

# The Northern Territory Disability Strategy – 2022 -2032

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## Discussion Paper: Tell us what we need for people with disability in the Northern Territory to have a good life.

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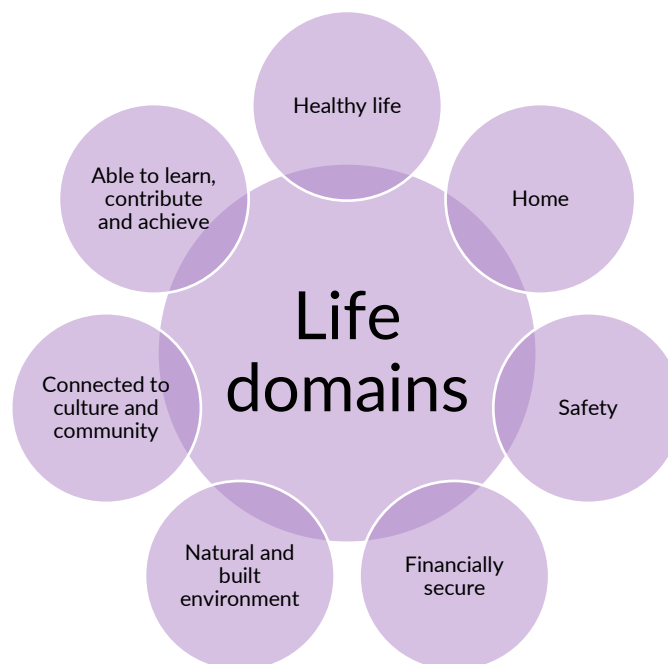
The Northern Territory Government is committed to making a Northern Territory Disability Strategy (the Strategy) and is asking Territorians what they think should be included and what the Strategy should achieve.

### What will the Strategy do?

The Strategy will describe what is needed for people with disability in the Territory to have a good life and to make an accessible and inclusive society where people with disability can reach their full potential. The Strategy will tell us where we are now, what we want in the future, how we will achieve it; and how we will know if we have made a difference. It will help government and community work together to make change.

### What will the Strategy include?

The Strategy is a whole of life plan for people with disability and their families; and a whole of government and community plan for the Northern Territory. This means the Strategy will include all things that are important for people with disability across key life domains and will need all areas of government, and the community more broadly, to make it happen. The domains below align to the Northern Territory Social Outcomes Framework and the National Disability Strategy. Other key life domains include relationships and spirituality. We need all of these parts of our life to be working to have a good life.



## What do we mean when we say people with disability?

This Strategy is inclusive of all people who experience degrees of impairment, activity limitation and participation restriction as a result of a disability. It addresses outcomes for people with significant, and mild to moderate disability. It also includes the different experiences of disability, inclusive and not limited, to physical, sensory, cognitive, developmental and mental health conditions.

### Did you know?

- There are approximately 20,500 people with disability in the Northern Territory.
- There are 4000 National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants in the Northern Territory?
- Half of NDIS participants in the Northern Territory identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and 45 percent of NDIS participants are under 14 years of age.
- Autism, intellectual disability, developmental delay and psychosocial disability are some of the most commonly reported disabilities for Territorians.

## Who is making the Strategy?

The Strategy is being developed under the guidance of the [Northern Territory Disability Advisory Committee](#). The Committee represents the voice of people with lived experience of disability and provides advice to the Northern Territory Minister for Disabilities.

A Steering Committee has also been formed to co-design the Strategy, members include the disability sector, organisations that represent people with disability and their families, local government, and the Northern Territory Government. Members of the Steering Committee will work with those they represent to inform the development of the Strategy.

The Strategy will need to be agreed by the NT DAC and the Steering Committee before it is agreed by the Northern Territory Government.

## How to have your say?

We want to hear from people with lived experience of disability, service providers and the community more broadly, to share your ideas and expertise to let us know what is important for people with disability, what is working well and what needs to change and how we can work together to make this happen.

This discussion paper helps to start the conversation, it explains the history and background of the Strategy; includes questions that you can answer to help make the Strategy; and a draft Strategy for your feedback.

### You can let us know your thoughts, ideas and feedback by:

- Making a submission to this discussion paper available at the at the [Have Your Say](#) webpage.
- Completing the survey at the [Have Your Say](#) webpage.
- Sharing your ideas with members of the [NT Disability Strategy Steering Committee](#).
- Sharing your ideas with [NT Disability Strategy Working Group](#) members;
- Attending an [NT Disability Strategy Workshop](#);
- Contacting the Office of Disability. Email: [OfficeofDisability.TFHC@nt.gov.au](mailto:OfficeofDisability.TFHC@nt.gov.au); Tel: (08) 89992445.

