

National Disability Strategy 2010-2020

Laying the Groundwork (2011-2014)

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Foreword

In July 2008, the Australian Government ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. The Convention aims to ‘promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity’.

Inherent in Australia’s commitment to the UN Convention is an obligation to continually improve the lived experience of people with disability. For government, that not only means improving outcomes through the specialist disability service system, but ensuring that mainstream services, programs and infrastructure are responsive to the needs of people with disability.

To this end, on 13 February 2011, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 - a ten year framework to drive improvement across mainstream policies, programs, services and infrastructure as well as the specialist disability services system, so that people with disability can participate as equal citizens. In other words, the Strategy commits all Australian governments to take responsibility for Australia’s commitment to the UN Convention, to demonstrate leadership and give visibility to the action they will be taking across all areas of their day to day business to improve access and outcomes for people with disability.

“The Strategy provides a shared agenda to help achieve the vision of an inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to achieve their full potential as citizens.” NDS, page 15

Since the release of the Strategy, the focus has been two-fold. First, all governments have endeavoured to act immediately on the vision of the Strategy, to lay the groundwork on which to build upon over the life of the Strategy. For example, COAG has agreed the need for major reform of disability services through a National Disability Insurance Scheme and the newly formed COAG Select Council on Disability Reform has agreed to lay the foundations by mid-2013. And second, governments have worked on the development of a cohesive and strategic framework for implementing the Strategy and evaluating our successes and shortcomings over its ten year horizon.

This document is the first report of the Standing Council of Community, Housing and Disability Services’ on the National Disability Strategy. It outlines the approach to implementing actions over the life of the Strategy and includes the first Implementation plan for the period 2011-14 as well as the evaluation framework for the Strategy.

The 2011-14 Implementation plan details action that will be taken to consider the needs of people with disability in policies and programs across all areas of government. These actions represent the first round commitment of all governments to transform the experience of people with disability by improving the design and delivery of services and programs to achieve more inclusive communities. They will lay the groundwork for future actions under the Strategy across all six areas of policy action: inclusive and accessible communities; rights protection, justice and legislation; economic security; personal and community support; learning and skills; and health and wellbeing.

Governments will continue to promote the Strategy and take advantage of emerging opportunities to extend its influence across all public, private and community sector activities with the ultimate aspiration of a more inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to achieve their full potential as citizens.

Endorsed by the Standing Council on Community, Housing and Disability Services on XX/XX/2012:

The Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Minister for Disability Services, QLD (Chair)

The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Commonwealth

Senator the Hon Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Commonwealth

The Hon Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Disability Services, NSW

The Hon Mary Wooldridge MP, Minister for Community Services, VIC

The Hon Ian Hunter MLC, Minister for Disabilities, SA

The Hon Helen Morton MLC, Minister for Disability Services, WA

Ms Cassy O'Connor MP, Minister for Human Services, TAS

The Hon Kon Vatskalis, MLA, Minister for Health, NT

Ms Joy Burch MLA, Minister for Community Services, ACT

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis, Australian Local Government Association

Chapter 1: Introduction

Our Blueprint for Action: a comprehensive approach to addressing disability

The National Disability Strategy was developed following extensive consultation with people with disability, their families and carers, community groups, disability and other organisations, service providers and all levels of government. This consultation period culminated in the report *Shut Out: The Experience of People with Disabilities and Families in Australia (2009)*. The *Shut Out* report not only informed the policy outcome areas in the Strategy but also delivered a clear message to governments that they need to respond to the needs to people with disability with more comprehensive and coordinated planning at all levels of government and across all portfolios.

Policy actions will focus on improvements in areas where there is evidence of inadequacies or inequalities for people with disability. To ensure that people with disability achieve the same outcomes as the wider population when participating in everyday life, different or enhanced responses may be necessary. NDS: page 27

The Strategy sets out a ten year national policy framework to guide government activity across six key outcome areas and to drive future reform in mainstream and specialist disability service systems that will improve outcomes for Australian's with disability, their families and carers.

The overarching aim and purpose of the National Disability Strategy is to:

- establish a high level policy framework to give coherence to, and guide government activity across mainstream and disability-specific areas of public policy
- drive improved performance of mainstream services in delivering outcomes for people with disability
- give visibility to disability issues and ensure they are included in the development and implementation of all public policy that impacts on people with disability
- provide national leadership toward greater inclusion of people with disability.

The Strategy is structured around six broad outcome areas which are based on the feedback provided through the community consultations undertaken in 2009 and are also aligned to principles underpinning the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

These outcome areas are:

- **Inclusive and accessible communities** —the physical environment including public transport; parks, buildings and housing; digital information and

communications technologies; civic life including social, sporting, recreational and cultural life

- **Rights protection, justice and legislation**—statutory protections such as anti-discrimination measures, complaints mechanisms, advocacy, the electoral and justice systems
- **Economic security**—jobs, business opportunities, financial independence, adequate income support for those not able to work, and housing
- **Personal and community support**—inclusion and participation in the community, person-centred care and support provided by specialist disability services and mainstream services; informal care and support
- **Learning and skills**—early childhood education and care, schools, further education, vocational education; transitions from education to employment; life-long learning
- **Health and wellbeing**—health services, health promotion and the interaction between health and disability systems; wellbeing and enjoyment of life.

Sitting under each of these six outcome areas are a range of policy directions that will guide actions over the life of the Strategy. Under these policy directions there are a total of 53 areas for future action. As these actions are completed or updated more areas for future action will be identified or existing actions will be revised. The actions include current and proposed actions.

This makes the Strategy a living document, which will be updated and reviewed as time goes by.

These actions are at various stages of development but all will be progressed during the first four years of the Strategy.

Implementation phases of the 10-year Strategy

The National Disability Strategy provides a long term policy framework and the approach to implementing the Strategy is through three implementation plans. This approach allows for governments to embed the objectives of the Strategy early in the development of new policies and initiatives.

Governments anticipate new and pioneering opportunities to arise for people with disability as a result of the roll out the National Broadband Network and will be monitoring this area of work to ensure the aims of the Strategy are embedded at all stages of this important national project.

The three implementation plans covering the 10 years of the Strategy will progressively focus on the 53 areas for future action identified in the Strategy and new, emerging actions. The next two implementation plans will also reflect any new, not currently

identified, opportunities to improve service delivery and outcomes for people with disability. While this implementation plan; *Laying the Groundwork (2011-2014)*, lists each of the 53 areas for future action, the focus on these will vary. Some of the action areas will be completed or well advanced during the first time period, while other areas are more long term goals and may not be fully progressed in the first time period. Areas for future action that are not addressed or substantially progressed in the first implementation plan will be prioritised, in collaboration with people with disability and other key stakeholders, in future implementation plans.

The following outlines the implementation and reporting framework and the steps governments are taking to meet the objectives of the Strategy over the next ten years:

I. Laying the Groundwork (2011-2014)

This first implementation plan lays the groundwork for delivering and reporting on the Strategy over the next ten years. It includes actions to influence all areas of policy and service delivery over the long term and details significant and tangible areas of national cooperation to give effect to the objectives of the Strategy. While the commitments in the 2011-2014 implementation plan are being put into action, further work and engagement will occur to determine future priority action areas. It is worth noting that each jurisdiction will also produce their own jurisdictional disability action plans.

II. Driving Action (2015-2018)

The second implementation plan will have two main elements. The first element will describe outcomes from activities undertaken in the first implementation phase (2011-2014). The second element will outline ongoing commitments and new priority actions. This report will be informed by ongoing engagement with stakeholders during 2011-2014.

III. Reporting on Results (2019-2020)

The third and final implementation plan will also have two main elements. The first element will describe outcomes from the previous two implementation phases (2011-2014 and 2015-2018). The second element will cover new and emerging priority outcomes that will be implemented in 2019-2020. Again, this work will be informed by ongoing engagement with stakeholders.

Each of these phases will be underscored by the need for a change of attitude about disability – both by government and the broader community – that promotes dignity and human rights as well as supports participation in all aspects of community life. Attitudinal change is required to achieve lasting social change and to improve outcomes for people with disability beyond the life of the Strategy.

The Evaluation Plan at Chapter 4 details the reporting timeframes for these implementation phases and other reporting obligations under the Strategy. There will be a high level report to track progress for people with disability at a national level. This report will use national trend indicator data and will be prepared every two years following this implementation plan: in 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020. This timing will

enable each new implementation plan to use the indicator trends and assessment of the previous implementation plan to inform future actions.

“The development of this National Disability Strategy is the first time in Australia’s history that all governments have committed to a unified, national approach to improving the lives of people with disability, their families and carers, and to providing leadership for a community-wide shift in attitudes”. NDS page 3

The implementation plans will include actions under each of the Strategy’s six policy outcomes and policy directions. These actions are designed to influence and enable improvements across all support systems to reduce or eliminate barriers for people with disability and ensure their needs are embedded. This plan provides a line of sight to the Strategy and ensures the efforts of all governments will contribute to the achievement of the policy directions, outcomes and vision.

The implementation plan has six key elements that will drive the Strategy’s policy outcomes and directions:

- influencing the mainstream support system through the periodic reviews of COAG national agreements and partnerships – with the inclusion of specific strategies and performance indicators to address outcomes for people with disability as appropriate
- focus on outcomes for people with disability through the appointment of Disability Champion Ministers
- alignment of state and territory government disability plans with the Strategy
- engagement of people with disability by all government agencies in the development and implementation of policies and programs, not just disability specific policies and programs
- developing new approaches to collecting disability data across all community service systems to help report on outcomes for people with disability
- embedding change through areas of national cooperation.

Chapter 2: Implementation Plan 2011-2014

Review of national agreements and national partnerships

Improving outcomes for people with disability through mainstream focus, effort and innovation in service design and delivery is the cornerstone of the Strategy. All governments will continue to work on this and will engage with communities to optimise the reach of this objective over the life of the Strategy and beyond.

National agreements and national partnerships, agreed through COAG, are central to achieving government service delivery improvements and reforms. National agreements contain the objectives, outcomes, outputs and performance indicators, and clarify the roles and responsibilities that guide the Commonwealth, state and territory governments in the funding and delivering of services across relevant sectors. National partnerships establish the financial arrangements for specific projects and support and/or reward state and territory governments that deliver on nationally significant reforms. National agreements and national partnerships are subject to periodic review to ensure they remain relevant and effective in meeting their overarching objectives.

The review points will be used to assess their consistency with the Strategy and to consider the inclusion of additional strategies and performance indicators to address the needs of people with disability. Governments will also embed disability issues into the day to day policy and program consideration of government agencies and departments.

COAG has requested that the inclusion of specific strategies to overcome barriers and improve outcomes for people with disability, be considered for all relevant national agreements and national partnership agreements, including the development of performance information to better track progress on achieving these outcomes.

People with disability want the same things as everyone else, whether that is forming personal relationships, having a family, taking part in continuous learning or enjoying retirement. Young people with disability have the same aspiration to grow up, get a job and leave home as other young people – and they deserve the same opportunity.”
NDS, page 18

Disability Champion Ministers

Disability ministers are responsible for driving the implementation of the National Disability Strategy. However, they have also enlisted the support of Ministers from mainstream portfolios, such as housing, health, education and transport to act as champions for disability issues within their particular sphere of influence and responsibility.

Disability Champion Ministers will take a strong national leadership role by supporting the implementation of the Strategy within mainstream portfolio areas such as education, health and transport across Australia. This leadership will benefit Australians with a disability, their families and carers.

In November 2011, the Chair of the Standing Council on Community, Housing and Disability Services invited the Chair of each Standing Council to nominate Ministers willing to take on this important role, which includes identifying and monitoring actions to ensure that mainstream service systems and regulatory frameworks become part of the solution to overcoming barriers for people with disability. These appointments are well advanced and will be finalised in early 2012.

Disability Champion Ministers also have an important role to play in promoting the important contribution non-government organisations, businesses and the wider community can make in achieving the vision of an inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens.

