



Australian Government

Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare

**Australia's  
Disability  
Strategy**  
2021-2031

Creating  
an inclusive  
community  
together

# Australia's Disability Strategy

2021-2031

Outcomes Framework

2<sup>nd</sup> annual report summary

**The AIHW is a Corporate Commonwealth entity producing authoritative and accessible information and statistics to inform and support better policy and service delivery decisions, leading to better health and wellbeing for all Australians.**

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# Summary

The Outcomes Framework is a key initiative under [Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#) (the Strategy) to measure, track and report on outcomes for people with disability over the life of the Strategy. Annual reporting against the measures in the Outcomes Framework will show what progress is being made on outcomes for people with disability.

This summary is for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual report on the Strategy's Outcomes Framework. It provides an overview of the progress being made on outcomes for people with disability eighteen months after the start of the Strategy in December 2021.



The Strategy has **7 outcome areas**. These represent those areas that people with disability have said need to improve to achieve the Strategy's vision for an inclusive Australian society – one that ensures people with disability can fulfil their potential, as equal members of the community.

## Outcome areas



Employment and financial security



Inclusive homes and communities



Safety, rights and justice



Personal and community support



Education and learning



Health and wellbeing



Community attitudes

Data for measures under the Community attitudes outcome area are included in this report. These data come from the first wave of a new national survey—Australia’s Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us—undertaken by the Australian National University (ANU). The proportion of public sector employees with disability from the Employment and financial security outcome area is also able to be reported for the first time.

The Outcomes Framework included a list of 85 measures at the launch of the Strategy. The measures were identified in consultation with the disability community. Rather than limit reporting to information that was available in 2021, people with disability wanted the Outcomes Framework to track some things that cannot currently be reported. Over the life of the Strategy, governments will work together to create and improve data so these measures can be reported. For example, data now available for the Community attitudes outcome area allow additional insight beyond the originally identified measures.

There are 3 types of measure across the 7 outcome areas of the Strategy:

### **System measures**

These track the contribution that key systems, such as health care, housing, education, and employment, are making to achieve outcomes.

### **Population measures**

These track the changes in outcomes over time for people with disability.

### **Community attitudes measures**

These track the change in attitudes towards people with disability, and how people with disability experience community attitudes.

## How is progress measured?

Where data are available for a measure for 2 or more points in time it is possible to report on whether change has occurred for that measure.

Data from the closest point in time to when the Strategy started are used to provide the initial view for reported measures. These data are referred to as the 'baseline'.

As more data for each measure become available these are reported alongside the baseline data. Where more frequent data updates are provided measures are updated quarterly. Less frequently provided data are updated when data becomes available (for example, annually or biennially).

The status of a measure is decided by comparing the baseline and the latest report data. The status shows if there has been change, and the direction of the change.

- Progress: the measure is moving in the direction the Strategy wants
- No Change: the latest data are similar to the baseline
- Regress: the measure is not moving in the direction the Strategy wants.

For some measures, data are also included for periods prior to the start of the Strategy to provide additional context when interpreting the data.

## How are things tracking 18 months into the Strategy?

Since the last annual report, 22 of the measures that were previously reported have updated post-baseline data. Baseline data are able to be reported for a further 10 measures for the first time. For the 22 measures with updated post-baseline data:

- 7 show progress
- 7 show no change
- 8 show regress.

## Measures that show **progress**



Around 31,200 valid claims were created for a 52-week employment outcome by a person with disability in 2022–23 compared to baseline (16,600 in 2020–21).

System measure



Almost 6 in 10 (59%) VET graduates with disability were employed on completion of training in 2022 compared with around 5 in 10 at baseline (52% in 2021).

System measure



Just over 3 in 4 (76%) NDIS participants aged 15–64 felt NDIS helped them have more choice and control after two years in the scheme in the fourth quarter of 2022–23 compared to baseline (75% in second quarter of 2021–22).

System measure

## Measures that show **no change**



There was no real change in the proportion of Australian Public Service employees with disability between baseline (December 2021) and December 2022 (4.9% and 4.9% respectively).

System measure



There was no real change in NDIS participants who felt able to advocate (stand up) for themselves between baseline (second quarter 2021–22) and the fourth quarter of 2022–23 (37% and 37% respectively).

Population measure



There was no real change in the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full-time schooling who had disability between baseline and 2022 (6.2% in 2021 and 6.3% respectively).

System measure

## Measures that show **regress**



The gap between completion rates for domestic VET students with disability aged 15–64 and for those without disability widened from 6 percentage points for cohort 2017–2021 to 7 percentage points for cohort 2018–2022.

Population measure



Fewer Specialist Homelessness Services clients with disability experiencing domestic and family violence were provided assistance for accommodation when needed in 2021–22 compared to baseline (79% and 82% in 2020–21 respectively).

System measure



The digital inclusion gap between people with disability and the Australian population widened from 9.1 points in 2021 to 11.7 points in 2022.

Population measure

## Community attitudes measures

In 2022, the Department of Social Services commissioned Australia's Disability Strategy Survey – Share with us, undertaken by the ANU. The first wave of the survey was conducted between September 2022 and January 2023. The results from this survey form the baseline for the measures under the Community attitudes outcome area. Data from future waves of the survey will be added to the Outcomes Framework when they become available.

Just over 3 in 4 (77%) of employer responses were positive about the value and benefits of employing people with disability in 2022.

Almost 4 in 5 (79%) of responses from personal and community support workers were positive about being disability confident and responding positively to people with disability in 2022.

Only 1 in 5 (19%) people with disability felt represented in leadership roles in 2022.

Just over 1 in 2 (54%) people with disability felt valued and respected in their community in 2022.



## Future plans

The next (3<sup>rd</sup>) annual report with data updates will be released in early 2025. In the meantime, data updates will also be released quarterly on the [Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework](#) webpages, with the next release scheduled for March 2024.

People with disability were clear that they did not want the Strategy reporting to be limited to data that were available at launch. For more details on the government approach to developing future measures, see the [Strategy's Data Improvement Plan](#).

