of the rights of people with disability.
2. Remove societal barriers preventing people with disability from participating as equal citizens.
3. People with disability have access to justice.
4. People with disability to be safe from violence, exploitation and neglect.
5. More effective responses from the criminal justice system to people with disability who have complex needs or heightened vulnerabilities.

People with disability are citizens with rights, not objects of charity.
(*National Disability Strategy*, p. 16)

The Strategy plays an important role in protecting, promoting and fulfilling the human rights of people with disability in accordance with the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. This outcome area recognises the need for greater awareness and understanding of the rights of people with disability. Australians with disability continue to experience discrimination at higher levels than those without disability across all aspects of community life. For example, women with disability experience higher rates of physical and sexual violence compared with other women, and this violence often goes unreported. Their experiences of violence also tend to occur over a longer period of time, resulting in more severe trauma. In addition, children with disability are more likely to experience violence, abuse and neglect than other children.¹⁹

Further action is needed to improve statutory protections, complaints mechanisms, advocacy, and interactions with the justice system. Particular attention must be given to ensuring that people with disability are safe from violence, exploitation and neglect.

¹⁹ COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children – Final Report, Commonwealth of Australia 2016

The ABS General Social Survey 2014 found that people with disability:

- were more likely than people without disability to have experienced crime victimisation
- were more likely than people without disability to have experienced discrimination
- were less likely than people without disability to feel they could have a say within their community on important issues.

1. Increase awareness and acceptance of the rights of people with disability

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>National disability representative organisations funding model</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Social Services²⁰ website.</p>	<p>National disability representative organisations are funded to provide support for people with disability, and/or represent disability service providers who support people with disability, to ensure that disability issues and a diversity of voices are represented in Australian Government decision-making and policy outcomes.</p> <p>These disability representative organisations provide domestic representation of Australians with disability, consistent with Australia's obligations under the United Nations <i>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</i>.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>The success of this model will be measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quality and quantity of policy advice provided by the funded disability peak bodies • evidence of representation on behalf of, and by, people with disability.
<p>National Disability and Carers Advisory Council</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Social Services²¹ website.</p>	<p>The National Disability and Carers Advisory Council (the Council) was an Australian Government election commitment.</p> <p>The Council will provide advice to the Minister for Social Services and help drive key government reform agendas impacting people with disability and carers.</p> <p>The membership of the Council includes people with disability and carers, disability sector experts, representatives from industry and services sectors, and non-government organisations. Members are drawn from every state and territory.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>The Council will operate from 2016-19.</p> <p>Following each meeting, a communiqué will be agreed by the members and made publicly available.</p>

²⁰ <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/consultation-and-advocacy/national-disability-peak-bodies>

²¹ <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/overview/national-disability-and-carers-advisory-council>

2. Remove societal barriers preventing people with disability from participating as equal citizens

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Review of the <i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i> (the <i>Education Standards</i>)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Education and Training²² website.</p>	<p>The <i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i>, formulated under the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>, set out the obligations of education and training providers to ensure that students with disability can access and participate in education and training on the same basis as those without disability.</p> <p>The five-yearly reviews of the Education Standards evaluate the effectiveness of the Education Standards in ensuring that students with disability are able to access and participate in education and training, free from discrimination and on the same basis as other students.</p> <p>Lead agencies: Department of Education and Training, Attorney-General's Department</p>	<p>Success will be measured through the level of engagement with stakeholders, and through a Final Report with recommendations.</p>

3. People with disability have access to justice

New actions in this policy area are currently under development and not yet available for public release. This section will be updated as new information becomes available. For information on continuing actions relating to Outcome 2: Rights protection, justice and legislation, please see Appendix B.

²² <http://www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education>

4. People with disability to be safe from violence, exploitation and neglect

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Social Services²³ website.</p>	<p>The NDIS represents a fundamental change to how services for people with disability are funded and delivered across Australia.</p> <p>The NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework (the Framework) provides a nationally consistent approach to help empower and support NDIS participants to exercise choice and control, while ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place, and establishes expectations for providers and their staff to deliver high quality supports.</p> <p>The Framework is designed to ensure that all NDIS participants have the same protection, regardless of where they live in Australia.</p> <p>The Framework was developed following intensive consultation and collaboration between all governments, people with disability, carers, service providers and other stakeholders.</p> <p>As announced in the 2017-18 Budget, the Australian Government will provide \$209 million over four years from 2017-18 to establish the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (the Commission) and enact the Australian Government's responsibilities under the Framework.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>The Commission will be established in early 2018 and will begin operating in New South Wales and South Australia in July 2018. It will begin in remaining states, except Western Australia, in July 2019. In Western Australia, it will begin in 2020, subject to final negotiations.</p>
<p>Australian Senate inquiry into violence, abuse and neglect against people with disability in institutional and residential settings</p>	<p>Violence, abuse and neglect of people with disability is abhorrent regardless of the situation, scale or location in which it occurs.</p> <p>The Senate inquiry and subsequent report, tabled on 25 November 2015, focuses on this critical issue.</p> <p>The Australian Government has carefully considered the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry. The Government response to the report was tabled on 3 March 2017.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>The findings from this Inquiry will encourage the implementation of increased measures, including improvements to regulatory frameworks and safeguards, to prevent the occurrence of violence, abuse and neglect within institutional and residential settings.</p>

²³ <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/programs-services/for-people-with-disability/ndis-quality-and-safeguarding-framework>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Revision of the National Disability Advocacy Framework (NDAF)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Social Services²⁴ website.</p>	<p>The objective of the NDAF is to ensure that people with disability have access to effective disability advocacy that promotes, protects and ensures their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights, enabling full community participation.</p> <p>As part of the 2015 review of NDAF, the Australian Government considered feedback received through consultations, as well as stakeholder input to the development of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding and Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Frameworks.</p> <p>Following the review, the Australian Government worked with the states and territories and the NDIA to revise the NDAF.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>The revised NDAF will be released in 2017-18.</p>

²⁴ <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/publications-articles/national-disability-advocacy-program/national-disability-advocacy-framework>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Social Services²⁵ website.</p>	<p>NDAP provides people with disability access to advocacy that promotes, protects and ensures their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights.</p> <p>The Australian Government funds disability advocacy organisations across the country to work on behalf of the interests of people with disability; to protect their rights to freedom from discrimination, exploitation and abuse; and to increase their ability to fully participate in the community. An advocate may assist with a range of issues including access, transport, health, education and accommodation.</p> <p>In 2016, the Australian Government reviewed NDAP, in consultation with people with disability and other stakeholders. It has been identified that there are a number of areas where NDAP can be improved, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • closing gaps in geographic coverage and the way support is provided to people with disability who live in regional and remote locations; • reaching people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds more effectively; • planning for integration with the NDIS and managing the potential for conflict of interest that might arise for advocacy agencies who are also registered with, and providing services funded by, the NDIS; • increasing equity in the funding of NDAP agencies and developing a more consistent and systematic approach to costing; • enhancing the evidence base by developing a robust and consistent data collection system; and • improving the flow of information about systemic issues to policy makers. <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>Reforms will be implemented in a staged approach, to be completed by June 2020.</p>

²⁵ <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-people-with-disability/national-disability-advocacy-program-ndap>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 (the National Plan)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Social Services²⁶ website.</p>	<p>Under the National Plan (and its action plans), all Australian governments are working with expert organisations, service providers and advocates to deliver practical actions that improve the safety of women with disability and their children.</p> <p>The National Plan is being delivered through a series of four, three-year action plans that will build on each other over time. The third action plan, released in October 2016, advances activities and initiatives developed and implemented under the National Plan and through the first and second action plans.</p> <p>To inform the third action plan, consultations were held in the first half of 2016. A roundtable consultation on violence against women with disability was held with key stakeholders from the disability sector, to contribute to the direction of the third action plan.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>The aim of the National Plan is to achieve a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children. This will be done through community engagement, continuing progress on best practice policies and practical actions. Reporting on progress made on the action plan's practical actions, and evaluations of the National Plan, will occur regularly throughout the life of the National Plan.</p>

²⁶ <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/women/programs-services/reducing-violence/the-national-plan-to-reduce-violence-against-women-and-their-children-2010-2022>

5. More effective responses from the criminal justice system to people with disability who have complex needs or heightened vulnerabilities

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Development of resources to address the treatment of people unfit to plead or not guilty by reason of mental impairment</p>	<p>The interaction of people with cognitive disability and mental illness with the criminal justice system has been the subject of ongoing review. The Law, Crime and Community Safety Council (LCCSC) established a cross-jurisdictional working group in 2015, which collated and analysed data across jurisdictions. The group also led the development of a draft <i>National Statement of Principles</i> to identify safeguards throughout legal processes. The principles were presented to LCCSC in 2017, where jurisdictions agreed to take them to their respective Cabinets for consideration.</p> <p>Lead agency: Attorney-General's Department</p>	<p>The collation and analysis of existing data, and the development and adoption of a national set of principles, will assist jurisdictions to improve the treatment of people with mental and/or cognitive disability in the criminal justice system.</p>

Outcome 3. Economic security – 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

There are three policy directions under this outcome:

1. Increase access to employment opportunities as a key to improving economic security and personal wellbeing for people with disability, their families and carers.
2. 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.
3. Improve access to housing options that are affordable and provide security of tenure.