Activities undertaken by a Disability Champion Minister may include:

- identifying and promoting the interests and needs of Australians with a disability on the agenda under the portfolio, particularly those which should be addressed consistently
- promoting the important contribution the portfolio area can make in improving the lives of people with disability, their families and carers and in achieving social inclusion
- taking up all opportunities to promote the Strategy's policy directions and areas for future action relating to the portfolio area in relevant national councils, forums and committees
- seeking opportunities through the upcoming reviews of the national partnerships/agreements to have the needs and interests of people with a disability adequately addressed in the Disability Champion Minister's area of influence
- driving improved performance of the portfolio area in delivering outcomes for people with disability across government and seeking to develop performance indicators which reflect the needs and interests of people with disability in the portfolio area
- liaising with other Disability Champion Ministers in sharing approaches to influence mainstream agendas.

Disability Champion Ministers contribution to the biennial reports for COAG will occur via a high level summary of their activities highlighting significant outcomes and achievements for people with disability under the six policy outcome areas.

Improving disability data in mainstream data collections

Improvements in the performance of mainstream areas' responses to the needs of people with disability will be monitored by implementing improved approaches to identifying people with disability in mainstream administrative data collections. There is also work underway to examine data linkage options across existing datasets.

This information will drive improved monitoring of performance. All governments are working closely with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on this project.

State and Territory Government Disability Plans

As well as the national plan each state and territory government will have their own implementation plans to drive improved outcomes for people with disability through mainstream policies, programs, services and infrastructure.

In addition to embracing national efforts to improve outcomes for people with disability across the six outcome areas in the Strategy, state and territory governments have direct responsibility for delivering the majority of public services that are essential for all people – including people with disability – to participate in their communities. These services range from health, hospitals and education, to housing and transport, and they are found across all of the policy areas identified under the Strategy.

“A whole-of-governments approach is needed to reduce fragmentation and improve the coordination of policy and programs. Complementary reforms across a number of areas will be more effective than addressing issues separately”. NDS, page 15

Through their experience as planners and providers of essential public services, state and territory governments have established effective channels of consultation with service users, peak bodies and the wider community. This allows for high levels of community engagement and the opportunity to effect change directly in response to community needs.

Each jurisdiction has in place (or is developing) an individual plan that aims to translate the vision of the Strategy into tangible and achievable service improvements for people with disability. These plans have been developed in response to the particular circumstances and priorities in each jurisdiction. Actions under these plans are locally-based and will aim to work in parallel with activities under the national implementation plan.

State and territory plans will be subject to each jurisdiction’s separate governance and reporting processes, and will work in partnership with the national implementation plan to deliver improved outcomes and lives for people with disability. Premiers or Chief Ministers and their Treasurers sign up to state and territory jurisdictional plans.

Summary information on state and territory government disability plans is outlined below:

Queensland: On 22 September 2011, Minister Curtis Pitt, MP, Minister for Disability Services, Queensland, released the Queensland Government’s new 10-year-plan, *Absolutely Everybody: enabling Queenslanders with a disability*. This paper sets out the vision and will also deliver on Queensland’s commitment under the National Disability Strategy.

Tasmania: Tasmania is commencing the review process for a new disability plan, following the conclusion of the *Tasmanian Disability Framework for Action in 2010*. The new plan will be aligned with the National Disability Strategy.

Victoria: The Disability Act 2006 (Vic) requires that a state disability plan is prepared as at 1 January 2013. This will be a four year plan and will incorporate Victoria's agreed responsibilities under the National Disability Strategy. The Victorian State Disability Plan will focus on reform of mainstream and disability-specific policies, programs and services. It will support a whole-of-government focus on improving economic and social outcomes for people with a disability, their families and carers.

South Australia: The Social Inclusion Board has prepared a disability strategy for the South Australian Government's consideration. The disability strategy will put forward a reform agenda for people with disability, their families and carers in South Australia. This strategy will identify areas across governments and the community where improvements can be made to support independence, empowerment and inclusion of people with a disability, families and carers. There will be clear alignment with the National Disability Strategy.

Western Australia: *Count Me In: Disability Future Directions* has a mainstream focus and is consistent with the National Disability Strategy, and was announced by the West Australian Premier in December 2009.

New South Wales: The *NSW National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan* is under development. The process is overseen by a high-level whole-of-government committee, and the plan is due to be finalised in early 2012.

Northern Territory: The *Territory 2030 Strategic Plan* is the 20-year strategic framework for the Northern Territory. Key targets and actions within the plan aim to ensure that people with a disability have access to a wide range of opportunities; improved access to support; and access to services at the same level as elsewhere in Australia. The Territory is in the process of developing a whole of government implementation plan to align with the National Disability Strategy and key objectives of Territory 2030. The plan will localise national policy actions to ensure they are appropriate to the Territory context and address the needs of Territorians with a disability, including Indigenous Territorians, their families and carers and people residing in regional and remote areas.

Australian Capital Territory: *Future Directions: Towards Challenge 2014* is the ACT Government's policy framework to improve outcomes and opportunities for ACT residents who have a disability. A Strategic Governance Group oversees the progress of the strategy and reports to the Director General of Community Services. *Future Directions* is aligned with the National Disability Strategy.

Local Government

The Australian Local Government Association will promote the National Disability Strategy to its state and territory associations, who liaise with and work together with their state and territory governments on the ongoing development and implementation of the strategy. Local government state and territory associations will also work with councils to communicate and promote the Strategy in their communities.

Local government is involved at the local level in developing strategies for people with a disability to participate in local community life, such as providing accessible community services, open spaces and recreation facilities and accessible bus stops, in partnership with other levels of government.

Many councils have Disability Action Plans. As a result of an initiative between the Australian Local Government Association and the Human Rights Commission in 1995, a *Guide for Local Government* was produced to assist councils in developing action plans and thinking through the implications of providing an environment which responds to the needs of people with disability. Councils work in partnership with their communities to change practices to eliminate indirect and unintentional discrimination and to promote state and national initiatives.

Embedding the voice of people with disability

It is estimated that one in five Australians will experience some form of disability during part or all of their lives. To enhance access and inclusion, all governments will work collaboratively with people with disability, their families and carers when developing both mainstream and disability specific policies and programs.

People with disability have delivered a clear message to governments that they expect their views, experience and advice to be reflected in the development of policies and programs that impact on their lives. This means that all services, not only specialist disability services need to be developed with a citizen-centric/disability focus. The Strategy commits governments to respond to this message.

Government business must include the voice of people with disability. All government agencies are required to further their capacity to engage with people with disability on an ongoing basis as part of their approach to developing, designing and implementing policies, programs and services. This will be done through the two influencing elements of the implementation plan – national agreements and partnerships and Disability Champion Ministers – as well as through the two-yearly progress reports on national trend indicators and the evaluation strategy.

Protocol for Consulting with People with Disability - DEEWR

People with disability will have the opportunity to better engage with government in the development of mainstream policies and programs through a new Protocol for Consulting with People with Disability. The Protocol was developed by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO). As part of DEEWR's Stakeholder Engagement Framework, it provides a shared understanding of how all staff can better engage people with disability. While many people with disability will access specialist services, they are also a key user of mainstream services including education, training and employment. The Protocol is one way of increasing engagement and ensuring that people with disability have the opportunity to contribute to the development of all DEEWR policies and programs.

National Areas of Cooperation

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.

People with disability deserve a community that is designed to include them. Whether that means building more physically accessible public infrastructure and housing, the communication of information in accessible formats or changing societal attitudes so that people with disability feel included, change is necessary in this area.

Greater awareness of the issues facing people with disability among planners and policy makers will play an important role in advancing the response of mainstream policies. This should be seen as a means to achieving the more important role of changing the general community's perception and understanding of the rights of people with disability and the contribution they can make to society.

State and territory governments are progressing their own actions under this outcome and these will be included in their jurisdictional action plans (see pages 12-14).

The ABS 2010 General Social Survey (GSS) found that people with restriction in core activities:

- were considerably more likely to experience difficulty getting to places they need to go than people without disability;*
- had lower levels of participation in community activities such as going out to a movie, a café, a sporting event, the theatre, parks or museums;*
- were much less likely than people without disability to use computers and access the internet, despite the increasing importance of the internet as a source of information and mediator of participation across a range of social and community activities;*
- experienced greater social isolation due to lower levels of daily contact with family and friends, as well as difficulties in accessing support services.*

Source: National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 Evidence Base, November 2011, pp.14-17.

There are five policy directions under this outcome:

POLICY DIRECTION 1

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

At a national level, steps are being taken to include people with disability in community life. The National Arts and Disability Strategy provides a forum to recognise the important contribution that people with disability make to Australian artistic and cultural activity. Jurisdictions have developed initiatives to improve access to the arts for people

with disability, collaboration across governments and sectors has increased, and people with disability have a stronger voice in the arts sector.

Implementation of the National Arts and Disability Strategy to date has focussed on improving access and participation so that barriers to participation are addressed. Over 200 initiatives have been implemented by jurisdictions in addition to building works, such as the installation of ramps.

National Arts and Disability Strategy

The National Arts and Disability Strategy was released in October 2009 by the Cultural Ministers. The long-term vision under the National Arts and Disability Strategy is that people with disability can 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. A copy of this Strategy can be found at: http://www.cmc.gov.au/working_groups/national_arts_and_disability_strategy.

POLICY DIRECTION 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.

The *Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010* commenced from 1 May 2011. These standards ensure access to buildings for people with disability. From this date, any new building open to the public, or existing buildings undergoing significant renovation, will be required to comply with the standards. Adherence to the standards will ensure that over time buildings in Australia become more accessible, and more useful to people with disability. More accessible buildings will assist in achieving equal participation for people with disability in employment, education, access to services, and other areas of participation in economic, social and cultural life. The Australian Human Rights Commission provided training to the building industry in the lead up to the implementation of the standards.

POLICY DIRECTION 3

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

In July 2011 Housing Ministers discussed the progress of the Livable Housing Design Initiative and the importance of incorporating Livable Housing Design elements into social housing developments. The Livable Housing Design Guidelines set out key easy living features that aim to make homes safer and easier to use for all occupants, including people with disability. The design features can help to increase social inclusion, improve health outcomes and allow greater independence for anyone experiencing disability.

It is intended that the guidelines will be used to inform consumers, the industry and all levels of government about the benefits of Livable Housing Design.

Considerable effort has been made by all governments to increase the supply of social housing under the National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing and the Social Housing Initiative component of the National Partnership Agreement on the National Building and Jobs Plan.

POLICY DIRECTION 4

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

In July 2011 the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 were reviewed. The review concluded that the Transport Standards have significantly changed the way governments and public transport operators and providers consider and deliver access to public transport for people with disability. Obligations existed in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* prior to the introduction of the Transport Standards but the effort to remove discrimination was not approached systematically. Ongoing reporting against these standards will help continue to drive improvements in public transport accessibility.

POLICY DIRECTION 5

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

People with disability rely on a range of communication and information systems. While new initiatives in electronic communication have enabled many people with disability to participate there is also a large number of people who continue to rely on other forms of communication.

The rollout of the National Broadband Network with its high speed fibre network will represent a significant leap in the communications capabilities currently available to most Australians. Investment in high-speed broadband will improve services in education and health sectors, offer the potential for substantial productivity improvement for businesses, create jobs and offer improved services and competition. The National Broadband Network offers particular functionality to people with disability who often face significant communication and access barriers in participating in community and workplace activities.

“Connecting Health Services with the future” Modernising Medicare by Providing Rebates for Online Consultations’ initiative is providing Medicare rebates and support for online consultations across a range of specialties. This will enhance access to specialist services for people with disability.

“The Strategy provides a cohesive vision for advancing the interests of people with disability, their families and carers across the whole community.” NDS, page 13

AREAS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS

Area for future action 1.1: Improve access and increase participation of people with disability in sporting, recreational, social, religious and cultural activities whether as participants, spectators, organisers, staff or volunteers.

Initiatives such as the Cinema Access Implementation Plan, the Accessible Communities Program (including the Library Access initiative), the Companion Card, ABC's *Ramp up* website and the implementation of the National Arts and Disability Strategy will help address this outcome.

Other current initiatives which will increase the accessibility of arts and cultural activities include:

- grants to local governments to make buildings and public spaces more accessible
- investing in fast track audio and description and captioning technology in cinemas
- tying Screen Australia funding to provision of captioned and audio described films
- investment in a range of new professional development programs supporting artists with disability.