You can also have your say in other ways, such as sending photos, videos or other ways that work for you to the Office of Disability email: [OfficeofDisability.TFHC@nt.gov.au](mailto:OfficeofDisability.TFHC@nt.gov.au).

### You can ask for help to give your feedback by contacting:

- Darwin Community Legal Services (Top End). Email: [sdrs@dcls.org.au](mailto:sdrs@dcls.org.au); Tel: (08) 8982 1111 or 1800 812 953 (free call).
- Disability Advocacy Services (Central Australia). Email: [admin@das.org.au](mailto:admin@das.org.au); Tel: (08) 8953 1422.

Please provide your input by 22 November 2021.

See the [NT Disability Strategy](#) website for more information.

## The journey to here

Over the last 30 years there have been a number of important developments which serve to promote and support the rights of people with disability and provide a foundation for future initiatives. These include the introduction of international agreements, laws and standards which aim to improve outcomes for people with disability and are committed to by government. The Strategy will support the NT Government and the community more broadly to meet their existing obligations and provide a plan for future action.

The following list shows key initiatives which will underpin the Strategy:

1992	<b>The Disability Discrimination Act</b>	The Disability Discrimination Act is a law that protects everyone in Australia against discrimination based on their disability.
1992	<b>The Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Act</b>	The Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Act 1992 promotes the principles of the right to equal opportunities and seeks to eliminate discrimination.
2002	<b>Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport</b>	The standards support public transport operators and providers to remove discrimination from transport services.
2005	<b>Disability Standards for Education</b>	The standards support equity and access and rights for people with disability to education and training.
2007	<b>The United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (CPRD)</b>	The CPRD is an international agreement that sets out what countries have to do to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights as everybody else. Australia agreed to follow the convention in July 2008.
2010	<b>Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards</b>	The standards seek to ensure access to buildings, and facilities and services within buildings, for people with a disability.
2010	<b>The National Disability Strategy</b>	The National Disability Strategy is a national plan to improve the lives of people with disability and to change the way we think about disability in Australia. The current strategy ends in 2020 and a new Australia's Disability Strategy will be released in late 2021.
2019	<b>The National Disability Insurance Scheme (the NDIS)</b>	The NDIS provides supports and services for people with permanent and significant disability and early intervention supports for children. The NDIS started at full scheme in the NT on 1 July 2019.
2019	<b>The Disability Royal Commission</b>	The Disability Royal Commission was established in response to community concern about widespread reports of violence against, and the neglect, abuse and exploitation of, people with disability. The final report and recommendation of the Commission will be provided to the Australian Government on 29 September 2023. This report will direct governments as to future actions they need to take.
2020	<b>Mental Health – Productivity Commission Inquiry and Report</b>	The report makes recommendations to the Australian and State and Territory Governments, to improve the mental health of people of all ages and cultural backgrounds, working with people who have experience of mental illness, and with their families and carers.

## The Strategy

The Strategy will include those things that are important to people with disability in the NT and actions for change. The NT is different to other parts of Australia because of our remoteness and service provision challenges, our cultural diversity and our high representation of Aboriginal people. It is important that the Strategy makes sense and can work for the NT. That is why we need to make sure Territorians have their say on the Strategy so that we get it right.

The Strategy is to be established in 2022 and will guide the actions of NT Government agencies, local government authorities and the broader community. Three consecutive, three year action plans will cover the life of the Strategy.

The Strategy is made up of the following parts, these start with big ideas about where we want to be in the future and will go to the changes we want to make now and how they will happen.

Strategy Part	Description	Where we got the information
Vision	A vision is a sentence that says what we want the Territory to be like for people with disability in the future. A vision can be used to inspire and create change. It should be something everybody can agree with and which we can all work towards.	The draft vision of the Strategy is the vision of the current NT government.
Principles	Our principles are our common beliefs about what is right. They describe our values.	The draft principles are taken from the CPRD. Other principles have been added which are taken from other NT Strategies and which show our values in the NT.
Outcomes	Our outcomes are what we want to achieve. The outcomes group together areas of importance to the lives of people.	The draft outcomes are input from the NT Disability Advisory Committee; and the National Disability Strategy.
Outcome Areas	The outcomes areas lists all those parts of our lives that need to work to have a good life.	The outcome areas are taken from the NT Social Outcomes Framework and include areas of importance raised by members of the NT DAC.
Priorities	Our priorities are the most important things we need to change.	The outcome areas are taken from discussions of the NT DAC; and key stakeholders.
Actions	The actions tell us what will be done, when it will be done and who will do it. Actions will include measures so we know if they are working.	We will be working with stakeholders to finalise the Strategies actions in 2022. We would like to hear your ideas on actions we need to take as part of this discussion paper.

## The draft Strategy

A draft Strategy has been made as a starting point for you to provide your feedback and input. This is available on the Have your Say Website; and the NT Disability Strategy website. The Northern Territory Government worked with the NT Disability Advisory Committee; and stakeholders to make the draft Strategy.