In addition to the individual and family benefits of improving outcomes for people with disability, there is a strong economic imperative to encourage workforce participation and build human capital.

(National Disability Strategy, p. 19)

Work is essential to economic security and is important in achieving social inclusion and personal wellbeing. This outcome recognises that people with disability face higher barriers to employment than those without disability and that by reducing these barriers people with disability will have greater opportunity for financial independence and a better standard of living. Economic security is also reliant on having access to secure and affordable housing options, providing the foundations for participating in community life.

The ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2015 found that:

- people with disability were less likely than people without disability to have participated in the labour force
- a greater proportion of people with disability reported working part-time compared with people without disability
- the average income of people with disability was lower than people without disability.

1. Increase access to employment opportunities as a key to improving economic security and personal wellbeing for people with disability, their families and carers

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Implementation of Reforms to Disability Employment Services (DES)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Social Services²⁷ or the DSS Engage²⁸ website.</p>	<p>In the 2017-18 Budget, the Australian Government reaffirmed its commitment to improving employment outcomes for people with disability and announced changes to DES.</p> <p>Australians with disability are currently underrepresented in the workforce. More than 14 per cent of working-age people have a disability; however, only 53 per cent of those are either participating in work or seeking work, compared with 83 per cent of people without disability. Reforms to DES seek to improve the overall performance of the program, where currently only around one-third of participants remain employed three months after receiving assistance. From 1 July 2018, reforms will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving participant choice and control in the services they receive and how they receive them. • Driving greater competition and contestability in service delivery to drive performance. • Improving incentives for providers to place and support jobseekers in employment. • A trial of expanded DES eligibility for school leavers. <p>A process will be undertaken in late 2017/early 2018 to select providers for the new program.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>DES is a demand-driven program. Actual performance will be reported annually in the Department of Social Services' Annual Report. A goal of the changes to DES is to increase performance, in terms of the proportion of participants who are in employment three months after a period of assistance, to be closer to general employment services at around 40 per cent.</p>

²⁷ <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/programmes-services/disability-employment-services>

²⁸ <https://engage.dss.gov.au/disability-employment-services-reform-2018-industry-information-paper/>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Develop and implement the NDIS</p> <p>Further information is available at the NDIS²⁹ website.</p>	<p>One of the objectives of the NDIS is to provide people with disability with support to assist them to participate in, and contribute to, social and economic life to the extent of their abilities.</p> <p>The NDIS will fund a range of supports designed to improve economic security for participants. This includes transition support into employment, and assistance for people who require support within the workplace due to the impact of the person's impairment on their functional capacity in the workplace. Participants will discuss their individual employment and participation goals with the NDIA as part of their planning conversation. The NDIA will work collaboratively with employment services, vocational training and higher education providers, and employers to ensure NDIS participants are receiving the supports they need to reach their employment goals.</p> <p>The NDIS will fund supports for participants to gain skills and assist with undertaking employment where these are beyond the responsibilities of employment services and employers. This may include personal care within the workplace, aids and equipment, transport to and from work, and transition supports.</p> <p>Lead agency: National Disability Insurance Agency</p>	<p>The success of this activity will be measured by increased employment participation rates by NDIS participants.</p> <p>NDIS has developed an outcomes framework to measure the medium and long-term benefits of the NDIS for participants and their families.</p> <p>The Framework will allow tracking of participant and NDIS progress over time, and demonstrate how participants are faring relative to other Australians and other OECD countries. It will also contribute to an understanding of what types of supports lead to good outcomes for people with disability, their families and carers.</p>
<p>Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Trial</p>	<p>The IPS Trial is testing a model of employment assistance that integrates employment and vocational support with clinical mental health and non-vocational support, and focuses on the individual needs of people with mental illness who are seeking to enter or remain in employment or education. The IPS Trial is being delivered from 14 headspace sites nationally and will support young people with mental illness up to the age of 25 within the trial sites.</p> <p>The IPS Trial will conclude on 30 June 2019.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>Achievement for the IPS Trial will be measured in terms of increased employment and education participation rates of young people with mental illness aged up to 25. Data will be collected through a concurrent evaluation.</p>

²⁹ <http://www.ndis.gov.au/>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Youth Employment Package</p> <p>Further information about the package is available at the Department of Employment³⁰ website.</p>	<p>The Youth Employment Package will help give young people the employability skills that employers want, opportunities for work experience and the support to move from welfare to work. Youth Jobs PaTH (Prepare – Trial – Hire) provides a three stage pathway to work. The three stages are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare – employability skills training • Trial – voluntary internship placements of four to 12 weeks with a host business • Hire – more accessible and increased wage subsidies for youth. <p>The package also includes additional funding to support job seekers who wish to start their own business under the Encouraging Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment initiative, with more places available under the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS) and the introduction of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Exploring Being My Own Boss’ workshops • SelfStart online hub • Entrepreneurship Facilitators in Cairns (Qld), Hunter region (NSW), and Launceston and North-East Tasmania. <p>Lead agency: Department of Employment</p>	<p>The success of the Youth Employment Package will be measured by its performance in helping young job seekers to find and keep a job, including those with disability.</p>
<p>JobAccess Gateway</p> <p>Further information is available at the JobAccess³¹ website.</p>	<p>JobAccess provides a streamlined entry and information point for people with disability and employers to a range of employment assistance programs. The Gateway incorporates the National Disability Recruitment Coordinator, the Complaints Resolution and Referral Service, and the National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>The progress of JobAccess will be monitored through quarterly reports prepared by the JobAccess provider.</p>
<p>jobactive</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Employment³² website.</p>	<p>The Australian Government’s employment model, jobactive, commenced on 1 July 2015. Jobactive supports approximately 200,000 job seekers with disability to find and keep a job. Jobactive provides job seekers with access to tailored help from a jobactive organisation, based on their assessed needs. Providers have access to the Employment Fund, a flexible pool of funds, to pay for training, goods or services needed by job seekers or employers, and can arrange wage subsidies for employers to take on eligible job seekers.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Employment</p>	<p>The success of jobactive will be measured by its performance in helping job seekers with disability to find and keep a job.</p>

³⁰ <https://www.deployment.gov.au>

³¹ <https://www.jobaccess.gov.au>

³² <https://www.deployment.gov.au/jobactive>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Business.gov.au to incorporate disability employment advice</p> <p>Further information is available at the business.gov.au³³ website.</p>	<p><i>Business.gov.au</i> is an online government resource for the Australian business community. It provides practical support, including a wide range of free tools and resources that are useful for business. <i>Business.gov.au</i> includes information pages and resources to support employment of people with disability.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Industry, Innovation and Science</p>	<p>Through this action, businesses will be better informed and will increase opportunities for employment of people with disability.</p>
<p>Australian Public Service Disability Employment Strategy</p> <p>Further information is available at the Australian Public Service Commission³⁴ website.</p>	<p><i>As One: Making it Happen, Australian Public Service</i> (APS) Disability Employment Strategy 2016-19 was launched on 31 May 2016.</p> <p>The <i>As One</i> Strategy outlines actions to increase recruitment and retention of people with disability in the APS.</p> <p>All APS agencies are responsible for implementing recruitment and retention strategies within their agencies. Many APS agencies have developed their own disability action plans which outline concrete action to improve the representation of people with disability in their agencies.</p> <p>Examples of APS disability employment initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 60 senior Disability Champions from across the APS have been appointed to improve the recruitment and retention of people with disability in their agencies. Champions meet quarterly to share best practice and progress initiatives at network meetings hosted by the Australian Public Service Commission. • APS agencies including the Attorney General's Department, the Australian Taxation Office, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Public Service Commission have held 'Ten plus Ten' meetings, which break down stigma by inviting ten employees with disability to meet with ten APS executives to tell their stories and share their experiences of working with disability in the APS. <p>Lead agency: Australian Public Service Commission</p>	<p>The success of the <i>As One</i> Strategy will be measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of people with disability who come to work for the APS. • Improvement in reported job satisfaction for employees with disability. • Increase in the number of people with disability in leadership roles. • Increase in the numbers of employees who identify as having disability in agency human resource systems. <p>The success of agency initiatives will be measured by increased representation of people with disability in the APS.</p>