The harmonisation of disability parking schemes across Australia will also improve access and increase participation. The development of the Australian Disability Parking Scheme was supported by the Accessible Parking Working Group, which included Commonwealth, State, Territory and Local Government representation.

Area for future action 1.2: Support the development of strong social networks for people with disability.

The initiatives listed under Area for future action 1.1 will assist with the development of strong social networks for people with disability.

Area for future action 1.3: Monitor adherence to and evaluate the effectiveness of the *Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010* and *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002* and improve accessibility of reports.

People with disability will benefit from improved adherence to these Standards, improvements in data collection that will assist with monitoring the implementation of the standards, and increased evaluation of the effectiveness of the standards.

Specific measures to address this action include:

- consideration of measures to improve implementation of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport will be progressed by Commonwealth, state and territory transport officials
- a common form of reporting on the Transport Standards will be progressed to make these reports more accessible

- consideration of a national mobility aid labelling scheme to inform consumer choice
- by aligning state-based building law with the Commonwealth's Access to Premises Standards, the process of compliance is managed at the time of building approval for new building work, not after the building is occupied thus ensuring that dignified, equitable, cost-effective and reasonably achievable access to public buildings is provided
- auditing a sample of new buildings or building work is to be conducted prior to the review of the Access to Premises Standards.

Area for future action 1.4: Promote the development of Disability Access Facilitation Plans by airlines and airport operators to improve communication between operators and passengers with disability.

A dedicated government, industry and consumer working group has been established to consider a range of issues affecting disability access to aviation services, such as airport terminal facilities, cabin safety matters, and travelling with mobility aids. A number of airlines, both domestic and international, and airports have now published Disability Access Facilitation Plans with others under development (as at 1 November 2011, 9 airlines and 23 airports had published plans). The Australian Government continues to encourage airlines and airports to develop, publish and review Disability Access Facilitation Plans.

Area for future action 1.5: All levels of government to develop approaches to increase the provision of universal design in public and private housing in both new builds and modification of existing stock.

The following initiatives are taking this action forward:

- the Livable Housing Design Initiative, developed in partnership with all levels of government and the disability, ageing, community, real estate, building and construction sectors. Livable Housing Australia has been incorporated to work with the sector to deliver on the aspirational targets for all new homes to be of an agreed livable housing design standard by 2020
- Housing Ministers agreement that options for incorporating Livable Housing Design elements into all future social housing developments across Australia will be developed
- ensuring all projects under the Supported Accommodation Innovation Fund will be required to comply with the Livable Housing Design Guidelines to ensure platinum level compliance - ninety five per cent of all new dwellings under Stage Two of the Social Housing Initiative are expected to incorporate the six minimum universal design elements from the Social Housing Initiative guidelines.

Area for future action 1.6: Improve community awareness of the benefits of universal design.

This will be achieved by:

- the industry endorsement of the Livable Housing Design Guidelines
- the marketing of these guidelines by the new not-for-profit organisation, Livable Housing Australia. This organisation is currently developing an accreditation process to facilitate voluntary adoption of the Livable Housing Design Guidelines and a National Outreach Strategy.

Universal design is broader than housing and further work to improve community awareness would need to be investigated.

Area for future action 1.7 Promote universal design principles in procurement.

As per 1.5 and 1.6, governments are promoting universal design principles.

Area for future action 1.8: All governments adopt the mandated conformance levels for web accessibility as a baseline requirement to ensure more people with disability have access to online information and services.

This is being achieved through the adoption of the website accessibility standard, Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0 (WCAG 2.0), and the development of the Web Accessibility National Transition Strategy.

The Increasing Accessibility Library Initiative is an Australian Government program for the provision of playback devices to improve access to print material in a digital format for people with print disability through public libraries.

Area for future action 1.9: Use the National Broadband Network as an enabling technology platform to deliver innovative services, communication and support for people with disability, their families and carers.

Rollout of the National Broadband Network and developments in mobile and other communication technologies, including:

- progress reforms under the Access to Electronic Media for the Hearing and Vision Impaired discussion report
- exploring the viability of an SMS emergency call service for people who are deaf or have hearing or speech impairment
- Digital Switchover Household Assistance Scheme
- Future evolution of the National Relay Service including opportunities presented by the National Broadband Network and other developments in communication technology.

Outcome 2: Rights Protection, Justice and Legislation - People with disability have their rights promoted, upheld and protected.

Australia devotes significant effort to ensure people with disability are able to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. The Commonwealth Government, and state and territory governments have sought opportunities to ensure that the UN Convention is implemented effectively, and that the inherent dignity of people with disability is respected and promoted. Nevertheless, people with disability continue to face discrimination in many areas of their lives.

The Strategy seeks to promote awareness and understanding of the rights of people with disability, improve responses to people with disability in the justice system, ensure their safety and enable them to participate fully in the economic, civic and social life of our nation.

State and territory governments are progressing their own actions under this outcome and these will be included in their jurisdictional action plans (see pages 12-14).

In 2009-10, disability discrimination accounted for the highest number of complaints received by the Australian Human Rights Commission, with a total of 1057 (42%) complaints lodged under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

Most of the complaints related to two key areas of life – the provision of goods, services and facilities (36.7%) and discrimination in employment (36.5%).

The 2010 GSS found that people with restrictions in core activities felt more vulnerable when walking alone in their local area after dark than people without disability.

The GSS also showed that people with restrictions in core activities were 1.6 times more likely to have been victims of physical or threatened violence and 1.7 times more likely to have been victims of actual or attempted break-ins (in the previous 12 months) than people without disability.

Source: NDS Evidence Base, pp.18-22.

There are five policy directions under this outcome:

POLICY DIRECTION 1

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

Australia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008 and acceded to the Convention's Optional Protocol in 2009. The Australian Human Rights Commission is empowered to conciliate complaints of breaches to the Convention by the Commonwealth and report to Government on implementation of the Convention.

All governments have long recognised that anti-discrimination protections are crucial to enable all Australians to participate fully in public life, address historical disadvantage and promote social cohesion. The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* provides that it is unlawful for a person or organisation to discriminate against a person on the basis of disability in a range of areas. Amendments to the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* occurred in 2009, improving the workability of the Act.

POLICY DIRECTION 2

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

People with disability can be prevented from participating in the political and justice systems due to societal barriers. Steps to address these barriers include legislative amendments which aim to provide a legislative framework to enable voters with sight-impairment to cast an independent and secret vote electronically. Furthermore, the reform of the Australian Government's National Disability Advocacy Program includes the introduction of an independent quality assurance system with disability advocacy agencies given 18 months to comply with the new system once implemented from 1 July 2012.

POLICY DIRECTION 3

People with disability have access to justice.

The mechanisms that allow people to prevent and resolve disputes are fundamental to the rule of law and access to justice is also a key means of promoting social inclusion. Australia is ensuring access to justice for people with disabilities in a number of ways, including:

- as signatory to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention, which recognises the authority of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to receive complaints from individuals alleging violations of any of the provisions of the UN Convention
- adopting the *Strategic Framework for Access to Justice*, which promotes early intervention to prevent legal problems from occurring and escalating, and streamlining pathways to fair and equitable dispute resolution outcomes, in order to reduce the time, expense and stress that is often involved with dispute resolution
- endorsement of a set of principles and minimum standards for providing seamless access to legal information and services by the Standing Council of Attorney-Generals in July 2011. These aim to ensure that it is easy for people to get the help they need, there is a “no wrong door” approach, and people are provided with information in an accessible form that addresses their needs
- introducing a broad system of human rights legislative scrutiny by the Australian Government, which assesses of extent to which Commonwealth legislation, policy

and programs comply with the seven core human rights treaties to which Australia is a party, including the UN Convention.

POLICY DIRECTION 4

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

Women with disability are often more vulnerable to violence, abuse and neglect. In 2011, COAG endorsed the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022. The Plan brings together the efforts of governments across the nation to make a real and sustained reduction in the levels of violence against women. It is the first plan to coordinate action across jurisdictions. It is the first to focus strongly on prevention. It is also the first plan addressing long term change, building respectful relationships and working to increase gender equality to prevent violence from occurring in the first place. It is the first to focus on holding perpetrators accountable and encourage behaviour change.

In July 2011 Justice Ministers agreed to develop a national response to the Australian and NSW Law Reform Commissions' report on family violence.

POLICY DIRECTION 5

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

In October 2011 all Disability Ministers agreed to examine how and why people with cognitive disability come into contact with the criminal justice system and the role of specialist disability services in reducing the rate of people entering and re-entering the criminal justice system. This work will be taken forward in conjunction with Australian Attorney's General.

Initiatives under the White Paper on Homelessness, The Road Home (launched Dec 2008) are also important and include no exits into homelessness from statutory, custodial care, health, mental health and drug and alcohol services.

"People with disability are citizens with rights, not objects of charity." NDS, page 16

AREAS FOR FUTURE ACTION

Area for future action 2.1: Promote awareness and acceptance of the rights of people with disability.

All governments currently celebrate, and will continue to celebrate, International Day for People with Disability on 3 December to promote awareness and acceptance of the rights of people with disability.

Australia's Human Rights Framework encompasses a comprehensive suite of education initiatives to promote human rights including the rights of people with disability.

This is currently achieved through:

- supporting non-government organisations to develop and deliver community education and engagement programs on human rights. For example the National Ethnic Disability Alliance was awarded a grant to run human rights workshops and produce resources to empower people with disability from non-English speaking backgrounds
- providing human rights education and training in the public sector.

Area for future action 2.2: Monitor and ensure compliance with international human rights obligations.

The rights of people with disability will be promoted through Australia's new *National Human Rights Action Plan*. The *National Action Plan* and the related *Baseline Study* assessment of human rights needs in Australia, which includes a focus on people with disability, are important new mechanisms to assist with monitoring and ensuring compliance with international human rights obligations. An exposure draft *National Action Plan*, and final version of the *Baseline Study*, are expected to be released in December 2011.

The Australian Government is assisting people with disability and their representatives to attend key international forums on human rights by providing funding through the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Area for future action 2.3: Develop strategies to reduce violence, abuse and neglect of people with disability.

Through the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* community organisations, with expertise in disability, will be supported to promote relationships that are based on respect. The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children has a number of priority actions to improve the safety and wellbeing of children, including those with disability.

This will be achieved through:

- promoting and encouraging young people to think about respectful relationships through The Line website and campaign
- grants to support young people awareness of ethical behaviour, develop protective behaviours, and develop their skills in conducting respectful relationships
- implementation of the National Standards for children and young people in out-of-home care.

Area for future action 2.4: Review restrictive legislation and practices from a human rights perspective.

At the Australian Government level, a new Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights has been established to provide greater scrutiny of all legislation for compliance with Australia's international human rights obligations. In addition, from 2011 there is a requirement that each new Bill introduced into the Australian Parliament is accompanied by a statement of compatibility with our international human rights obligations.

Area for future action 2.5: Examine recommendations arising from the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration on migration treatment of disability, Enabling Australia.

The Australian Government is preparing a response to the review.

Area for future action 2.6: Improve the reach and effectiveness of all complaint mechanisms.

Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws are being reviewed as part of *Australia's Human Rights Framework* to remove unnecessary regulatory overlap, address inconsistencies across all laws and make the system more user-friendly. Streamlined Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws will improve the effectiveness of mechanisms for people with disability to ensure their human rights are protected and promoted. This will be achieved by:

- reviewing the design of the mechanisms and processes for the handling of complaints for disability discrimination.

Area for future action 2.7: Provide greater support for people with disability with heightened vulnerabilities to participate in legal processes on an equal basis with others.

People with disability will be better supported where they come into contact with the legal processes. This will be achieved through:

- continued funding to community legal centres that have a primary focus of providing legal information and help in relation to the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. These services provide advice and/or ongoing assistance to people who are pursuing remedies in the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Federal Magistrates Court and/or through Fair Work Australia, and/or in the state jurisdiction using the Anti-Discrimination Commissions and Tribunals.
- provision of educational material to assist judicial officers to understand the needs of people with heightened vulnerabilities.