The NT Government started by asking NT Disability Advisory Committee members about what makes a good life; and their experience in accessing services.

Public consultations have also been held nationally to ask people what they would like included in the new National Disability Strategy. We have included feedback from these consultations in the draft Strategy.

The Strategy is made up six outcomes that aim to include matters of importance raised in consultation and to achieve the NT Government vision where Territorians of all abilities are able to live life to their fullest potential and have quality services no matter where they live. The six outcomes provide the framework for the Strategy.



## **What we would like you to tell us:**

The information you give us will be used to make the Strategy. Your information and stories are private and will not be shared without your permission. The questions below are a guide for you to tell us what needs to be in the Strategy, you can provide other information outside these questions.

### **Questions about your experience with disability**

We would like to ask you to share your story about living with disability, or your experience with others living with disability.

**What is good in your life and what works well?**

**What is bad in your life and needs to change?**

**We would like to hear your ideas about how to make it better.**

### **Questions about our Draft Strategy**

We would like you to tell us what you think about the draft Strategy.

**Do the vision, principles and outcomes include those things that are important to you?**

- Tell us about the changes we need to make to the draft vision, principles and outcomes.
- Tell us what more we need to include.

**Do the outcome areas of the Strategy include those things that are important for you so you can have a good life?**

- Tell us about the changes we need to make to the draft outcome areas.
- Tell us if there are other topics that need to be included in the outcomes areas so that they are considered in the Strategy.

### **Questions about making life better for people with disability**

We need your input to help make the priorities and actions for the first action plan for the NT Disability Strategy. The first action plan will be in place from 2022 – 2025. We would like you to tell us what you would like your life to be like in 2025 and what you think needs to improve for people with disability in the next 3 years. We would like you to tell us what we need to do to make this happen.

Tell us your answers to the following questions for each of the outcomes of the Strategy.

**What are your priorities for the next 3 years?**

- What do you need to make this happen?

**What changes do their need to be for people with disability in the next 3 years?**

- What do we (government, community, services and others) need to do to make this happen?

**Thank you for your time and sharing your experience and views with us.**

## What happens after you have shared your story and views?

The Northern Territory Disability Strategy [Road Map](#) shows where we are going with the Strategy.

Your information will be used to make the NT Disability Strategy and the first Action Plan. The Strategy will be considered by the Steering Committee and the Northern Territory Disability Advisory Committee before it is agreed by the Northern Territory Government.

A report on the outcome of this consultation will be provided on the [NT Disability Strategy](#) webpage in early 2022.

Work to make the action plans will happen from now. Your feedback will be used to draft action plans for consultation with the Steering Committee and key stakeholders.

### Next consultation

If you would like to be included as part of consultation on the first Action Plan for the Strategy, please check the box below, let us know your area of interest and provide your contact details.

Area of interest:

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Contact details:

Name:	
Organisation:	
Email:	
Telephone:	
Preferred method of contact – and requirements for accessibility:	

If you have any questions about the NT Disability Strategy, please contact the Office of Disability, email: [OfficeofDisability@nt.gov.au](mailto:OfficeofDisability@nt.gov.au); Tel: (08) 89992445.



## Your details

It's important that we understand who we have consulted and who we have received feedback from.

We will use the information you give us to understand how widely we have consulted and to make sure we have included everyone.

Please fill in your details below.

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1. Is this:

an individual response

a group response.

If this is a group response, please tell us:

a) Name of organisation (if appropriate): .....

b) Number of people who took part: .....

c) Description of the stakeholders who gave their views and ideas for the submission:

2. Please let us know where you live and the places you are connected to:

City/Town/Community: .....

3. Please let us know if you are:

a person with disability

a family member or significant other of a person with disability

a carer

a service provider

a peak body or representative group

other, please describe below

**If you have a disability, or an important person close to you has a disability, please tell us some information about yourself or the person or people you are speaking for.**

4. Age group:  Pre-school aged child 0-5  
 School aged child 6-17  
 Young adult 18-30  
 Adult 31-65  
 Adult 65 +
5. Gender: Male:   
Female:
6. Disability:  Physical  
 Cognitive  
 Sensory  
 Developmental  
 Mental illness  
 Other
7. Your cultural background:  Aboriginal  
 Torres Strait Islander  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
 Non-Indigenous  
 Other
8. Your language: Is English your first language:  Yes  
 No

9. Accessibility: Did you find this document easy to use?  
Yes   
No

- Did we meet your accessibility needs through this consultation?  
Yes   
No

How could we make the consultation more accessible?

10. Permission to use your feedback as part of the published NT - Disability Strategy Consultation Report and the NT Disability Strategy.

- I/We agree to my/our anonymous feedback being quoted in the NT - Disability Strategy Consultation Report and/or the NT Disability Strategy.