³³ <http://www.business.gov.au>

³⁴ <http://www.apsc.gov.au>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Affirmative measure for disability employment</p> <p>Further information is available at the Australian Public Service Commission³⁵ website.</p>	<p>On 1 December 2016 a new affirmative measure for disability employment was introduced in the APS and is set out in Section 27 of the <i>Australian Public Service Commissioner's Directions 2016</i>. The affirmative measure gives agencies the flexibility to identify a vacancy as open only to persons with disability, or a particular type of disability.</p> <p>The measure is designed to address the under-representation of people with disability in the APS. Consistent with the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i> and human rights obligations, including those set out in international conventions, the aims of the affirmative measure are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the right to equality and non-discrimination in employment for people with disability • increase the number of people with disability employed in the APS • assist agencies to meet the objectives of the APS Disability Employment Strategy 2016-19. <p>The disability employment affirmative measure can be applied to any ongoing, non-ongoing or casual APS vacancy, regardless of the duties, including those at Senior Executive Service level. It is not restricted to jobs with a disability-related function. It may be applied to individual vacancies or bulk rounds, such as graduate recruitment rounds.</p> <p>Lead agency: Australian Public Service Commission</p>	<p>The success of the disability employment affirmative measure will be measured by the number of people with disability employed in the APS.</p>
<p>RecruitAbility</p> <p>Further information is available at the Australian Public Service Commission³⁶ website.</p>	<p>RecruitAbility is a scheme that progresses applicants with disability who opt in to the scheme to the next stage in the selection process, where the applicant has been assessed as meeting the minimum requirements for the relevant job. The Australian Public Service Commission has designed the scheme for APS agencies to implement. RecruitAbility can be applied to all vacancies across the APS.</p> <p>Lead agency: Australian Public Service Commission</p>	<p>The success of RecruitAbility will be measured by the number of vacancies that use the scheme.</p>

³⁵ <http://www.apsc.gov.au>

³⁶ <http://www.apsc.gov.au>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Government procurement from businesses who employ people with disability</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Finance³⁷ website.</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Procurement Rules allow for exemptions, such as <i>Exemption 16</i> for businesses that primarily exist to employ people with disability. Increased awareness and use of this exemption will lead to greater government procurement from businesses that employ people with disability.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Finance</p>	<p>The success of this action will be measured by increased Government procurement through businesses that employ people with disability.</p>
<p>Disability awareness and confidence e-learning</p> <p>Further information is available at the Australian Public Service Commission³⁸ website.</p>	<p>Disability awareness and confidence training will help improve the employment experience and retention of employees with disability in the APS. The Australian Public Service Commission and the Department of Human Services have jointly created an e-learning package on disability awareness and confidence that is available to all APS agencies.</p> <p>Lead agencies: Australian Public Service Commission, Department of Human Services</p>	<p>The success of this activity will be measured by improved employment experiences of employees with disability, as measured by the APS Employee Census.</p>

³⁷ <http://www.finance.gov.au/procurement/procurement-policy-and-guidance/buying/procurement-practice/exemption-from-mandatory-procurement-procedures/practice.html>

³⁸ <https://www.apsc.gov.au>

2. 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

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Income Support</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Human Services³⁹ website.</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services supports individuals, families and communities to achieve greater self-sufficiency by providing access to a range of payments and services. This includes payments to support people with disability, carers, retirees, the unemployed, families, parents, students, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Support Pension provides financial support for people who have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric condition that stops them from working, or if they are permanently blind. • Carer Payment provides financial support for people who are providing constant care, in a private home, to someone with a severe disability, illness, or is an adult who is frail aged. • Carer Allowance provides financial assistance to people who are giving daily care to someone who has a disability, serious illness or is frail aged. <p>Lead agency: Department of Human Services</p>	<p>Delivery of payments and services to eligible people with disability, their families and carers.</p>
<p>Enhancing the Commonwealth Workers' Compensation Scheme (the Comcare Scheme)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Employment⁴⁰ website.</p>	<p>The Government is committed to workers compensation reforms that support injured Australian Government employees back to full health and back to work, and provide extra support for those who need it.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Employment</p>	<p>Success of any reforms will be demonstrated through improvement in early intervention activities and the Comcare Scheme's return to work outcomes for injured workers.</p>

³⁹ <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/>

⁴⁰ <http://www.employment.gov.au/SRCActchanges>

3. Improve access to housing options that are affordable and provide security of tenure

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Housing and the NDIS</p> <p>Further information is available at the NDIS⁴¹ website.</p>	<p>The NDIS will provide all Australians (entering prior to age 65) with reasonable and necessary support in the event of significant disability.</p> <p>One of the supports that may be funded for some participants who have an extreme functional impairment or very high support needs is Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA). This is addressed under <i>Outcome 1, Policy Direction 3: Improved provision of accessible and well-designed housing with choice for people with disability about where they live.</i></p> <p>Lead agency: National Disability Insurance Agency</p>	<p>NDIS participants have reasonable and necessary accommodation related supports funded in their NDIS plans.</p>
<p>Housing and Homelessness Agreement</p> <p>Further information is available at the Council on Federal Financial Relations⁴² website.</p>	<p>The Australian Government provides funding to states and territories to deliver housing assistance and homelessness services, including to people with disability, through the National Affordable Housing Agreement and National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.</p> <p>As announced in the 2017-18 Budget, the Australian Government is introducing a new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement with state and territory governments to increase the supply of new homes and improve outcomes for all Australians across the housing spectrum, particularly those most in need.</p> <p>Lead agencies: The Treasury, Department of Social Services, and Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p>	<p>There are no specific performance indicators for people with disability.</p>

⁴¹ <http://www.ndis.gov.au/>

⁴² http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/national_agreements.aspx

Outcome 4. Personal and community support – 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

There are four policy directions under this outcome:

1. 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.
2. A disability support system which is responsive to the particular needs and circumstances of people with complex and high needs for support.
3. Universal personal and community support services are available to meet the needs of people with disability, their families and carers.
4. The role of families and carers is acknowledged and supported.

An individualised approach provides greater choice and flexibility for people with disability, their families and carers.

(National Disability Strategy, p. 48)

Both specialist and mainstream forms of support assist people with disability to live as independently as possible and to be involved in everyday community activities, from school to work and social and recreational events. The NDIS is one of the most significant actions under the Strategy. The NDIS represents a fundamental change to the way in which people with disability are supported, providing choice and control over the care that they receive. With the right support, people with disability, their families and carers will have the opportunity to participate in the life of their communities and reach their full potential.

The ABS General Social Survey 2014 found that people with disability:

- were less likely than people without disability to get support in times of crises from persons living outside the household
- were more likely than people without disability to experience difficulties accessing service providers.

1. 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

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Develop and implement the NDIS</p> <p>Further information is available at the NDIS⁴³ website.</p>	<p>The NDIS will provide eligible participants with reasonable and necessary support in the event of significant disability. The principles of the NDIS recognise that people with disability have the same rights as other members of Australian society to realise their potential for physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development.</p> <p>The NDIS provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information and referral • support to access community services and activities • individualised plans and supports • early intervention • where necessary, funded supports that may be one-off support or a funded support package. <p>The NDIS provides funding for long-term, individualised care and support that is reasonable and necessary to meet the needs of people with permanent disability.</p> <p>The NDIA co-design strategy will ensure the views of key stakeholders, including the not-for-profit sector, are incorporated into the design, implementation and delivery of the NDIS. The co-design strategy draws on the experience of the not-for-profit sector through a range of targeted communication activities, including webinars and live chat sessions.</p> <p>Engagement teams in each network site work collaboratively with not-for-profit organisations to facilitate local activities and ensure the full spectrum of not-for-profit organisations in the disability sector are actively engaged in local processes.</p> <p>People with disability will be engaged through the Independent Advisory Council.</p> <p>Lead agency: National Disability Insurance Agency</p>	<p>Data will be collected longitudinally over time and reported by the NDIA on the wellbeing of families and carers.</p> <p>An outcomes framework will measure the medium and long-term benefits of the NDIS for participants and their families.</p> <p>The framework will allow tracking of participant and NDIS progress over time, and demonstrate how participants are faring relative to other Australians and other OECD countries. It will also contribute to an understanding of what types of supports lead to good outcomes for people with disability, their families, and carers.</p>

⁴³ <http://www.ndis.gov.au/>

2. A disability support system which is responsive to the particular needs and circumstances of people with complex and high needs for support

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Continue progress on a National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Treasury⁴⁴ website.</p>	<p>The Productivity Commission recommended the development of a NIIS to provide lifetime care and support for catastrophic injuries caused by four types of accidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • motor vehicle accidents • workplace accidents • medical treatment accidents • general accidents. <p>The NIIS is a federated model, so state and territory governments are responsible for legislating, funding, and administering their own schemes.</p> <p>Lead agency: The Treasury</p>	<p>Minimum benchmarks for motor vehicle accidents have been agreed by all jurisdictions.</p> <p>The benchmarks for workplace accidents have been agreed by most jurisdictions.</p> <p>The Australian Government is continuing to work with the states and territories to consider the feasibility of implementing the NIIS for general accidents.</p> <p>COAG has agreed not to proceed with a medical treatment accidents stream of the NIIS at this time.</p>

3. Universal personal and community support services are available to meet the needs of people with disability, their families and carers

New actions in this policy area are currently under development and not yet available for public release. This section will be updated as new information becomes available. For information on continuing actions relating to Outcome 4: Personal and community support, please see Appendix B.