Area for future action 2.8: Ensure people with disability have every opportunity to be active participants in the civic life of the community – as jurors, board members and elected representatives.

People with disability will have increased opportunities to participate in civic life. This will be achieved through:

- improving voting services for people with disability and determining preferred solutions for future elections
- providing people with disability and their representatives will have access to grants to support their attendance at key international forums on human rights

- the Leaders for Tomorrow initiative which encourages people with disability to apply for a leadership program that will help people with disability to become leaders in business, the community and government
- the National Conference Funding Initiative which funds conference to support the inclusion of people with disability at disability-focused conferences held in Australia

Area for future action 2.9: Support people with disability with heightened vulnerabilities in any contacts with the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on early identification, diversion and support.

All governments have committed to develop strategies to support people with cognitive disability in the criminal justice system, as well as those with cognitive disability who are victims and/or witnesses of crime. This will be achieved by:

- mapping of how people with cognitive disability come in contact with the criminal justice system, including bail arrangements, community-based orders, custodial supervision orders, diversionary programs and parole conditions, informed by, and shared with other relevant groups; and
- undertaking a brief analysis of existing services in each State and Territory that provide specific and targeted supports for people with cognitive disability interacting with the criminal justice system, including victims of crime and witnesses, supported accommodation and other disability services.

Area for future action 2.10: Ensure people with disability leaving custodial facilities have improved access to support in order to reduce recidivism. This may include income and accommodation support and education, pre-employment, training and employment services.

As mentioned in Action 2.9 all governments have committed to work together to better understand and support the needs of people with disability who come into contact with the criminal justice system, including through prisons and forensic services, and as victims and witnesses of crime.

In October 2011 the Standing Council on Community, Housing and Disability Services tasked government officials to provide advice on the experience of people with disability in the criminal justice system including advice on good practice, options for diversion and early intervention and post release services, such as accommodation and housing.

A better understanding of why and how people with cognitive disability come into contact with the criminal justice system, and more empirical evidence of the kind of support services that prevent initial and/or repeat contact with the system will ensure that governments target their ongoing response to people with disability leaving custodial facilities in the most effective manner.

Area for future action 2.11: Support independent advocacy to support the rights of people with disability.

The Australian Government's National Disability Advocacy Program has been reformed, including the introduction of an independent quality assurance system.

Continued support for the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Disability Commissioner which will be empowered to conciliate complaints of breaches of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and report to the Australian Government on implementation of the Convention.

Area for future action 2.12: Ensure supported decision-making safeguards for those people who need them are in place, including accountability of guardianship and substitute decision-makers.

State and territory governments are working on addressing these important issues in their jurisdictions.

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.

This Implementation plan (2011-2014) has a clear and immediate focus on employment and business and leadership development because these are recognised as critical factors that enable participation in learning and skills and community and social activities.

Work is essential to an individual's economic security and is important to achieving social inclusion and contributes to physical and mental health, personal wellbeing and a sense of identity. Australia's current economic strength provides a unique opportunity for more people with a disability to participate in the workforce and ensure that the personal and financial benefits of work are shared by all.

State and territory governments are progressing their own actions under this outcome and these will be included in their jurisdictional action plans (see pages 12-14).

The ABS 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) found that the labour force participation rate for people with disability aged 15-64 years was 54.3% and the unemployment rate was 7.8%. These figures compare to 82.8% and 5.1% respectively for people without disability.

The combination of a lower labour force participation rate and a higher unemployment rate means that people with disability are less likely to be employed than people without disability (50%, compared with 78.6%).

The 2009 SDAC also showed that the main source of income for 42.6% of people with disability aged 15-64 years was a government pension or allowance.

In June 2008, people with disability comprised 31.1% of all public rental housing tenants.

According to a 2009 report by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, people with disability experience greater housing stress than people without disability. Some 36% of households affected by a disability and renting paid more than 30% of their gross income for housing compared with 26% of households where no disability was reported.

Sources: NDS Evidence Base, pp.23-27; National Disability Strategy 2010-2020, p.44.

There are three policy directions under this outcome:

POLICY DIRECTION 1

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

Over recent years, with low and falling unemployment, job seekers with relevant skills and minimal barriers to employment have tended to find work relatively quickly. Those who remain on income support are job seekers who were already disadvantaged in the labour market and have become increasingly so over time. In response, Disability Employment Services (DES) have been reformed to better meet the needs of disadvantaged job seekers and long-term unemployed.

DES are now demand driven, so that all job seekers with disability have immediate access to a flexible, tailored assistance service to help them find and maintain suitable employment. Since the uncapping of DES in 2010 there has been a 39 per cent increase in the number of job seekers accessing assistance.

The Australian Government's recent significant investment, through the 2011-12 Budget package Building Australia's Future Workforce, contains a wide range of initiatives that will ensure that all Australians have the opportunity to experience the benefits of work, including people with disability. In particular it contains a number of initiatives that aim to reduce the barriers (financial and attitudinal) that people with disability face when trying to find a job, including:

- Additional wage subsidies for people with disability and long term unemployed
- Supported Wage System Employer Payment
- Disability Employment Broker projects to link job seekers to national employers
- Transitional activities for early school leavers
- Job Services Australia demonstration pilots for highly disadvantaged job seekers

In 2010, the Australian Government released a discussion paper, *Inclusion for People with Disability Through Sustainable Supported Employment*, to frame consultation around the development of a ten year Vision for supported employment, currently delivered through Australian Disability Enterprises. An independent Advisory Group, appointed to provide strategic advice to Government in the development of a Vision, has recently submitted their report for consideration.

National Mental Health Reform has specific measures designed to address employment issues for people with mental illness, including:

- Capacity building of employment services staff to better engage with people with mental illness
- Expansion of the national Job Access service to engage mental health professionals

- Review of the Supported Wage System to improve its applicability to people with mental illness.

POLICY DIRECTION 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.

Since the introduction Secure and Sustainable Pension Reforms in September 2009, the maximum adult rate of pension has increased by around \$148 a fortnight for single pensioners and \$146 a fortnight for pensioner couples combined, including for people receiving the Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment. These increases will be maintained through new indexation arrangements which better reflect changes in pensioners' living costs and a new wages benchmark for single pensioners of around 27.7 per cent of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (41.76 per cent for couples combined).

POLICY DIRECTION 3

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

Considerable effort has been made by all governments to increase the supply of social housing under the National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing and the Social Housing Initiative component of the National Partnership Agreement on the National Building and Jobs Plan and to ensure a higher proportion of new dwellings incorporate universal design features and cater better to the needs of people with disability, who make up a significant proportion of social housing tenants.

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. NDS, page 19

AREAS FOR FUTURE ACTION

Area for future action 3.1: Improve employer awareness of the benefits of employing people with disability.

It is essential to increase employer demand for people with disability. Within the *Building Australia's Future Workforce* package, there are new initiatives to support Australians with Disability into Work including encouraging employers to take on more people with disability through new financial incentives, including:

- an information campaign to promote the benefits of employing disadvantaged job seekers
- Disability Employment Brokers to help build employers' confidence and capacity to employ people with disability

- more and higher wage subsidies to encourage employers to provide jobs for people with disability.

Area for future action 3.2: Reducing barriers and disincentives for the employment of people with disability.

The Australian Government has initiated a series of reforms that are fundamentally overhauling key aspects of the Disability Support Pension to better support people with disability into work where possible, including an increased focus on what people with disability can do rather than a deficits-based approach. These reforms include:

- changes to DSP assessments to focus on helping people with disability return to the workforce. Applicants, who do not have a severe impairment, now need to provide sufficient evidence that they are unable to work independently. Under these new rules people will be supported to build their skills and work capacity, usually through an 18 month program of support.
- new Impairment Tables will be introduced from 1 January 2012 to ensure that people applying for the DSP will be assessed based on what they can do and not what they can't do.
- from 1 July 2012, those under 35 who have some work capacity will attend regular participation interviews with Centrelink and develop an individualized participation plan tailored to their needs and aimed at building their capacity;
- more generous rules from 1 July 2012 for people receiving DSP to allow all DSP recipients to work up to 30 hours a week, and subject to the income test, receive a part rate of pension while they work.

Area for future action 3.3: Encouraging innovation to create employment and help people start small business.

People with disability will be encouraged and supported to set up a small business and may benefit from increased access to finance for social enterprises which support people with disability through:

- access for social enterprises to capital that they can use to develop and scale their businesses, with the potential to create additional employment opportunities, through the Social Enterprise Development and Investment Fund
- extension of the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme to Disability Employment Service jobseekers to support them to set up a small business.

Area for future action 3.4: Improve employment, recruitment and retention of people with disability in all levels of public sector employment, and in funded organisations.

Efforts will continue to address the rates of employment of people with disability in the Australian Public Service. This will be achieved through:

- use of the National Disability Recruitment Coordinator to work with the Australian Public Service Commissioner and agencies to increase employment of people with disability
- Continuing to develop and implement initiatives that make the APS a progressive and sustainable employer of people with disability, and that improve the experience of people with disability in employment.

Area for future action 3.5: Develop innovative approaches to future financial planning including private provision for people with disability, their families and carers.

A number of measures to respond to the recommendations of the Senate Standing Committee on Special Disability Trusts have been introduced. Legislation was passed in late 2011 and the impact of the recently introduced measures on the take up of Special Disability Trusts will be monitored closely. The Australian Government will continue to promote Special Disability Trusts with community based organisations and lawyers.

In January 2013 the Australian Government will undertake a review of the amount that can be held in the trust on a concessional basis, the amount that can be gifted, and who can request audits of Special Disability Trusts.

Area for future action 3.6: Develop innovative options to improve affordability and security of housing across all forms of tenure.

This will be achieved through:

- including universal design elements in the majority of new dwellings built through Stage 2 of the Social Housing initiative with a target of 20% of dwellings to be highly adaptable to the needs of people with disability.
- streamlining rent deduction arrangements for Disability Support Pension recipients who are living in public Housing to help them maintain public tenancies more securely.
- the development of a national Quality Framework to achieve better outcomes for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including people with disability, by improving the quality and integration of services they receive (under the White Paper on Homelessness - The Road Home).

Area for future action 3.7: At the review points of the National Affordable Housing Agreement and related National Partnership agreements, parties agree to consider including strategies consistent with the National Disability Strategy, to ensure they address the housing needs of people with disability.

Governments have agreed to use the periodic review points of mainstream national agreements and national partnerships to assess their consistency with the Strategy and to consider the inclusion of additional strategies and performance indicators to address the needs of people with disability and embed disability issues into the day to day policy and program consideration of government agencies and departments.

Area for future action 3.8: Consider the implications for economic security for people with disability, their families and carers arising from investigation into a national long-term care and support scheme.

The Productivity Commission has recommended a National Disability Insurance scheme that would entitle all Australians with significant disability to support. The Commission also recommends a separate National Injury Insurance Scheme to provide no-fault insurance for anyone who suffers a catastrophic injury. The scheme has the potential to provide significantly greater economic security and certainty for people with disability by ensuring delivery of better early intervention services, transition to work programs and other programs that prepare people for an independent life.

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.

With the right support, many people with disability are able to maintain a high level of independence, to be involved in activities such as work, education, training and a full range of social and recreational activities. This outcome focuses on people with disability, their families and carers being able to maintain and/or achieve independence and community engagement through improved access to specialist and mainstream community support services.

State and territory governments are progressing their own actions under this outcome and these will be included in their jurisdictional action plans (see pages 12-14).

The ABS 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) reported that 59% of Australians with disability (or around 2.3 million people) need ongoing assistance because of their disability or age.

In 2009-10, there were 295 024 people who received specialist disability services, including case management, open and supported employment services, community access and day programs, accommodation support and respite.

Among these 295 024 people, 117 754 (39.9%) had an informal carer.

The caretaker ratio at the start of the millennium stood at around 2.5 people most likely to care (women aged 50-64) to people most likely to need care (people over 80). *AMP and the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling* have forecast a steady fall in Australia's 'caretaker ratio' over the next 50 years to below 1.

Sources: NDS Evidence Base, pp.32-34; National Disability Strategy 2010-2020, p.50.

There are four policy directions under this outcome:

POLICY DIRECTION 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.