⁴⁴ <https://treasury.gov.au/programs-initiatives-consumers-community/niis/>

4. The role of families and carers is acknowledged and supported

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Social Services⁴⁵ website.</p>	<p>The Australian Government is working with peak organisations, service providers and subject matter experts to develop an Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services in order to streamline and better coordinate carer support services. The Plan has two stages.</p> <p>Stage One of the Plan, Carer Gateway, was launched in December 2015. Carer Gateway helps carers to navigate the system of support and services available by providing carer-specific information through a national phone service, website and service finder.</p> <p>The next stage of the Plan has been a comprehensive co-design process during 2015 and 2016, with carers and the sector to develop a draft Service Delivery Model for a proposed new integrated carer support service.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>Data collected from the Carer Gateway service will be used to measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of carers accessing carer Gateway. • Percentage of individuals and families satisfied with the service provided by Carer Gateway including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - call satisfaction - website satisfaction.

⁴⁵ <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/programs-services/for-carers/integrated-plan-for-carer-support-services>

Outcome 5. Learning and skills – 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

There are four policy directions under this outcome:

1. Strengthen the capability of all education providers to deliver inclusive high-quality educational programs for people with all abilities from early childhood through adulthood.
2. Focus on reducing the disparity in educational outcomes for people with disability and others.
3. Ensure that government reforms and initiatives for early childhood, education, training and skills development are responsive to the needs of people with disability.
4. Improve pathways for students with disability from school to further education, employment and lifelong learning.

Targeted support is needed to assist people who are disadvantaged in education and in the workforce, but mainstream education programs need to be designed for people of all abilities. *(National Disability Strategy, p. 53)*

Young people with disability have the same hopes and ambitions as other young people to go to school, find a satisfying job, and leave home to live independently. A high quality inclusive education forms the basis for achieving these ambitions and entering adulthood as confident and informed individuals. Further action is needed to reduce the gap between students with disability and those without, particularly in the attainment of Year 12 or equivalent, vocational education and training, and university level education. While targeted support will assist students with disability, mainstream education programs must be designed to assist students of all abilities.

The ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2015 found that people with disability:

- were less likely than people without disability to have completed Year 12
- were less likely than people without disability to have completed a post-school qualification (such as degrees, diplomas and certificates).

1. Strengthen the capability of all education providers to deliver inclusive high-quality educational programs for people with all abilities from early childhood through adulthood

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Child Care Reforms Package Further information is available at the Department of Education and Training⁴⁶ website.</p>	<p>From 2 July 2018, Australia will have a new child care package, including the new Child Care Subsidy. The subsidy will replace the current Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate. It will be paid directly to services, and will make child care more affordable for most families, including families with children with disability.</p> <p>The Child Care Subsidy will be supported by the Child Care Safety Net, which aims to give the most vulnerable children a strong start, while supporting parents into work. The Child Care Safety Net includes the Inclusion Support Programme (ISP). Further information about the ISP is below.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Education and Training</p>	<p>The Child Care Subsidy will commence in July 2018.</p> <p>A Post Implementation Review following full implementation will be conducted as part of a formal evaluation of the package.</p>
<p>Inclusion Support Programme (ISP) Further information is available at the Department of Education and Training⁴⁷ website.</p>	<p>ISP commenced on 1 July 2016 and assists early childhood and child care services to improve their capacity and capability to: provide quality inclusive practices, address participation barriers, and include children with additional needs alongside their typically developing peers. The program provides services with tailored inclusion advice and support, as well as funding to support more challenging inclusion barriers.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Education and Training</p>	<p>Success of ISP is measured by increased participation of children with additional needs in mainstream early childhood and child care (ECCC) services, increased number of services embedding inclusion strategies and practices, and better access for families to appropriate and inclusive ECCC services.</p> <p>Providers are required to undertake regular reporting. The Department of Education of Training will undertake an evaluation of ISP before 30 June 2019.</p>

⁴⁶ <https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood-and-child-care-0>

⁴⁷ <https://www.education.gov.au/>

2. Focus on reducing the disparity in educational outcomes for people with disability and others

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Respond to the recommendations of the reviews of the <i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i> (the Education Standards)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Education and Training⁴⁸ website.</p>	<p>The objective of the Education Standards is to ensure students with disability are able to access and participate in education and training on the same basis as other students. The Education Standards are required to be reviewed every five years. A public consultation process was held for the 2015 review of the Education Standards. Key participants included people with disability, families and carers, disability advocates, parent bodies, education bodies, education sector representatives, providers of all levels of education, education unions, and regulators.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Education and Training</p>	<p>The Final Report of the 2015 review and the Australian Government's Initial Response were released in December 2015. The Australian Government is working together with state and territory governments to address recommendations.</p>
<p>The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data – School Students with Disability⁴⁹ website.</p>	<p>The national data collection is a joint initiative of all Australian governments, and government and non-government education authorities. National data is collected annually to identify the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable adjustment provided for them. The national data collection was progressively implemented in Australian schools from 2013-2015. Since 2015, all schools have participated annually in the national data collection.</p> <p>The benefits of the collection extend beyond the collection of nationally consistent data, and include embedding schools' obligations under the <i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i>. The national data collection is having a positive impact on support for students with disability by providing an opportunity for schools to evaluate their learning and support systems and processes, and by making quality teaching for all students their core focus. It also aims to ensure better support for students with disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Education and Training</p>	<p>All schools are now required to participate in the national data collection. The annual collection aims to lead to, over time, nationally consistent, high quality data that will enable schools, education authorities, and governments to gain a more complete understanding of students who are receiving adjustments because of disability in schools in Australia, and how best to support them.</p>

⁴⁸ <http://www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education>

⁴⁹ <http://www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au/>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Social Services⁵⁰ website.</p>	<p>The Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres provide early learning programs and specific support to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in a long day care setting. The Centres provide parents with support in the care of their children, give them the opportunity to participate more fully in the community and have a positive impact on the children's long-term life outcomes.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Social Services</p>	<p>Centre service providers are required to develop an Activity Work Plan, detailing how the activity will achieve the objectives of the initiative. Providers report against these activities via six monthly performance reports.</p>

3. Ensure that government reforms and initiatives for early childhood, education, training and skills development are responsive to the needs of people with disability

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Quality Schools reforms</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Education and Training⁵¹ website.</p>	<p>The Australian Government supports the rights of children and young people with disability to have the same educational opportunities as other school students. It is committed to improving education outcomes for all students, including students with disability and learning difficulties.</p> <p>The Government is investing a record \$247.2 billion in school recurrent funding from 2018 to 2027 as part of its Quality Schools reforms. Of this amount, an estimated \$21.7 billion will be provided for students with disability. This funding helps provide the resources schools need to enable students with disability to participate in education on the same basis as other students. On average, funding for students with disability will grow by 5.9 per cent each year over the ten years.</p> <p>Australian Government funding for students with disability will be calculated using the 2017 national data collection. Students identified in the national data collection as requiring a supplementary, substantial and extensive level of educational adjustment will attract a loading appropriate to the relative costs of providing that adjustment.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Education and Training</p>	<p>From 2018, the student with disability loading will be based on the national collection, which will mean fairer and better targeted funding for students with disability.</p>

⁵⁰ <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-people-with-disability/autism-specific-early-learning-and-care-centres>

⁵¹ <https://www.education.gov.au/quality-schools>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)</p> <p>Further information is available at the National Assessment Program⁵² website.</p>	<p>NAPLAN helps parents, carers and educators to see if children are meeting important numeracy and literacy standards. It is used to support school improvement processes by enabling teachers to monitor their students' progress over time and to identify areas of strength and development.</p> <p>Online NAPLAN assessment offers significant benefits, including the potential to provide a more accurate measurement of student achievement, and improved access and greater participation in NAPLAN by students with disability.</p> <p>The first NAPLAN online test will be delivered in May 2018, on an opt-in basis for schools that are ready. The remaining schools will transition to NAPLAN online by 2019.</p> <p>Adjustments for students with disability are being considered as an integral part of the development of NAPLAN online. Consultation has occurred with students with disability, parents and carers, education authorities, and state and territory governments as NAPLAN has been developed.</p> <p>Lead agencies: Department of Education and Training; Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>NAPLAN online tests will better meet the needs of all students, including students with disability.</p>

⁵² <http://www.nap.edu.au/>

4. Improve pathways for students with disability from school to further education, employment and lifelong learning

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Youth Employment Strategy</p> <p>Further information is available at Department of Employment⁵³ website.</p>	<p>The Youth Employment Strategy, announced in the 2015-16 Budget, is a \$331 million commitment to help young people at increased risk of long-term unemployment to get into work. The strategy includes four key programs to assist young people moving from school to work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to Work service to provide intensive assistance to young people who have disengaged from work and study and are at risk of long-term welfare dependence. • Empowering YOUth Initiatives to trial innovative ideas for getting young people at risk of welfare dependency into jobs. • Engaging Early School Leavers supports early school leavers who are not on track to further education look for work and find training opportunities. • ParentsNext providers work with young parents to help them to identify their education and employment goals, develop a pathway to achieve their goals, and link them to activities and services in the local community. <p>Lead agency: Department of Employment</p>	<p>The Youth Employment Strategy aims to improve employment outcomes for young job seekers, including young people with disability.</p>
<p>Youth Jobs PaTH</p> <p>Further information about the package is available at the Department of Employment⁵⁴ website.</p>	<p>Youth Jobs PaTH is a flexible new approach to youth employment. It is designed to support young people to gain the skills and work experience they need to get and keep a job.</p> <p>Youth Jobs PaTH has three elements: Prepare - Trial - Hire. The three stages are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare – employability skills training • Trial – voluntary internship placements of four to 12 weeks with a host business • Hire – more accessible and increased wage subsidies for youth. <p>Youth Jobs PaTH also encourages employers to trial a young person for a job by offering interns and financial incentives to reduce the cost of recruitment.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Employment</p>	<p>Youth Jobs PaTH aims to support young job seekers to find and keep a job, including young people with disability.</p>

⁵³ <https://www.employment.gov.au/>

⁵⁴ <https://www.employment.gov.au/youth-jobs-path>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>School Leavers Employment Supports (SLES)</p> <p>Further information is available at the NDIS⁵⁵ website.</p>	<p>SLES is one type of NDIS funded employment support. SLES is designed to set young people on the pathway towards economic independence.</p> <p>SLES offers individualised support for up to two years after finishing Year 12 to help a young person develop the skills and confidence to find and keep a job in open employment.</p> <p>SLES is an individualised approach to funding employment supports. It is designed to provide a range of supports to participants to help them become work-ready. This may include work experience, job skills training and travel training.</p> <p>The SLES measure complements existing mainstream supports but does not replace them.</p> <p>Lead agency: National Disability Insurance Agency</p>	<p>The NDIA will measure SLES outcomes by collating and assessing qualitative feedback from participants, carers and providers, as well as quantitative data on performance. The types of tools the NDIA uses for measurement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participant and carer surveys • plan reviews • provider reporting tools • published information about provider performance to drive informed choice. <p>The key measure of success is an increase in NDIS participants who have included employment as part of their plan, are on a pathway to working in the open labour market, or are working in the open labour market.</p>

⁵⁵ <https://www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/sles>

Outcome 6. Health and wellbeing – People with disability attain highest possible health and wellbeing outcomes throughout their lives

There are four policy directions under this outcome:

1. All health service providers (including hospitals, general practices, specialist services, allied health, dental health, mental health, population health programs and ambulance services) have the capabilities to meet the needs of people with disability.
2. Timely, comprehensive and effective prevention and early intervention health services for people with disability.
3. Universal health reforms and initiatives to address the needs of people with disability, their families and carers.
4. Factors fundamental to wellbeing and health status such as choice and control, social participation and relationships, to be supported in government policy and program design.

Good health and wellbeing is important for everyone.
(*National Disability Strategy, p. 60*)

People with disability are among the most disadvantaged groups in Australian society, with significantly worse health outcomes than the general population. These poorer health outcomes include aspects of health that are unrelated to the specific health conditions associated with their disability.

Australia has a universal health care platform which is based on three fundamental pillars:

1. Free public hospital care.
2. Affordable medical services subsidised through the Medicare Benefits Scheme (which includes the Medicare Benefits Schedule).
3. Affordable medicines subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

A wide spectrum of services are delivered through these three pillars, ranging from preventive health and early intervention services, through to the treatment of illness, chronic disease management, and acute care.

The universal health care platform helps ensure all Australians regardless of socioeconomic status, clinical/health need or disability, can receive necessary health care. It also ensures that the financial impacts of this care are contained so that, although it may be a contributing factor, ill-health rarely forces people into poverty. Preventive health and early intervention services are also delivered through the universal platform, to help avoid or reduce the impact of illness and disability in the community.

While universal health systems achieve good health outcomes for the population as a whole, they may be less effective in those situations where high levels of social risk and health risk intersect. Some communities may experience greater health risks and disease

incidence, with problems accessing appropriate health care services, and problems may accumulate over time.

Delivering a health system that can meet the needs of all Australians is a complicated and challenging task. Health needs change during the life course, and health issues differ between social groups. An individual's capacity to engage with the health system will also vary depending on their social and economic circumstances, or social risk. Further, the major causes of illness and mortality in the population tend to shift as society changes and new epidemiological challenges continually emerge.

Australia's universal health care platform also allows for the delivery of 'proportionate universalism' where more intensive or tailored efforts can be made to address particular needs of some groups. The Australian Government seeks to shape the broad social, economic and environmental issues that affect health outcomes, through population health programs. Innovative forms of service delivery that bring together preventive approaches, multiple health care services and linkages to community initiatives, are also offered to disadvantaged groups, including people with disability.

For example, in 2015, 31 Primary Health Networks were established to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and to improve coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

The ABS General Social Survey 2014 found that people with disability:

- were less likely than people without disability to report their health as very good or excellent
- were more likely than people without disability to have experienced barriers in accessing healthcare when needed.

1. All health service providers (including hospitals, general practices, specialist services, allied health, dental health, mental health, population health programs and ambulance services) have the capabilities to meet the needs of people with disability

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Primary Health Networks (PHNs)</p> <p>Further information is available at the Department of Health⁵⁶ website.</p>	<p>PHNs have been established with the key objectives of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.</p> <p>PHNs will work directly with general practitioners, other primary health care providers, secondary care providers and hospitals to facilitate improved outcomes for patients, including people with disability.</p> <p>PHNs are expected to develop collaborative working relationships with Local Health Networks (LHNs) and key stakeholders to improve integration across the health system in order to reduce avoidable hospital admissions, reduce duplication of effort and resources, and to improve the PHNs' ability to purchase or commission medical and health care services.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Health</p>	<p>The success of this program is measured by 100 per cent of PHNs having formal links with all LHNs in their region and established Clinical Councils and Community Advisory Committees, with links to local disability services as appropriate.</p>

⁵⁶ <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/PHN-Home>

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Australian Government response to the National Mental Health Commission's Review of Mental Health Programs and Services 'Contributing lives, thriving communities'</p>	<p>The review of Mental Health Programs and Services, '<i>Contributing Lives, Thriving Communities</i>', highlighted the existing complexity, inefficiency and fragmentation of the mental health system and presented a compelling case for long-term sustainable reform.</p> <p>The Australian Government response to the review (released in November 2015) aims to transform Australian Government mental health funding and leadership, with a significant shift in the way services are planned and delivered, through a stepped care approach to mental health.</p>	<p>The Australian Government's reforms of mental health services under the Strengthening Mental Health Care policy will deliver a more integrated, streamlined and regionally responsive approach to mental health services for all Australians. To this end, the Australian Government is providing \$746.8 million to 31 PHNs to 2018-19 to lead mental health and suicide prevention planning at a regional level. This will ensure that a range of mental health services are available within local regions to better match the needs of individuals.</p>
<p>Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program</p>	<p>The two endpoints of the AGPT Program are the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. These colleges set their curriculum standards and both include some information on disability within their curriculum standards.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Health</p>	<p>AGPT Program meets the College standards. It may also include reporting by people with disability who have been treated well by their medical practitioner.</p>