Most jurisdictions are pursuing person centred and self-directed funding for specialist disability services to provide more choice, flexibility and control for people with disability in the way that they are supported.

The Australian Government is actively engaged with all states and territories to progress a nationally consistent approach to person-centred and self-directed disability support

as this is a priority area for reform to help lay the foundations for a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Under the person-centred policy direction in the National Disability Agreement, almost all state and territory governments are already, or are on the way to, implementing initiatives to support person-centred services, including individualised funding approaches.

POLICY DIRECTION 2

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

All jurisdictions are working towards improving the way in which the needs of people with complex and high support needs are addressed and most jurisdictions have demonstrated reforms in their disability service systems towards more flexible, person centred services. This includes: a considered commitment by a number of jurisdictions to increase the number of people with disability with individualised funding packages; and the move towards improved and integrated services responses, in particular for younger people with disability in, or at risk of inappropriately entering, residential aged care.

The Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments have agreed to work towards a National Injury Insurance Scheme and in doing so will seek to respond to the Productivity Commission's recommendations to implement a national, no-fault scheme to provide better lifetime care and support for people who are catastrophically injured.

POLICY DIRECTION 3

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

A number of important changes have been made to personal and community support services that are available to help people with disability. Families which experience disability are often at higher risk of stress, breakdown and other vulnerabilities. Therefore it is important that universal services which support families can adequately respond to disability.

In October 2011 Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments agreed to support the implementation of a national collaboration framework for family support services. The framework commits all jurisdictions to a practical approach to working more collaboratively with each other and with non-government organisations in the delivery of accessible and coordinated family support services to vulnerable families and individuals.

The National Mental Health Commission has been established to look at how well mental health and related systems are performing against agreed indicators, including the impact they are having on people with mental illness, their families and carers.

POLICY DIRECTION 4

The role of families and carers is acknowledged and supported.

The role of families and carers in supporting people with disability is crucial which means disability policy must also incorporate an explicit focus on the needs of carers and families. Support for carers while they are caring, to help plan for the future and where care arrangements need to change are a key focus for governments.

The significant contribution of carers has been acknowledged at the national level through the delivery of the National Carer Recognition Framework, comprising the *Carer Recognition Act 2010* (the Act) and the National Carer Strategy. The Act requires agencies with policies and programs directed to carers, or the people they care for, to consult with carers and report annually on what they have done to better support carers. The National Carer Strategy is the national long-term commitment to carers and sits alongside the National Disability Strategy to ensure carers have rights, choices, opportunities and the capability to participate in work, family and community life.

Similar acknowledgement of the role of families and carers has occurred at the state and territory government level through carer recognition legislation, strategies and action plans to support carers. Activities being pursued by jurisdictions that complement the National Carer Strategy will form part of the Strategy's implementation plan and first year progress report.

An individualised approach provides greater choice and flexibility for people with disability, their families and carers. NDS: page 48

AREAS FOR FUTURE ACTION

Area for future action 4.1: Continue reform begun under the National Disability Agreement.

The Australian Government contributes funding to the state and territory specialist disability services through the National Disability Specific Purpose Payment. In 2014-15 the Australian Government will have doubled the funding provided to states and territories compared to 2006-07 and all governments are working together to progress a range of reforms. Total state and territory government funding for disability services is also expected to increase in this timeframe.

These reforms include:

- jurisdictions moving their disability support systems towards flexible, person centred services which intervene early to achieve early gains for individuals and their families - almost all jurisdictions are already, or are on the way to, implementing an individual funding approach
- development of a National Need and Supply Model to provide a nationally consistent methodology to measure both the need and supply of specialist disability services, hence estimating the level of unmet need for specialist disability services

- development of population benchmarking for disability services - governments have worked together to develop a National Population Benchmarking Framework which consists of agreed population benchmarks to be measured to improve the evidence base to assist in policy, service and planning decisions. These benchmarks will be reported in the National Report on the National Need and Supply Model
- development of a quality improvement systems based on disability standards - a National Disability Quality Framework with a National Quality Assurance system for disability services will introduce a national approach to quality assurance and the continuous improvement of disability services. A quality and service standards framework is a key foundation for a National Disability Insurance Scheme
- taking a national approach to assessment through the development of a national assessment toolbox of common assessment tools that assess the supports required across a range of support domains is being undertaken in the context of foundational work on a National Disability Insurance Scheme
- increasing access for Indigenous Australians through the development of a framework committing governments to helping organisations to ensure that Indigenous Australians have the same level of access to services and facilities as the rest of the community. A number of states and territories are implementing or have recently implemented significant reform to improve Indigenous people's access to specialist disability services within their jurisdictions. These reforms range from large scale, major projects to local initiatives that address specific local access issues
- a National Disability Research and Development Agenda to promote consideration of disability issues in mainstream agendas, and provide a stronger evidence base to improve policies and programs.

Area for future action 4.2: Consider new approaches to long-term disability care and support, including responses to the Productivity Commission Inquiry, which is due to provide its final report to Government on 31 July 2011.

In August 2011, COAG agreed that major reform of disability services is needed through a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

COAG established the Select Council on Disability Reform to provide advice on the Productivity Commission's report and to oversight foundation reforms that would ensure an effective transition to a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

COAG also agreed to develop high-level principles to guide consideration of the Productivity Commission recommendations regarding a National Disability Insurance Scheme, including for foundation reforms, funding and governance. In addition to the Select Council, a National Disability Insurance Scheme Advisory Group has been established to provide advice on the progress of the foundation reforms. The Group includes eminent disability experts who bring a wealth of knowledge about the

experience of people with disability and carers, the challenges for the service sector, and in government administration at state and federal levels.

Work is underway on a number of building blocks to lay the foundations for a National Disability Insurance Scheme including common assessment tools, national minimum service and quality standards, building workforce and sector capacity to prepare for reform through a NDIS and work is also underway on the overarching design, funding and governance of the scheme.

Area for future action 4.3: Adopt sustainable funding models and service approaches that give information, choice and control to people with disability and that are flexible, innovative and effective.

Through work undertaken through the National Disability Agreement, a solid shift in respective specialist disability service systems towards flexible, person centred services which engage early has occurred. Under the person centred policy direction most state and territory governments are already, or on the way to implementing an individualised funding approach and/or clear entry gateways and improved assessments to increase the level of choice and control to people with disability.

Ongoing work on the National Disability Insurance Scheme will investigate these issues.

Area for future action 4.4: Support the development of assistive technologies and more access to aids and equipment for people with disability.

Work on the National Disability Agreement aids and equipment reform measures will complement and inform the work of the Select Council in developing the aids and equipment building blocks which is a critical step in the development of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Area for future action 4.5: Continue development of innovative and flexible support models for people high and complex needs, including supported accommodation and community and family living approaches.

This will be achieved through:

- implementing the Supported Accommodation Innovation Fund to build innovative, community-based supported accommodation places for people with disability. Community organisations directly apply for capital funding from the Australian Government to build innovative supported accommodation for people with disability. The successful organisations are required to demonstrate need and have secured funding to meet ongoing support costs required to sustain the supported accommodation
- development of a National Need and Supply Model that can measure the need, including unmet need for specialist disability services. This information will help in planning support services for people with disability, their families and carers.

Area for future action 4.6: Improve access to timely, comprehensive and effective early intervention for people with disability.

Children with disability face special needs. A range of initiatives are underway to assist families, including:

- Healthy Kids Check for four year olds receiving welfare payments. This will promote early detection of lifestyle risk factors, delayed development and illness and introduce early intervention strategies
- Better Start for Children with Disability initiative including, flexible funding for supporting access to early intervention services, and new Medicare services for diagnosis and treatment
- Helping Children with Autism package, including expanded Medicare services.

Area for future action 4.7: Collaborate with providers of universal personal and community support services to improve access for people with disability.

From July 2011 the Australian Government's Family Support Program was redesigned to link services more effectively, facilitate greater flexibility and responsiveness of services, and moving to a 'no wrong doors' approach. The Family Support Program also increased its focus on people with disabilities and their families including access to services under Invest to Grow; REACH; Self Health and Family Relationship Services for Carers; and Keys to Living Together self-help resources.

Area for future action 4.8: Promote and sustain community support networks which provide information and support to families and carers.

This will be achieved through:

- The Ramp Up website on www.abc.net.au that encourages interaction for people with disability, their families and carers and provides information on disability issues.
- Continued support from all governments to disability and carer organisations to support disability communities and provide information to their members.
- A new national website www.familyrelationshiponline.gov.au/carers that provides information to grandparent or other relatives who are caring for children, including those with disability.
- The Young Carers Respite and Information Program that provides information to young carers to support them in managing the challenges they face in their role.
- The My-Time Peer Support Program that gives parents and carers the opportunity to meet with others in similar circumstances, socialise and share information.

In addition, the following areas for future action in the National Carer Strategy will help ensure families and carers are provided with information and support to maintain their caring role:

- address the information needs of carers who need particular support such as older carers.
- educate agencies that are the first point of contact for carers, such as health, community and school based professionals – about how to quickly link carers with appropriate and relevant information.
- work with peak bodies, community care, mental health services and allied health professionals to help them identify and support people who do not identify themselves as carers.

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.

Education has a pivotal role to play in making Australia an inclusive and equitable society. A good quality inclusive education is important for all students to enable them to be successful learners, confident and creative individuals, active and informed citizens¹. Access to learning and skills development also provides the basis for economic security and social inclusion. Educational disadvantage occurs when the benefits of education are not equally distributed within a population, where there are barriers to access and participation and when expected outcomes from education differ for particular individuals or groups.

There are a number of initiatives being pursued in education reforms which will benefit students with disability from early childhood education, in schooling and through to further education and skills development. A key focus in each of these domains is how to better support participation in learning and educational outcomes for disadvantaged students, including students with disability.

State and territory governments are progressing their own actions under this outcome and these will be included in their jurisdictional action plans (see pages 12-14).

The ABS 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) found that students with disability are less likely to complete Year 12 than students without disability (33.3% compared with 54.9%). This is significant given that early school leavers are more likely to be unemployed for longer periods, earn lower incomes, and accumulate less wealth over their lifetime compared to non-early school leavers.

In 2010, the proportion of students with disability studying in publicly funded vocational education and training (VET) across Australia was only 6.1 per cent. Research has indicated that completing a VET course improves the chances of obtaining employment.

In 2010, the percentage of people with disability in higher education was around 4.5%. The proportion of students with disability in higher education remains well below their share of the population.

Source: NDS Evidence Base, pp. 38-41.

There are four policy directions under this outcome:

¹ Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, December 2008, Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians”.

POLICY DIRECTION 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.

The capacity of education providers is being strengthened by improving teacher and school leader quality, modernising teaching and learning environments, and increasing accountability and better directed resources. For example, the National Professional Standards for Teachers make explicit the knowledge, skills and dispositions required of teachers including the ability to differentiate teaching to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities and knowledge of strategies to support full participation of students with disabilities. In July 2011 Education Ministers also endorsed a National Professional Standard for Principals to support the professional preparation, development and self-reflection of aspiring and practising principals in all schools across Australia. This standard recognises the importance of quality school leadership for improved student outcomes.

The National VET Equity Advisory Council (NVEAC) was established in 2009 to provide independent advice to the Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment (now the Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment) on how disadvantaged learners can achieve better outcomes in VET. NVEAC's Equity Blueprint considers 6 areas: sustainable investment, measuring and reporting performance, building the capacity of the VET workforce, embedding support for foundation skills development, embedding pathway planning and partnerships and listening to the voice of the learner.

POLICY DIRECTION 2

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

Under the National Education Agreement, governments have committed to a range of reform directions that will go towards reducing disparity in educational outcomes, including transparent and strengthened accountability to improve student and school performance, raising parental and community expectations of educational outcomes, and providing support to students with additional needs.

The Commonwealth Government and state and territory governments have entered into three Smarter Schools National Partnerships aimed at addressing disadvantage, supporting teachers and school leaders and improving literacy and numeracy. Over a quarter of all Australian schools (2,500) are participating in the National Partnerships for Low Socio-economic Status School Communities and Literacy and Numeracy, whilst all teachers and school leaders are targeted under the National Partnership for Improving Teacher Quality.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is developing a nationally consistent curriculum that incorporates the needs of students with disability.