2. Timely, comprehensive and effective prevention and early intervention health services for people with disability

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
<p>Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Action Plan</p> <p>Further information about this action is available at the Department of Health⁵⁷ website.</p>	<p>The Australian Government is committed to reducing harms caused by alcohol, including those as a result of drinking during pregnancy. The Department of Health has made significant investment over several years in improving understanding of FASD.</p> <p>Through its FASD Action Plan, the Australian Government has identified key areas for action to reduce the impact of FASD.</p> <p>The FASD Action Plan will help to inform future direction to address the harmful impact of FASD on children and families and will take into account the many complex social and medical issues involved.</p>	<p>The success of this action will be measured by a reduction in alcohol use during pregnancy, and the finalisation of a National FASD Diagnostic Tool.</p>
<p>Promote Eye Health and Prevent Avoidable Blindness and Vision Loss</p> <p>Further information about this action is available at the Department of Health⁵⁸ website.</p>	<p>In 2005, Australian Health Ministers agreed to the <i>National Framework for Action to Promote Eye Health and Prevent Avoidable Blindness and Vision Loss</i> (the Framework). The Framework provides a blueprint for nationally coordinated action by governments, health professionals, non-government organisations, industry, and individuals to work in partnership. The Framework outlines key action areas that have the potential to lead to the prevention of avoidable blindness and low vision.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Health</p>	<p>Updates on progress will be provided to the Minister for Health and the eye health sector under the Framework's three-yearly progress reports.</p> <p>This activity is ongoing.</p>

⁵⁷ <http://www.health.gov.au>

⁵⁸ <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/eyehealth-pubs-impl>

3. Universal health reforms and initiatives to address the needs of people with disability, their families and carers

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
Benefits - Medical and Pharmaceutical	<p>The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) lists services that are subsidised by the Australian Government under Medicare, and is part of the wider Medicare Benefits Scheme.</p> <p>The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) benefits all Australians by subsidising medicines to make them more affordable. The PBS is released in the form of an online Schedule and is updated regularly. The Schedule lists all of the medicines available to be dispensed to patients at a Government-subsidised price.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Health</p>	<p>The success of this action will be measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing of benefits items on MBS align with contemporary clinical evidence and practice and improve health outcomes for patients. • Provision of reliable, timely and affordable access to a wide range of medicines for all Australians.

4. Factors fundamental to wellbeing and health status such as choice and control, social participation and relationships, to be supported in government policy and program design

Action	Description	Measure of Achievement
National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)	<p>The NHMRC is Australia's leading expert body promoting the development and maintenance of public and individual health standards.</p> <p>NHMRC funding supports research across the full spectrum of health and medical research, from basic science through to clinical, public health and health services research.</p> <p>Through the 2016 NHMRC funding round, a number of research projects have been funded that will support improvements to health outcomes for people with disability, and contribute to informing social and health policy and program reform.</p> <p>For example, funding was provided to Professor Anne Kavanagh of the University of Melbourne for the Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health. The first research centre of its kind internationally, it brings together a first-rate team of national and international researchers with influential stakeholders. It will create evidence to guide social and health policy reform with the explicit intent of improving the health of working age Australians with disability.</p> <p>Lead agency: National Health and Medical Research Council</p>	<p>The success of this action will be measured by the completion of research undertaken to promote the health of all Australians through the creation of knowledge, and the production of evidence to inform social and health policy and program reform.</p>

⁵⁹ <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>

Appendix A: Interaction with National Initiatives

The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022

Australia's National Plan has a strong focus on preventing violence from occurring in the first place, while supporting women who have experienced or are at risk of violence. The National Plan recognises that women with disability experience higher levels of domestic violence, family violence and sexual assault than other women and that violence is likely to be more severe and to continue for longer periods. Under the National Plan, the Australian Government is working to better identify, support and respond to women with disability experiencing, or at risk of, domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

The Third Action Plan for 2016-2019 was released in October 2016. The Australian Government has committed \$100 million over three years to support the Third Action Plan. This is in addition to the \$100 million Women's Safety Package funding announced in September 2015. The Third Action Plan will progress activities commenced during the First and Second Action Plans and also includes new initiatives. The Third Action Plan's increased focus on responding to the needs of women and children with disability represents a significant implementation activity under the Strategy.

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 Third Action Plan (2015-2018)

The *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020* (the National Framework) Third Action Plan (2015-2018) outlines an ambitious, long-term national approach to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children. It aims to deliver a substantial and sustained reduction in levels of child abuse and neglect over time. The National Framework is being implemented through a series of three-year action plans.

The Third Action Plan has a strong focus on prevention and early intervention, and aims to strengthen the abilities of families and communities to care for their children and young people.

Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage

In 2008, COAG agreed to six ambitious targets to address the disadvantage faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in terms of life expectancy, child mortality, education and employment.

In 2014, COAG agreed to a new target to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance within a period of five years (by 2018). The seven targets aim to:

- Close the gap in life expectancy within a generation (by 2031).
- Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018).
- Have 95 per cent of four-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025).

- Close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance within five years (by 2018).
- Halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for Indigenous students (by 2018).
- Halve the gap for Indigenous Australians aged 20-24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020).
- Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and other non-Indigenous Australians (by 2018).

With the current framework approaching its ten year anniversary and some targets due to expire in 2018, COAG has committed to work together and with Indigenous leaders, organisations and communities to refresh this agenda with renewed emphasis on collaborative effort, evaluation and building on what works in each jurisdiction.

Veteran Mental Health Strategy 2013-2023

The Veteran Mental Health Strategy is a key document guiding policy and programs, aimed at improving quality of life for the veteran and ex-service community. Achieved through a person-centred approach, the primary aim is to prevent mental illness if possible, recover from mental illness if it does occur, and optimise mental health and wellbeing. The Veteran Mental Health Strategy:

- Identifies principles and a vision for the mental health and wellbeing of the veteran and ex-service community.
- Sets the context for the provision of mental health services and addressing mental health needs in the veteran and ex-service community for the next ten years.
- Establishes six strategic objectives, underpinned by a person-centred approach to guide mental health policy and programs, with implementation activity detailed in an action plan.

Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2017-2022

The *Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2017-2022* (Fifth Plan) will establish a national approach for collaborative government effort over the next five years, from 2017 to 2022. It builds on previous National Mental Health Plans, as well as state and territory mental health plans. The Fifth Plan falls exclusively within the remit of Health Ministers, with joint responsibility for implementing and monitoring national action to drive mental health reform.

The Fifth Plan outlines 32 actions for collaborative government action across eight priority areas:

1. Achieving integrated regional planning and service delivery.
2. Suicide prevention.
3. Coordinating treatment and supports for people with severe and complex mental illness.
4. Improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and suicide prevention.
5. Improving the physical health of people with mental illness and reducing early mortality.
6. Reducing stigma and discrimination.

7. Making safety and quality central to mental health service delivery.
8. Ensuring the enablers of effective system performance and improvement are in place.

National Arts and Disability Strategy

All people with disability have a right to participate in cultural activities, yet often face barriers to that participation. The long-term vision of the *National Arts and Disability Strategy* is twofold: that people with disability participate fully in the arts and cultural life of Australia, and that the artistic aspirations and achievements of people with disability are a valued and visible part of Australian culture.

Appendix B: Continuing Actions

The Australian Government continues to progress actions and activities to improve outcomes for people with disability that commenced prior to the current implementation period. The following are examples of continuing actions.

Outcome 1 – Inclusive and accessible communities

National Relay Service

The National Relay Service is an Australia-wide service, providing people who are deaf or who have a hearing and/or speech impairment with access to a standard telephone service on terms and in circumstances that are comparable to the access of other Australians. It is also available to make a call to a person with a hearing or speech impairment.

Equipment for access to communication services by people with disability

The availability of appropriate equipment is a key factor in facilitating access to communication service options by people with disability. The *Telecommunications (Equipment for the Disabled) Regulations 1998* established obligations on Universal Service providers in relation to the availability of appropriate equipment to provide access to a standard telephone service for Australians with disability. Telstra remains the only Universal Service provider and administers a disability equipment program.

Access to media – captioning

The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* provides for a captioning regime for programs broadcast on free-to-air and subscription television for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The regime includes the requirement for free-to-air broadcasters to caption 100 per cent of non-exempt programming between 6am and midnight, and news and current affairs programs broadcast at any time, on their primary channel. Subscription television licensees are also subject to captioning targets that gradually increase until they reach 100 per cent of programming between 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2033 for each category of service.

Audio Description Working Group

The Australian Government has formed an Audio Description Working Group to examine options for increasing the availability of audio description services in Australia. This follows two audio description trials conducted by the ABC on ABC1 in 2012 and on iview in 2015-16. The Working Group includes representatives from the broadcasting industry, audio description service providers and consumer representatives. The Working Group will report its findings to Government by 31 December 2017.

Australian Sports Commission (ASC) High Performance Sport assistance

The ASC provides funding to the Australian Paralympic Committee to increase opportunities and promote the outstanding achievements of elite sports people with disability in the broader community.

In addition, the ASC's dAIS scheme provides direct cash grants to athletes with disability to assist their development into athletes capable of producing world's best results.

Outcome 1 – Inclusive and accessible communities

ASC programs	<p>The ASC supports a number of programs to provide opportunities for people with disability to participate in sport. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding national sporting organisations and national sporting organisations for people with disability to undertake participation activities, and to support participation of adults and children with disability to expand their choice of sports and recreation options.• <i>Play by the Rules</i> program provides resources and tools to support national sporting organisations to develop and implement broader inclusive sport approaches.• <i>Play.Sport.Australia</i> sets out a big picture vision for boosting participation in sport in the years ahead. One of the key aims of <i>Play.Sport.Australia</i> is increasing the number of Australians, particularly young Australians, including people with disability, participating in sport.• <i>Sports Ability</i> is an inclusive games program developed by the ASC to encourage people with disability to get involved and participate in sport and active recreation.
Settlement programs	<p>Settlement programs assist humanitarian entrants, including people with disability, to fully participate in Australian society as quickly as possible. The Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) provides early practical support to refugee and humanitarian entrants on arrival, and throughout their initial settlement period. Service providers deliver the program on behalf of the Australian Government and assist clients to build skills and knowledge for social and economic wellbeing through a needs-based case management approach.</p> <p>Support through the HSP provides refugees and humanitarian entrants to Australia with the knowledge, skills and independence to commence their new lives and contribute to the economic and social fabric of Australia. HSP service providers work with clients to identify their needs and goals and develop an individual case management plan. Service providers support clients to achieve outcomes in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• housing• physical and mental health and wellbeing• managing money and transport• community participation and networking• family functioning and social support• justice• language services• education and training• employment. <p>Settlement Grant service providers deliver a range of settlement services to clients in their first five years in Australia, with a focus on fostering social participation, economic wellbeing, independence, personal wellbeing and community connectedness. This includes connections to sporting, recreational, religious, cultural and other services in their local communities.</p>
National Disability Conference Initiative	<p>The National Disability Conference Initiative funding is available to assist eligible conference organisers to maximise the inclusion and participation of people with disability at nationally focused disability-related conferences in Australia.</p>

Outcome 1 – Inclusive and accessible communities

National Awards for Local Government—Disability Access and Inclusion Award	The Disability Access and Inclusion Award recognises local governments that have applied the principles of the Strategy, by engaging with people with disability, their families and carers to develop and implement innovative services, practices and/or policies that provide greater opportunities for people with disability to participate in local community life. The National Awards for Local Government is administered by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. The Department of Social Services sponsored the Disability Access and Inclusion Award category from 2014-2017.
Better Start Playgroup Community Events	Better Start Playgroups community events are delivered nationally and aimed at families and carers of children with disability. The community events give families information on the developmental benefits of participation in playgroups, and encourage social and support networks for parents of children with disability.
Ratification by Australia of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled (the Marrakesh Treaty)	<p>The Marrakesh Treaty is an important mechanism to help overcome the copyright barriers that affect the availability of accessible format books and other material.</p> <p>Australia ratified the Marrakesh Treaty in December 2015. The Marrakesh Treaty entered into force on 30 September 2016 and will help to increase the lawful distribution of books and other materials in accessible formats.</p>
Universal Housing Design	The <i>Livable Housing Design Guidelines</i> were launched on 13 July 2010. Universal housing design principles enhance the independence of people with disability, as well as older people. Livable Housing Australia has developed a voluntary accreditation system to raise awareness of universal housing design. Currently, applying universal housing design is voluntary, based on informed decisions by builders and consumers that consider the benefits it offers and the costs involved.

Outcome 2 – Rights protection, justice and legislation

Ongoing promotion of services and payments available for people with disability	The Department of Human Services provides information in a way that is relevant, timely and easily accessible to ensure people with disability, their families and carers are aware of the payments and services provided by the Department of Human Services.
Statements of compatibility and the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights	It is a requirement for all new Commonwealth Bills and disallowable legislative instruments to be accompanied by a Statement of Compatibility. This assists in ensuring that human rights, including the rights of people with disability, are considered in the development of policy and legislation by the Australian public sector.
Positive engagement in United Nations human rights reporting processes	The Australian Government will continue its positive engagement in United Nations human rights reporting processes, including through ongoing implementation of its responses to the recommendations Australia received during its Universal Periodic Review in 2015.

Outcome 2 – Rights protection, justice and legislation

<p>Australian Human Rights Commission advocacy for the rights of people with disability</p>	<p>The Australian Human Rights Commission is an independent statutory agency. The Commission performs a wide range of functions to assist individuals and organisations to understand their rights and meet their legal responsibilities and to advocate for the rights of people with disability. It conducts public inquiries, negotiates disability guidelines and standards, supports organisations to develop disability action plans and runs community education programs. It is also empowered to conciliate complaints relating to the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>.</p>
<p>International Day of People with Disability program, including the National Disability Awards</p>	<p>The celebration of International Day of People with Disability, and the presentation of the National Disability Awards, are part of the Australian Government's pledge to celebrate the achievements of individuals and organisations that are supporting a disability rights-based culture.</p> <p>The aim of International Day of People with Disability is to raise awareness of a more inclusive society. The National Disability Awards support and promote the Strategy's priority areas.</p>
<p>NDIS Appeals</p>	<p>Through NDIS Appeals (formally known as External Merits Review - Support Component), people with disability can get assistance when seeking a review of NDIA decisions in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. NDIS Appeals provides access to a support person and, in eligible circumstances, access to legal services.</p>
<p>Social Work Services</p>	<p>Department of Human Services social workers provide confidential counselling and support to people with disability experiencing family or domestic violence. Social workers support people with disability who experience family or domestic violence through professional interventions, crisis support, short-term counselling and referrals to local specialist support services in their community.</p>
<p>Access to legal assistance services for financially disadvantaged people, including people with disability</p>	<p>Legal assistance providers, such as legal aid commissions, Indigenous legal assistance providers and community legal centres, deliver legal services to people least able to afford private legal help. Financially disadvantaged people with disability are a priority client group when seeking legal assistance.</p> <p>Australian Government funding for legal aid commissions and community legal centres is provided to state and territory governments through the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services. Funding for Indigenous legal assistance is provided directly by the Australian Government.</p>

Outcome 3 – Economic security

Supported Wage System	<p>The Supported Wage System provides stable, long-term employment for many people with disability, and provides opportunities for people with disability to continuously improve their work productivity and be employed at full award wages.</p> <p>The Supported Wage System is a process that allows employers to pay a productivity-based wage which matches a person's assessed productivity rate. The Supported Wage System enables eligible people with disability to access a reliable process of productivity-based wage assessment to determine fair pay for fair work.</p>
Right to request flexible working arrangements	<p>Employees may request a change in their working arrangements because they have a disability or are a carer. The national workplace relations system, embodied in the <i>Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)</i>, provides a right for eligible employees to request flexible working arrangements.</p> <p>The <i>Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)</i> also includes general protection provisions that prohibit an employer taking adverse action against a person for discriminatory reasons, including disability and carer responsibilities.</p>
National Disability Recruitment Coordinator	<p>The National Disability Recruitment Coordinator provides a free service that assists large employers to achieve their disability employment goals by helping to develop recruitment and employment practices that support the employment of people with disability.</p>
New Enterprise Incentive Scheme	<p>NEIS helps eligible unemployed people, including people with disability, start and run their own small business. NEIS provides training, support and helps people to become self-supporting and independent.</p> <p>NEIS participants complete an accredited three-month small business management course. In the first year, NEIS participants also receive business advice and mentor support to help the business become successful.</p>
Department of Veterans' Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation Programs	<p>Vocational rehabilitation programs, administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, reduce barriers and disincentives for the employment of current and former Australian Defence Force members with disability. Vocational rehabilitation involves early intervention with appropriate and timely services, aimed at maintaining injured or ill clients in, or returning them to, suitable paid employment.</p>
Disability Employment Services	<p>DES providers help people with disability to secure and maintain sustainable employment in the open labour market. DES provides people with disability access to individually tailored services to help them obtain and maintain suitable employment.</p>
Employment Assistance Fund	<p>The Employment Assistance Fund provides financial assistance to a person with disability or their employer for workplace modifications, equipment and services they require as a result of their disability and are necessary for them to be able to perform their employment duties.</p>
APS Disability Champions	<p>Disability Champions are senior leaders from the APS who advocate and support employees with disability and drive change in their agencies. All APS agencies have been invited to nominate a Disability Champion. The Disability Champions are invited to meet quarterly to discuss relevant employment matters for people with disability in the APS.</p>

Outcome 3 – Economic security

Create incentives within the income support system for unemployed people with disability to work to their capacity

Participation of people with disability in the workforce helps to build their capabilities, maintain social networks, and reduce their financial reliance on income support payments.