POLICY DIRECTION 3

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

The Australian Government recognised the need to address the specific requirements for students with a disability in the implementation of the National Secondary School Computer Fund. A more flexible approach to the use of the Fund was adopted, to ensure students are able to benefit from an increase in access to information and communication technology equipment applicable to their specific learning needs. Similarly, the Australian Government recognised the importance of ensuring students, teachers, parents and others with a disability are able to benefit from the Building the Education Revolution program. Schools and education authorities were encouraged to consider the new building standards, which have now been legislated, in the development and construction phase of their building projects.

POLICY DIRECTION 4

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

The National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions aims to increase the educational engagement and attainment of young people and to improve their transition to post school education, training and employment through immediate, concerted action supported by broader long term reform. The National Partnership comprises the Youth Connections program; the School Business Community Partnership Brokers program; initiatives to maximise engagement, attainment and successful transitions; a Compact with Young Australians; and a range of National Career Development initiatives.

“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.” NDS, page 53

AREAS FOR FUTURE ACTION

Area for future action 5.1: Reduce barriers and simplify access for people with disability to a high quality inclusive education system including early learning, child care, school and further education.

Early intervention makes a significant difference to the life-long learning outcomes for all children, including those with disability, and is vital for children with disability to have their learning support needs addressed. Governments have agreed to improve the participation of children and young people with disability in early education, child care and schools, improve funding to schools and reform vocational education and training.

This will be achieved through:

- children with disability getting an early childhood service that is tailored to their needs through national quality standards for early childhood education and care
- child care services being supported to include children with disability through the Australian Government's Inclusion and Professional Support Program
- current barriers to educational achievement, including disability and special needs, will be addressed by the Review of Funding for Schools
- people with disability benefitting from a reformed vocational education and training system
- Australian Apprentices with disability benefitting from new mentoring support packages
- the NBN-Enabled Education and Skills Services Program will support the development and trialling of online education and skills services that take advantage of the high speed broadband connections being made available through the National Broadband Network. This will provide more interactive and effective learning opportunities, which can be very effective for students with disability.

Area for future action 5.2: At the review points of the National Education Agreement, the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development, Smarter Schools—Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership and other learning and skills-related National Partnerships, parties agree to consider including strategies, consistent with the National Disability Strategy, and performance indicators to ensure they address the needs of students with disability.

Governments have agreed to use the periodic review points of mainstream national agreements and national partnerships to assess their consistency with the Strategy and to consider the inclusion of additional strategies and performance indicators to address the needs of people with disability and embed disability issues into the day to day policy and program consideration of government agencies and departments.

Area for future action 5.3: Develop innovative learning strategies and supports for students with disability which are accessible, reliable and responsive to strengthen their aspirations and enable them to reach their full potential.

Students with disability will be provided with more support to improve their learning outcomes. This will be achieved through:

- teachers receiving more resources and training to better meet the needs of school students with disability under the More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative
- the collection of nationally consistent data on students with disability will lead to a better national understanding of the number of students with disability, where they are located and the level of adjustment provided for them in school
- the development of options to improve transition from school to employment.

Disability Standards for Education

The Disability Standards for Education 2005 are currently under review. The Standards are intended to give students with disability the same rights as other students. All students, including students with disability, should be treated with dignity and enjoy the benefits of education and training in a supportive environment which values and encourages participation by all students. This included the right to comparable access, services and facilities, and the right to participate in education and training without discrimination. Such rights are not merely formal. Education providers have a positive obligation to make changes to reasonably accommodate the needs of a student with disability. The Standards also address harassment and victimization of a student with disability.

Area for future action 5.4: Investigate options for reporting on educational outcomes of students with disability.

The collection of nationally consistent data on students with disability will lead to a better national understanding of the number of students with disability, where they are located and the level of adjustment provided for them in school.

Area for future action 5.5: Identify and establish best practice for transition planning and support through all stages of learning and from education to employment.

All levels of government will work together to develop options to improve transition from education to employment.

Area for future action 5.6: Respond to the recommendations of the review of the Disability Standards for Education.

The Australian Government will respond to the recommendations of the Review of the Disability Standards for Education.

Area for future action 5.7: Ensure the Early Years Learning Framework, Australian Curriculum and national assessment processes incorporate the needs of students with disability within an inclusive education framework.

Inclusive education will be provided through:

- the Early Years Learning Framework that emphasises early childhood educators must respect and work with each child's unique qualities and abilities through individualised learning approaches that enhance all children's development. The Framework describes the principles, practice and learning outcomes essential to support young children's learning from birth to five years of age, as well as their transition to school. Under the Framework children's individual needs will be met regardless of where they are positioned on the learning continuum.
- the National Assessment Program which will encourage maximum participation and which recognises that special provisions should be granted that are appropriate for students to access and participate.

- supporting the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority's work to develop a nationally consistent Australian school curriculum which incorporates the needs of students with disability.

Area for future action 5.8: Promote leadership development for people with disability.

People with disability will develop the skills and confidence to become leaders in business, the community and government. This will be achieved through:

- the Leaders for Tomorrow program, which will provide the opportunity for aspiring people with disability to develop their leadership capacity by linking them with appropriate training, support and mentoring.

Outcome 6: Health and Wellbeing - People with disability attain highest possible health and wellbeing outcomes throughout their lives

Major reform to the national health system are of great importance for people with disability. Australians with disability experience significantly worse health outcomes than the general population. People with disability are more likely to have multiple long-term health conditions, to acquire health conditions that are identified as National Health Priority Areas at an earlier age than people without disability, and to experience mental disorders and psychological distress.

The United Nations *Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* requires state parties to provide people with disability with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care as provided to others, and to prevent the discriminatory denial of health services or health care on the basis of disability (Article 25).

The overarching aim of the National Healthcare Agreement is to improve health outcomes for all Australians and the sustainability of our health system. Together with the National Disability Strategy, the National Healthcare Agreement provides an opportunity for the health and disability sectors to consider what they can do, both individually and in partnership, to reduce health inequalities, plan improvements for access and inclusion, and to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes and life opportunities of people with disability.

State and territory governments are progressing their own actions under this outcome and these will be included in their jurisdictional action plans (see pages 12-14).

There is strong evidence to suggest that people of low socioeconomic status are least likely to enjoy good health. People with disability are one such group within our society who have poorer socioeconomic outcomes than the general Australian population.

In 2010, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported that despite the overall improvement in population health, the gap in self-assessed health between people with a severe or profound core activity limitation and people without disability remains large.

The ABS 2007-08 National Health Survey (NHS) found that people with a severe or profound core activity limitation were 9.5 times more likely to report being in fair or poor health, compared with people without disability (45.6% compared with 9.5%).

The NHS also showed that people with a profound or severe core activity limitation were more likely than people without disability to have lifestyle-related health risk behaviours associated with poorer health outcomes, such obesity, smoking and lack of exercise.

Source: NDS Evidence Base, pp.43-44.

There are four policy directions under this outcome:

POLICY DIRECTION 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.

The new Health Workforce Australia agency established by COAG in 2010 is managing and overseeing major reforms to the Australian health workforce. These reforms include measures to increase supply as well as redesigning the workforce and support structures to create new models of care.

In August 2011 Health Ministers noted that partnerships between healthcare providers, patients and consumers are an important aspect of the delivery of safe and high quality care in Australia. There is good evidence that these partnerships have significant benefits for the quality and outcomes of clinical care, the patient experience of care, the effectiveness of health services. Patient-centred care is also a core principle of the national health reforms which will require a better engagement between providers and their individual patients.

POLICY DIRECTION 2

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

As part of the national health reforms there is an increased focus on prevention and early intervention. For example, governments have committed to implementing the National Preventative Health Strategy and the National Partnership Agreement on Preventative Health.

The Australian National Preventative Health Agency has been established to guide the national preventative agenda through leadership, research, evaluation and policy advice.

Medicare Locals will bring local tailoring, ingenuity and know-how to adopt national preventative health approaches to local circumstances and their local populations. Furthermore, investments in workforce training and innovation will increase the capacity of primary care to provide preventative health services which will benefit people with disability given their greater propensity to present with preventable illness at earlier stages than the general population.

A number of new Medicare items have been introduced for children that will support diagnoses required for early intervention.

POLICY DIRECTION 3

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

There are a range of strategies being progressed to improve responses to the health needs of people with disability. For example, all governments are working together to implement actions under the Fourth National Mental Health Plan focusing initially on two Priority Flagship areas – Social Inclusion and Child and Youth. Implementation approaches for these Priority Flagships are currently being finalised.

The *National Male Health Policy* seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australian males, including those with disability, through addressing particular health issues, focusing on the social determinants of health inequalities and encouraging the health system to be more responsive to priority groups. The policy recognises that not all groups of males have equal health outcomes.

Males with disabilities, including mental health issues, are identified in the policy as at greater risk of poor health outcomes and are a priority group for targeted action in regard to their health and wellbeing. It is recognised that males with disabilities may face specific barriers to health care including difficult physical access, poor communication and lack of understanding of the impact of their disability on their overall health care.

The policy highlights the need to ensure that health providers recognise that males with disabilities may face barriers and that measures should be taken to address these.

The *National Women's Health Policy 2010* aims to provide a framework to improve the health and wellbeing of all women in Australia, especially those at the greatest risk of poor health, through addressing particular health issues, focusing on the social determinants of health inequities and encouraging the health system to be more responsive to women.

The policy identifies women with disabilities as being one of the groups which are at greater risk of poor health as health is determined by a broad range of social, cultural, environmental, economic factors, as well as the genetic and biological factors. The policy seeks to understand health within its social context and is based on a gendered approach that is inclusive of a social view of health, and accounts for the diversity in women's experiences.

The social model of health acknowledges the complex ways that the context of a woman's life—including her gender, age, socio-economic status, ethnicity, sexuality, disability and geography—might shape her health outcomes; access to health care; experiences of health, wellbeing and illness; and even her death. Addressing these social determinants is a fundamental step towards reducing health inequalities.

POLICY DIRECTION 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.

A key outcome under the National Health Reform Agreement is ensuring that all Australians experience best practice care suited to their needs and circumstances. Policy directions include providing accurate, online information on health services with the capacity to be customised to individual health needs to support self-management.

Progress is also being made on individual electronic health records and developing nationally agreed clinical pathways for key chronic and complex conditions. This initiative will have particular benefits for people with disability in ensuring that their health histories are available to ensure they receive optimal treatments.

“Good health and wellbeing is important for everyone.” NDS, page 60

AREAS FOR FUTURE ACTION

Area for future action 6.1 Increase the representation of people with disability on universal health advisory bodies

Medicare Local governance arrangements should adequately reflect the Medicare Local catchment’s community and health care service providers within the area, as well as business and management expertise and have strong clinical leadership. Board arrangements for Medicare Locals are an individual business decision for each Medicare Local and are not determined by the Australian Government.

Area for future action 6.2: At the review points of the National Healthcare Agreement, the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement and health-related National Partnership agreements, parties agree to consider including strategies consistent with the National Disability Strategy, and performance indicators to ensure they address the health needs of people with disability in all age groups.

People with disability will be recognised in the national strategic framework and bilateral State-wide plans for GP and primary health care required under the National Health Reform Agreement. The inclusion of disability-related performance indicators will be considered during the review of the National Healthcare Agreement performance framework.

Area for future action 6.3: Ensure a strong interface between disability services, Local Hospital Networks and Medicare Locals with strong links to local communities and health professionals.

Medicare Locals will be expected to engage with the full range of primary health care providers in their community such as general practitioners, physicians, pharmacists, practice nurses and allied health professionals. This will be achieved through:

- Medicare Locals working collaboratively with these providers to ensure that primary health care works for the whole of the local population, including people with disability who often require health care and services from multiple providers
- people with intellectual disability will benefit by the development and promotion of resource material to support Medicare Locals and local intellectual disability groups to work together to meet the health care needs of people with intellectual disability
- the establishment of Local Lead Clinicians Groups will provide an opportunity for engagement of the disability sector to address and improve the delivery of health services for people with disability in Australia
- Local Lead Clinicians Groups will be encouraged to consider and provide advice to Local Hospital Networks and Medicare Locals on matters such as integration of patient-centred care pathways across local health care sectors, to help ensure that services provided best meet the needs of the local community.