The Department of Social Services continues to monitor and examine income support recipient numbers and demographic trends, payment architecture, rates and participation requirements to ensure appropriate targeting of income support for unemployed people with disability - balancing considerations of support and incentives to join or re-join the workforce to their capacity.

JobAccess

JobAccess is the central entry point into disability employment services for people with disability, employers, service providers and the broader community. JobAccess includes a comprehensive, easy-to-use website and a free telephone information and advice service for confidential, expert advice on the employment of people with disability.

Outcome 4 – Personal and community support

Helping Children with Autism and Better Start for Children with Disability programs

Two programs designed to reduce the impact of developmental disabilities are the early intervention component of the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package and the Better Start for Children with Disability (Better Start) initiative.

Under the programs, eligible children can access: early intervention funding of up to \$12,000 for a range of early intervention services and resources; additional assistance for eligible children who live in outer regional and remote locations; and a number of Medicare rebates.

HCWA and Better Start programs include funding for a range of projects to help families support their child with disability, including:

- Early Days Workshops to improve parent knowledge and networks.
- Disability-specific content on the Raising Children Network website.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officers to assist with Indigenous registrations and program awareness.
- Autism specific playgroups.
- Better Start playgroup community events.

HCWA and Better Start will transition to the NDIS and gradually close. Children with disability can already access early intervention services in areas where the NDIS has rolled out.

Family Mental Health Support Services

Family Mental Health Support Services provide early intervention support to assist vulnerable families with children and young people up to age 18 years who are at risk of, or affected by, mental illness.

Funding is provided primarily to community organisations to provide one-to-one support to children and young people at risk of poor mental health outcomes.

Outcome 4 – Personal and community support

Social Work Services	<p>Where people with disability present with complex needs, they may require additional support to engage with personal and community supports. Department of Human Services social workers provide a range of supports to customers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• crisis intervention• assessment to support determination of eligibility for income support payments• intensive support to customers, assisting them to engage with community supports, education and employment opportunities.
Community Engagement Officer Network	<p>The Department of Human Services works collaboratively with community support services to assist people with complex needs who find it difficult to access the department's services.</p> <p>Community engagement officers work with community support services to provide outreach services to targeted customers, including people with disability, to access the department's services, entitlements and to connect with community supports.</p>
Technological advancements in rehabilitation aids and appliances for veterans	<p>The Rehabilitation Appliances Program assists entitled veterans, war widow/ers and dependants through the provision of aids and appliances. The Rehabilitation Appliances Program Schedule lists items available for provision to clients and is regularly reviewed and updated to take into consideration technological advancements in rehabilitation aids and appliances.</p>

Outcome 5 – Learning and skills

Higher Education Disability Support program	<p>The Higher Education Disability Support program helps universities meet the cost of providing educational support services and equipment to domestic students with disability undertaking higher education studies, and encourages universities to implement strategies to attract and support students with disability. The program also funds the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training website, which provides information and other resources designed to promote inclusive teaching and learning practices for students with disability.</p>
National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) program	<p>The NDCO program assists people with disability to access and participate in tertiary education and subsequent employment. The NDCOs work with stakeholders at the local level to reduce systemic barriers, facilitate transitions, build links, and coordinate services between the education, training, and employment sectors.</p>

Outcome 5 – Learning and skills

Early Years Learning Framework

The Early Years Learning Framework describes the principles, practice and learning outcomes essential to support young children's learning from birth to five years, as well as their transition to school. The Framework also guides early childhood educators in their development of quality learning programs for each child, including children with disability.

Guided by the Framework, early childhood educators reinforce in their daily practice the principles laid out in the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The Convention states that all children have the right to an education that lays a foundation for the rest of their lives, maximises their ability, and respects their family, cultural and other identities and language.

Positive Partnerships program (education component of the Helping Children with Autism package)

Through the education component of the HCWA package, Positive Partnerships, parents and educators are offered free training and online resources to build their understanding of autism spectrum disorder.

This ongoing program offers workshops and information sessions for parents and carers to assist them to work with their child's teachers, school leaders and other staff; as well as professional development for teachers, school leaders and other school staff to build their understanding, skills and expertise. It also provides a comprehensive set of online training modules and resources.

Australian Curriculum supports teachers to meet the needs of students with disability through an inclusive education framework

To support teachers, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority has developed illustrations of practice; links to relevant resources; and additional examples of how general capabilities can be demonstrated to facilitate the sharing of experiences and examples of effective approaches across states and territories.

The detailed illustrations of personalised learning have been developed to promote equity and excellence for diverse learners, including students with disability.

Outcome 6 – Health and wellbeing

Australian Government Hearing Services Program

The Hearing Services Program provides access to subsidised hearing services and devices for eligible people.

The Hearing Services Program will continue to support timely access to hearing services, good management of hearing loss and enable people with hearing loss to engage in the wider community. Eligible NDIS participants will transition from the Hearing Services Program to the NDIS by 2019-20.

Improve ear health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, hearing loss is widespread and much more common than in the broader Australian population.

The *Healthy Ears - Better Hearing, Better Listening Program* improves access to ear and hearing services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and youth, with a focus on rural and remote locations. The program supports multidisciplinary outreach services provided by a range of health professionals.

Outcome 6 – Health and wellbeing

Improve eye health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The incidence of blindness is up to ten times higher among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people than the non-Indigenous, with most blindness due to corneal scarring from trachoma or un-operated cataracts. It has been estimated that 95 per cent of vision loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is preventable or treatable.

The Australian Government funds a range of activities to improve eye health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including: support work undertaken by the Indigenous Eye Health Unit, University of Melbourne; development of eye care resources and other health promotion activities; and provision of cataract surgeries, eye health equipment and optometry services in rural and regional areas.

Trachoma, a bacterial eye infection, occurs mainly in remote and very remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Funding is provided to state and territory governments to undertake trachoma screening and treatment activities, in line with the National Guidelines for the Public Management of Trachoma in Australia.

Partners in Recovery Initiative

Partners in Recovery aims to improve the coordination of clinical, other services and support for people with severe and persistent mental illness with complex needs.

Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) program

CVC delivers planned and coordinated health care for eligible Gold Card Holders with one or more targeted chronic conditions and who are at risk of hospitalisation.

The program aims to improve participants' quality of life, reducing the need to be admitted to hospital; and seeks to support, educate and empower participants to self-manage their conditions.

Appendix C: Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AGPT	Australian General Practice Training
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
APS	Australian Public Service
ASC	Australian Sports Commission
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CVC	Coordinated Veterans' Care
DAFP	Disability Access Facilitation Plan
DES	Disability Employment Services
DRC	Disability Reform Council
DS NMDS	Disability Services National Minimum Dataset
ECCC	Early Childhood and Childcare
FASD	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
HCWA	Helping Children with Autism
HSP	Humanitarian Settlement Program
IPS	Individual Placement and Support
ISP	Inclusion Support Program
LCCSC	Law, Crime and Community Safety Council
LHNs	Local Health Networks
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy
NDA	National Disability Agreement
NDAF	National Disability Advocacy Framework
NDAP	National Disability Advocacy Program
NDCO	National Disability Coordination Officer
NDIA	National Disability Insurance Agency
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
NEIS	New Enterprise Incentive Scheme
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NIIS	National Injury Insurance Scheme
NRAS	National Rental Affordability Scheme
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
PHNs	Primary Health Networks
SDA	Specialist Disability Accommodation
SDAC	Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
SDM	Service Delivery Model
SLES	School Leavers Employment Supports