Area for future action 6.4: Strengthen health care planning, training and the capacity of universal health care providers to diagnose and treat the health and co-morbid conditions of people with disability.

Medicare Locals, which will be operational by July 2012, will undertake population health planning to identify the health needs of local areas and develop locally focussed and responsive services. Medicare Locals will conduct joint service planning with Local Hospital Networks and other appropriate organisations.

Area for future action 6.5: Strengthen the continuity, coordination and range of primary, multidisciplinary and sub-acute care available to meet the health needs of people with disability.

Medicare Locals are expected to work with patients and the local community to develop, monitor and maintain high patient care standards and integrated and coordinated clinical pathways to improve access to services, including after-hours services and tele-health services, provided in the most appropriate setting, and connectedness between services in the local area. This will be achieved through:

- the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) system, which will be established by July 2012, will include provision for nominated and authorised representation which will assist people with a disability including those who have either permanent or fluctuating incapacity. The PCEHR will reduce the potential for fragmentation in their health records, reducing the need to retell histories to subsequent clinicians and personally retain documentation. The PCEHR will also reduce repetitive reporting and testing on conditions and reduce the potential for adverse drug events through lack of information
- timely, effective and appropriate subacute services, including rehabilitation and subacute mental health services will be enhanced for all Australians, including people with a disability. These enhancements will occur through the implementation of the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services, which will see an increase in subacute beds or equivalent services nationally; and the

National Partnership Agreement on Hospital and Health Workforce Reform which will enhance subacute care services in public hospitals and the community, and improve the mix and regional availability of services by five per cent per annum or 20 per cent over four years.

Area for future action 6.6: Address issues specific to people with disability as part of the national expansion of key public health strategies such as dental programs, nutrition and physical activity programs, mental health, drug and alcohol and sexual and reproductive health programs, so that they explicitly meet the needs of people with disability.

A range of actions are targeted at public health strategies. This will be achieved through:

- ensuring people with disability are specifically included within the Measure Up social marketing campaign which aims to reduce the risk factors for chronic disease such as some cancers, heart disease and type 2 diabetes.
- the introduction of a universal voluntary health check for three year olds that, for the first time, will include social and emotional well-being and development. Children's health checks promote early detection of lifestyle risk factors, delayed development and illness and introduce early intervention strategies.
- Over the next five years the Delivering National Mental Health Reform package will:
 - provide more intensive support services, and better co-ordinate those services, for people with severe and persistent mental illness who have complex care needs
 - target support to areas and communities that need it most, such as Indigenous communities and socioeconomically disadvantaged areas that are underserved by the current system
 - help to detect potential mental health problems in the early years, and supporting young people who struggle with mental illness

Area for future action 6.7: Ensure informal and supported decision makers are part of preventative, diagnostic and treatment programs where necessary and appropriate, always ensuring the rights of the individual are respected and protected.

Under Medicare, GPs can utilise time-based health assessments for people with an intellectual disability in order to assess the physical, psychological and social function of patients and to identify any medical intervention and preventative health care needs.

Area for future action 6.8: Further develop the evidence-base for the social and environmental determinants of health and ensure it informs the development and implementation of programs and policies.

People with disability will benefit by improvements in the evidence base including those as a result of projects outlined below:

- the provision of research grants to be awarded under the Hearing Loss Prevention Program (HLPP). The HLPP targets young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and those in the workplace. Research funded under this program will focus on hearing loss prevention or reduction of the impact of hearing loss. Priority will be given to proposals that address specific activities or behavioural changes which help prevent avoidable hearing loss or reduce the impact of hearing loss.
- from 2012, the National Health Performance Authority will monitor the performance of Medicare Locals and will publish performance assessments for each Medicare Local in Healthy Communities Reports. These reports will contain assessments against new service and financial reporting indicators which will focus on:
 - access to services
 - quality of service delivery
 - financial responsibility
 - patient outcomes
 - patient experience
- Healthy Communities Reports will also provide contextual information about each local area, allowing comparisons with Australian averages.

Chapter 3: Governance

Governance Arrangements

The Standing Council on Community, Housing and Disability Services, formerly the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference is responsible for driving the implementation of the National Disability Strategy and for reporting to COAG over the life of the Strategy. The agreed reporting timeframes are detailed in Chapter 4: Evaluation and Reporting of this report.

The Standing Council on Community, Housing and Disability Services is supported by the Development Officials Working Group (DOWG) which comprises senior policy representatives from departments with responsibility for disability services and central agencies from each jurisdiction. The Australian Local Government Association is also represented on the DOWG.

Stakeholder engagement on *Laying the Groundwork 2011-2014*

Improving outcomes for people with disability through the new comprehensive approach to disability policies, services and programs outlined in the Strategy requires a whole-of-government and community commitment.

All governments, through the Strategy have committed to work together to achieve change across all of their policies, programs and services to improve the lives of people with disability, their carers and families. The community sector and individuals also have a role in advancing and promoting the Strategy using their networks and organisations.

Just as the development of the Strategy was informed by consultations with people with disability, reported in *Shut Out: The Experience of People with Disabilities and Families in Australia (2009)*, a commitment has been made to continue consultation with stakeholders during the implementation of the Strategy.

Governments are required to work collaboratively with people with disability and their representative organisations, their families and carers, communities, unions, businesses, service providers, advocacy and other organisations in the development of programs, policies and systems that affect people with disability. The Australian Human Rights Commission has an important role in ensuring the Strategy upholds the human rights of people with disability.

Consultation on this first report, *National Disability Strategy: Laying the Groundwork (2011-2014)* commenced in May 2011 with an initial meeting with the Chair of the DOWG and the Australian Human Rights Commission to discuss the role of the Commission in implementing the Strategy. The DOWG has met with the Commission

on several other occasions during 2011 to advise on progress and priorities for this first report.

The DOWG convened the first annual meeting with Chairs of the national, state and territory Disability Advisory Bodies on 12 August 2011 to discuss policy priorities for implementing the Strategy. The DOWG met with the Chairs of Disability Advisory Bodies for a second time in December 2011 to confirm that their views had been accurately reflected in the further development and finalisation of this first report.

In late 2011 selected national and state and territory disability peak organisations, the National People with Disability and Carers Council and state and territory disability advisory bodies were provided with an exposure draft of this first report on the Strategy, including the evaluation plan and trend indicators, and were invited to provide feedback on the draft and suggestions on their own role in advancing the Strategy, on behalf of their members.

Chapter 4: Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Over the life of the National Disability Strategy, an ongoing evaluation will investigate the effectiveness of the Strategy as a national policy framework that aims to guide activity across six key outcome areas and drive future reform in mainstream and specialist disability service systems to improve outcomes for Australians with disability, their families and carers.

An ongoing evaluation model

The Strategy will be progressively evaluated, in line with a continuous improvement approach, using a number of methods and elements. A timeline of these evaluation elements is provided at Figure 1.

The evaluation will provide information on an ongoing basis to inform the phased implementation of the Strategy. This evaluative approach is flexible, recognising that over time the importance of issues can change. New areas of investigation may be required as a result, while existing ones may need significant redesign or reconsideration altogether.

The evaluation will take part over three stages. The first two stages comprise governments jointly reviewing the first and second implementation periods. These formative evaluations will be made public and will include a stocktake of whether priority actions have been completed.

The third stage will include a review of the third implementation period and a final summative evaluation of the ten year strategy. The final summative evaluation will commence in 2020 and be published thereafter.

Broadly speaking, the final evaluation will assess the Strategy's performance in improving the lives of Australians with disability, their families and carers in terms of the vision, the six policy outcomes (see Figure 2) and the purposes outlined in the Strategy (p. 9):

- establish a high level policy framework to give coherence to, and guide government activity across mainstream and disability-specific areas of public policy
- drive improved performance of mainstream services in delivering outcomes for people with disability
- give visibility to disability issues and ensure they are included in the development and implementation of all public policy that impacts on people with disability
- provide national leadership toward greater inclusion of people with disability.

The key evaluation questions are:

- has there been a change in outcomes for people with disability (as measured by the trend indicators and any additional indicators that may be brought in)?
- did the Strategy help focus the community and government on improving the lives of people with disability and, if so, how did it contribute (as measured by the formative evaluations)?

The findings from evaluations of related government programs and policies will be drawn into each evaluation stage.

Two yearly progress reports

The evaluations will be augmented by regular monitoring in two yearly progress reports. Progress against the six policy outcomes will be tracked using independent reporting and analysis of data on trend indicators (Refer Figure 2 for list of trend indicators and proposed data sources). The two-yearly progress reports will also include other evidence such as reporting from the Standing Council on Community, Housing and Disability Services (SCCHDS) about key achievements under the Strategy as well as reporting from Champion Ministers and, where appropriate, other portfolio Ministers.

Stakeholder involvement

The views and experiences of people with disability are central to the evaluation of the Strategy together with input from other key stakeholders including their families and carers, organisations, academics, experts and governments. Feedback from stakeholders will be sought using a range of existing mechanisms such as the National People with Disability and Carer Council, state and territory Disability Advisory Bodies and national peak disability bodies.

United Nations Convention on the *Rights of Persons with Disabilities*

Reporting and evaluation of the Strategy will contribute to the Australian Government's reporting requirements under the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (the CRPD). Australia has announced that the Strategy will help Australia fulfil its obligations under the Convention by establishing a framework to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the Convention as required under article 33(2) and will contribute to meeting Australia's reporting responsibilities under Article 35(1).

In December 2010, Australia's initial report under the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* was lodged with the UN. After lodging a report under the UN Convention, States Parties appear before the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to answer questions about the report. The date for Australia's initial appearance before the Committee has not yet been set. The CRPD requires States

Parties to submit subsequent reports at least every four years². Australia's reporting will draw on data from the Strategy's reporting and evaluation process.

Moreover, the evaluation of the Strategy may also draw upon findings of non-government reports on Australia's progress in relation to the CRPD, such as the Shadow reports that are customarily prepared by non-government organisations and lodged with the United Nations to supplement the reports of States Parties.

²Reporting timelines are flexible and are set by the treaty body in accordance with the timing requirements, in this case the Committee on the CRPD. At this stage, Australia's second report is expected to be due in 2014.

Figure 1.

YEAR	EVALUATION ELEMENTS³
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish plan for first implementation phase 2011- 2014
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence review of first implementation phase 2011- 2014. • Possible year for Australia's first appearance before the United Nations Committee on the CRPD about first Australian report
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First two-yearly Progress Report (includes trend indicator data, summary of key achievements and other information) • Report on review of first implementation phase 2011- 2014. • Scheduled year for the second Australian report under CRPD
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish plan for second implementation phase 2015-2018
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second two-yearly progress report (includes trend indicator data, summary of key achievements and other information) • Possible year for Australia's second appearance before UN Committee on the CRPD about second Australian report
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence review of second implementation period 2015-2018
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third two-yearly progress report (includes trend indicator data, summary of key achievements and other information) • Report on review of second implementation phase 2015-2018 • Scheduled year for the third Australian report under CRPD
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish plan for third implementation phase 2019- 2020
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence review of third implementation phase 2019-2020 • Fourth two-yearly Progress Report includes analysis of trend indicator data, summary of key achievements and champion Ministers' reports. • Possible year for Australia's third appearance before UN Committee on the CRPD about third Australian report
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final evaluation report (including report on review of third implementation phase)

³ Please note that the timeframe indicated for reporting under the UN CRPD and for appearances before the UN Committee on the CRPD are indicative only and are subject to the workload of the Committee. The Australian Government is committed to working with the UN Committee on the CRPD and will assist the Committee by meeting all Australian reporting obligations when and as required.

Figure 2

Draft Trend Indicators*	Data Sources
INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES	
Proportion of people with a disability reporting difficulty using public transport.	ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers(SDAC)
Proportion of people with a disability participating in common cultural and recreational activities	GSS or SDAC.
RIGHTS PROTECTION, JUSTICE AND LEGISLATION	
Feelings of safety in different situations by disability category.	ABS General Social Survey (GSS).
Proportion of people with disability participating in civic life.	ABS GSS
Proportion of complaints under the DDA (or subsequent legislation that may replace it), by sub-category.	Australian Human Rights Commission
ECONOMIC SECURITY	
Proportion of people with disability participating in the labour force Proportion of people with disability in both private and public sector employment	ABS SDAC
Difference between the average income of people with disability and the average income for all Australians.	ABS Survey of income and Housing (SIH)
Proportion of people with disability experiencing housing stress	ABS SIH
PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT	
Proportion of the potential population accessing disability services.	AIHW Disability Services National Minimum Data Set (DS NMDS)
Proportion of the potential population expressing unmet demand for disability support services	SDAC and planned jurisdictional administrative data
Proportion of carers of people with disability accessing support services to assist in their caring role	DS NMDS
Proportion of Indigenous people receiving disability services.	DS NMDS
LEARNING AND SKILLS	
Educational achievement of people with disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proportion of people with disability in mainstream schools • proportion of people aged 19-25 with disability who have attained at least Year 12 or equivalent qualification • proportion of people with disability with post-school qualifications 	ABS SDAC
HEALTH AND WELLBEING	
Proportion of people with a disability who report their health status as 'good' or better.	ABS GSS or SDAC
Access to general practitioners, dental and other primary health care professionals for people with disability.	ABS SDAC
Risk factors for preventable disease in people with disability.	ABS National Health Survey

*Draft trend indicators may be revised subject to data and policy developments.

Figure 3.

NATIONAL DISABILITY STRATEGY - EVALUATION FRAMEWORK 2011 - 2021

Vision: An inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens.												
Structure of Strategy and Implementation	Purpose of the National Disability Strategy:	Guide government activity	Drive improved performance	Give visibility to disability issues	Provide national leadership							
	Outcome statements and Policy Directions (outputs) for the 6 outcome areas:	<i>Inclusive and accessible communities</i>	<i>Rights protection, justice and legislation</i>	<i>Economic security</i>	<i>Personal and community support</i>	<i>Learning and skills</i>	<i>Health and wellbeing</i>					
	Inputs/ Activities:	Current commitments, areas for future action and key actions (prioritised in each implementation period)										
	Implementation framework 2011 - 2020	Implementation phase 1: 2011 - 2014			Implementation phase 2: 2015 - 2018			Implementation phase 3: 2019 - 2020				
Structure of Evaluation	Timeline	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021-2022
	Two yearly reporting to COAG- timing		First Year Report		2014 Report		2016 Report		2018 Report		2020 Report	Final Evaluation
	Two yearly reporting to COAG - key elements (formative evaluation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting on measurement of trend indicators (which track to the six outcome areas and policy directions). Summaries of key achievements from each jurisdiction/ Ministers and, where appropriate, feedback from disability champion Ministers and other Ministers. Input from Stakeholders: feedback, case studies etc. Summaries of related policy and program evaluations. Outcomes from reviews of relevant COAG national agreements and national partnership agreements 										
	Reviews of implementation periods (formative evaluation)	Review and public release cycles:	Commence review of phase 1	Report on review of phase 1	Commence review of phase 2	Report on review of phase 2	Commence review of phase 3	Report on review of phase 3	Commence review of phase 3 and report in final evaluation			
	Approximate timing of contributions to UN CRPD Reporting	Appear before UN Committee re: 1 st Australian report	2 nd Australian Report under CRPD	Appear before UN Committee re: 2 nd Australian report	3 rd Australian Report under CRPD	Appear before UN Committee re: 3 rd Australian report						
	Final evaluation report (summative evaluation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address key evaluation questions on vision, outcomes and purpose of Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has there been a difference in outcomes for people with disability (as measured by trend indicators)? did the Strategy contribute to these changes and, if so, how (as measured by formative evaluations)? Will use numerous sources such as stakeholder feedback, case studies, findings of summative evaluations, other policy and program evaluations and case studies. Prepared from 2020 for release post- 2020. 										

Ongoing engagement with stakeholders: people with disability, their families and carers, organisations, experts and governments.

Conclusion

Looking to the future

The National Disability Strategy is a tangible expression of the agreement made by all Australian governments to take responsibility for Australia's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. It reflects the commitment made by governments to work together to improve mainstream and specialist policies, programs and infrastructure, so that people with disability can participate in all aspects of Australian life as equal citizens.

This first report to COAG; *Laying the Groundwork (2011-2014)* has outlined the action that governments have taken to deliver on the Strategy to date, particularly on the 53 areas for future action that people with disability, their families and carers identified as priorities back in 2009. The implementation plan also outlines what further action is proposed over the life of this report.

The Strategy is, however, a 10 year framework. Accordingly, the three phased approach to implementing the Strategy and the related evaluation framework aims to provide scope for ongoing and continuous reflection on how effective the Strategy has been in promoting, driving and embedding a mainstream and inclusive response to disability across all elements peoples' lives. This reflection, informed by ongoing stakeholder engagement, will feed into the development of a further two implementation plans (2015-2018 and 2019-2020).

Over the 10 year life of the Strategy governments will be looking for evidence that the profile of people with disability and their needs have been raised across governments, business and community. Every two years Disability Ministers will track the success of the Strategy, and report back on this progress to COAG.

The Strategy's vision for the future is clear and simple. Steadily and purposefully it aims to deliver an inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens. Accordingly every action under the Strategy, whatever its source or scope, and each year of the 10 year framework will contribute towards embedding a change of attitude in how people with disability are supported and included in Australian life.

This first report establishes the ground work for this change. By 2020 we aim to be projecting a new attitude about disability that acknowledges the benefits people with disability bring to the community, to the arts, to the workforce, to families, to everyday life. This new attitude will mean that disability issues will be automatically considered in the development and delivery of all mainstream policies and services.

Long Descriptions

Figure 1 long descriptor

This table provides an indication of what will happen as part of the evaluation in each year of the Strategy. In 2012 the plan for first implementation phase 2011- 2014 will be published. In 2012 a review will commence of the first implementation phase 2011- 2014. 2012 may also be the possible year for Australia's first appearance before the United Nations Committee on the CRPD about first Australian report. In 2014 the first two-yearly Progress Report, including trend indicator data, summary of key achievements and other information, will be published as well as the report on the review of the first implementation phase 2011- 2014. 2014 is also the scheduled year for the second Australian report under CRPD. In 2015 the plan for the second implementation phase of 2015 to 2018 will be published. In 2016 the second two-yearly progress report, including trend indicator data, summary of key achievements and other information will be published. 2016 is also a possible year for Australia's second appearance before the UN Committee on the CRPD about second Australian report.

In 2017 the review of the second implementation period of 2015 – 2018 will commence. In 2018 the third two-yearly progress report, including trend indicator data, summary of key achievements and other information, will be published. In 2018 a report will also be provided on the second implementation phase of 2015 – 2018. 2018 is also the scheduled year for the third Australian report under CRPD. In 2019 the plan will be published for the third implementation phase of 2019- 2020. In 2020 a review will commence of the third implementation phase of 2019-2020. In 2020 the fourth two-yearly Progress Report, including analysis of trend indicator data, summary of key achievements and champion Ministers' reports will be published. 2020 is also the possible year for Australia's third appearance before UN Committee on the CRPD about third Australian report. In 2021 the final evaluation report, including a report on the review of the third implementation phase will be published.

Please note that the timeframe indicated for reporting under the UN CRPD and for appearances before the UN Committee on the CRPD are indicative only and are subject to the workload of the Committee. The Australian Government is committed to working with the UN Committee on the CRPD and will assist the Committee by meeting all Australian reporting obligations when and as required.

Figure 2 long descriptor

This table provides an overview of the draft trend indicators for each of the Outcome Areas and the data sources for each of them.

The draft trend Indicators for the outcome area of Inclusive and Accessible Communities, include the proportion of people with a disability reporting difficulty using public transport and the proportion of people with a disability participating in common cultural and recreational activities. These can be found in the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers or the Australian Bureau of Statistics, General Social Survey.

The draft trend Indicators for the outcome area of Rights Protection, Justice and Legislation, are: feelings of safety in different situations by disability category; proportion of people with disability participating in civic life and proportion of complaints under the Disability Discrimination Act or subsequent legislation that may replace it, by sub-category. Data sources for these include the Australian Bureau of Statistics, General Social Survey and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

The draft trend indicators for the Outcome Area of Economic Security include the proportion of people with disability participating in the labour force and the proportion of people with disability in both private and public sector employment. Data sources for these indicators can be found in the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. Economic Security draft trend indicators also include the difference between the average income of people with disability and the average income for all Australians and the proportion of people with disability experiencing housing stress. Data Sources for these draft trend indicators can be found in the Australian Bureau of Statistics survey of income and Housing.

The draft trend indicators for the Outcome Area of Personal and Community Support include the proportion of the potential population accessing disability services, the data source for which can be found in the Australian Health and Welfare, Disability Services National Minimum Data Set. Another draft trend indicator, is the proportion of the potential population expressing unmet demand for disability support services. The data source for this can be found in the Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers and planned jurisdictional administrative data. Other trend indicators for the Outcome Area of Personal and Community Support, include the proportion of carers of people with disability accessing support services to assist in their caring role and the proportion of Indigenous people receiving disability services. The data sources for these two draft indicators can be found in the Australian Health and Welfare, Disability Services National Minimum Data Set.

The draft trend indicator for the Outcome Area of Learning and Skills is the educational achievement of people with disability shown by the proportion of people with disability in mainstream schools; the proportion of people aged 19-25 with disability who have attained at least Year 12 or equivalent qualification and the proportion of people with disability with post-school qualifications. The data source for this is the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

The draft trend indicators for the Outcome Area of Health and Wellbeing include: the proportion of people with a disability who report their health status as 'good' or better. The data source for this is Australian Bureau of Statistics, General Social Survey or the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. Another draft trend indicator is access to general practitioners, dental and other primary health care professionals for people with disability. The data source for this is the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. The final draft trend indicator for this outcome area is: Risk factors for preventable disease in people with disability, the data source for which is the Australian Bureau of Statistics National Health Survey.

Please note that data sources may be revised subject to data and policy developments.

Figure 3 long descriptor

This table shows a visual representation of the Evaluation Framework for the National Disability Strategy 2011-2021, noting that ongoing engagement with stakeholders including people with disability, their families and carers, organisations, experts and governments will occur over the entire evaluation process.

The table is broken up into two parts the first is a visual summary of the structure of the Strategy and Implementation.

It states that the Purpose of the National Disability Strategy is to guide government activity to drive improved performance and give visibility to disability issues and provide national leadership. It has headings of the 6 outcome areas of the Strategy and states that the inputs or activities for the strategy includes current commitments, areas for future action and key actions (prioritized in each implementation period).

The second part of the table provides a visual overview of the structure of the evaluation.

It has a summary of the timeline flagging the years for the two year reporting to COAG. It then provides a description that the two yearly reporting to COAG will include:

- Reporting on measurement of trend indicators which track to the six outcome areas and policy directions;
- Summaries of key achievements from each jurisdiction/Ministers, and, where appropriate, feedback from disability champion Ministers and other Ministers.
- Input from Stakeholders: feedback, case studies, etc.
- Summaries of related policy and program evaluations.
- Outcomes from reviews of relevant COAG national agreements and national partnership agreements.

It then provides a description of what will happen in the reviews of the implementation periods. This will involve the initial review and report on phase 1 from 2011 to 2014, and the review and report of phase 2 from 2015 to 2018 and the final review and evaluation report on the period 2019 – 2020. From then it mentions that the reports to COAG and reviews will feed into the UN CRPD reporting and occur at approximately the same time as the three reporting periods.

Finally it provides a summative evaluation that the final evaluation report will:

- Address key evaluation questions on vision, outcomes and purpose of the Strategy outline whether there has been a difference in outcomes for people with disability as mentioned by trend indicators and whether the Strategy contributed to these changes and if so how (as measured by formative evaluations).
- Use numerous sources such as stakeholder feedback, case studies, findings of summative evaluations, other policy and program evaluations and case studies.
- Be prepared from 2020 for release post 2020.